

The Connection



March/April 2007

Corporate Sponsors 2007



The Simsbury Bank.

Avon Chamber of Commerce Your Business Connection

412 West Avon Road
Avon, CT 06001

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check out the web site:
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upcoming events

- March 5/April 2** – Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee meeting, 5-6 p.m. Chamber office.
- March 7/April 4** – *Morning Business Network Connection*, 8-9 a.m. **Hosted by Cosi**, 385 West Main Street (Route 44) Members free.
- March 8/April 12** – Communications Committee meeting, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Chamber office.
- March 14** – Membership Committee meeting, 8-9 a.m. Marriott Residence Inn-Avon, 55 Simsbury Road (Route 10), Avon.
- March 14** – *Business After Hours* 5-7 p.m. **Hosted by Farmington Valley Arts Center**, 25 Arts Center Lane, Avon. Members free. \$20 non-members.
- March 15/April 19** – Meetings & Events Committee meeting, 4-5 p.m. River Ridge at Avon, 101 Bickford Extension.
- March 21/April 18** – Education Committee meeting, 8:30-9:30a.m. Cosi, 385 West Main Street (Route 44).
- March 21** – Avon Chamber Board of Directors meeting, 4 p.m., Avon Old Farms Hotel.
- March 27** – Intermediate Excel class, 8:30-10 a.m., **taught by Peter Rist of WSI Internet Consulting & Education**, at Thompson Brook School computer lab, 150 Thompson Road, Avon. Members free.
- April 10** – Avon Chamber Operating Committee meeting, 7:30 a.m. Chamber office.
- April 10** – *Business After Hours* – BRING A NON-MEMBER BUSINESS Event 4:30-6:30 p.m. **Hosted by Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub**, 315 West Main Street (Route 44), Avon. Members and their guests free.
- April 11** – Membership Committee meeting, 8-9 a.m. Nathan, Powers & Co./NPD Payroll, 200 Fisher Drive, Avon.
- April 12** – Avon Chamber of Commerce and Avon High School Job Shadow Day, 9-11:30 a.m. Various member business locations.

Mark Your Calendars

Avon Chamber of Commerce 42nd Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 23 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Golf Club of Avon

To register for events or receive additional information, contact the Avon Chamber office at 675-4832 or at avonchamber@sbcglobal.net.
To see more events go to: www.avonchamber.com/events.asp

New

Avon Chamber Corporate Sponsorship Program

**The Avon Chamber of Commerce
and its Board of Directors
are delighted to introduce our new
Corporate Sponsors for 2007.**



The Simsbury Bank

The Chamber also would like to take this opportunity to thank these businesses for being the first to participate in this new venture.

The Chamber's new Corporate Sponsorship Program provides a unique opportunity for those businesses seeking to receive exceptional visibility and exposure to our business and residential community.

Our new Corporate Sponsors have made a substantial commitment to support the Chamber

and, in turn, leverage their involvement as an integral part of their marketing and public relations programs.

In the coming months, look for these businesses and their logos on our Chamber's website, listed in our newsletter, phone directory, and prominently displayed at all Chamber meetings and events.

If your business is interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor, please contact Lisa at the Chamber office.

Avon Chamber of Commerce Day at the 2006 Salvation Army Holiday Store hosted by Avon Old Farms Hotel

Avon Old Farms Hotel played host to the The Salvation Army Holiday Store when it returned to Avon. December 15 was Avon Chamber of Commerce day at the Holiday Store. Numerous Chamber members volunteered their time throughout the day collecting food, new toys and donations to help area families and individuals in need.

The Chamber would like to thank the following member businesses for their participation at the 2006 Salvation Army Holiday Store:

Avon Volunteer Fire Department
Canton Insurance Center
Cornelia De Lange Syndrome Foundation
Countrywide Home Loans • Creative Memories
Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance
The First National Bank of Litchfield • Gifts of Love
Juice Plus (Bob LeMay) • Mayer Communications
My New Wardrobe
Northwest Community Bank • Bill Peck, CPA
Rainbow Adoptions International
Raymond James Financial Services
RE/MAX Premier Realtors (Leslie Chaput)
Sovereign Bank • TravelVision
William Pitt Sotheby's
International Realty • Workplace Innovations

A very special Chamber thank you to Carol McCarthy of **New Era Telecommunications** who came ready to work but we sent home due to illness.



Ray Dunaway from WTIC Newstalk 1080 (4th from left) pictured here with Chamber members (l-r): Leslie Chaput of **RE/MAX Premier Realtors**, Bob LeMay of **Juice Plus**, Ketil Osland of **Countrywide Home Loans**, Paul Mikkelson of **Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance**, Debbie Stanwood of **The First National Bank of Litchfield**, and Bill Peck of **Bill Peck, CPA**.



(l-r): Helping wave donations into the Holiday Store are Andy Ozmun, David Pena of **Workplace Innovations**, Mackenzie Pena, Tom Mango of **The First National Bank of Litchfield**, and Captain Terry Wood of The Salvation Army.



(l-r): Bernadette Mayer of **Mayer Communications**, Susan Macko of **My New Wardrobe**, Michael Wrabel, Abbey Maltz and Trisha Keane of **William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty**.



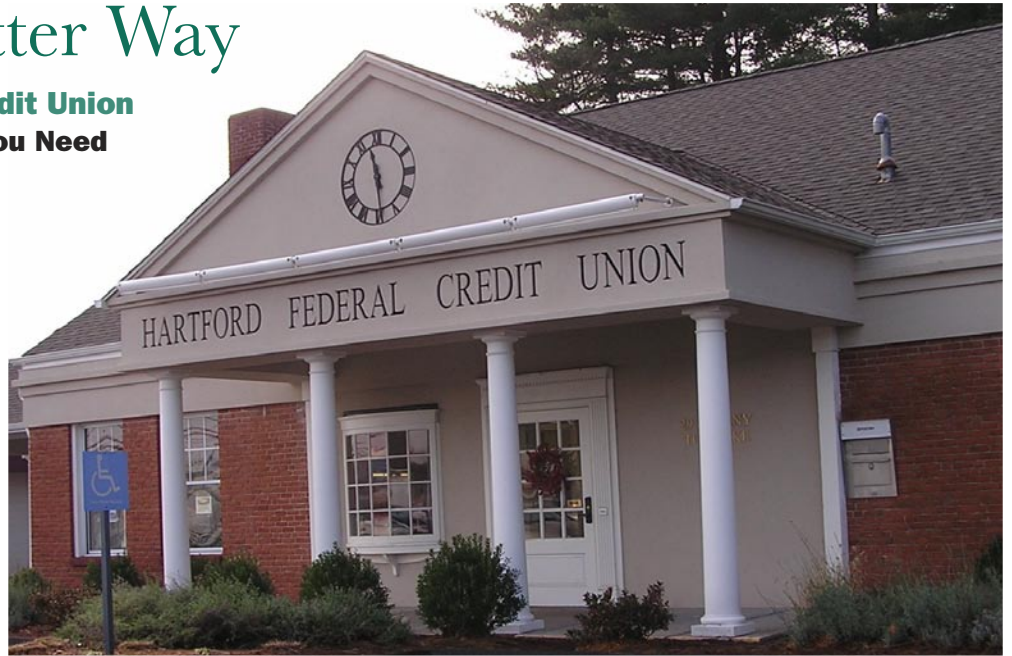
**When Your
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 Furnished & Unfurnished Office Space
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There's a Better Way

Join Hartford Federal Credit Union
All the Financial Services you Need

Member
profile



If you live, work, worship or attend school in Hartford County, you, your family members and your business can become members of Hartford Federal Credit Union. Your employees are welcome as well.

We're a full-service financial center. What makes us different from a bank? For starters, we're a not-for-profit institution. So important decisions are made locally and aren't based on profits to shareholders. We act in your best interest and use our earnings to benefit our members: delivering lower loan rates, higher dividend rates, fewer and lower fees, and one-on-one personalized service. That includes a continuing investment in financial service technologies that give you the latest advancements in ease and sophistication.

What does your Big Bank have that we don't?

You won't miss your old bank. We have an impressive menu of services. Over the years we have added most of the services you'd expect from the big banks, while retaining a much friendlier, responsive, and personalized environment than is found at those bigger institutions. We offer a wide variety of loans, savings and checking accounts, plus services such as Internet banking and bill paying, ATMs, and financial planning services, to name a few.

Peace of Mind!

Your money is federally insured...and Bauer Financial Inc., a prestigious and independent rating organization, has awarded Hartford Federal Credit Union its highest rating for the past 14 years: Five Stars!

You also get extra peace of mind, thanks to our long track record of success. We were founded in 1961 with 25 members. Today we have four branch locations serving over 14,000 members and are open to the entire Hartford County community.

Our Farmington Valley Office is located at 29 Albany Turnpike (Route 44), West Simsbury. Branch Manager Erin Morse invites residents, business owners, and employees of the Farmington Valley to stop in and visit her to learn more about the many credit union advantages. She can be reached at 651.1400, extension 10.



Erin Morse, Manager
Hartford Federal
Credit Union
West Simsbury Branch

Hartford Federal Credit Union • 651.1400 • www.hartfordfcu.com

Hartford Federal Credit Union was selected for a Member Profile at the September 13, 2006 Business After Hours hosted by Cove Creek Mortgage; Dill, Joyce & Thresher Insurance; Marriott Residence Inn – Avon; Susan Wolfé, Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley.

Welcome

new members

January, 2007

Coldwell Banker (Mensi), Laura Mensi,
 300 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001/55
 Lexington Road, Avon, CT 06001, 860-670-3630,
 675-3248, Real Estate, laura.mensi@cbmoves.com,
www.coldwellbankermoves.com/laura.mensi

DeManche McChristian, LLC,
Jeffrey A. McChristian/
Gregory F. DeManche,
 49 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001,
 674-8230, 678-7506, General Practice Law Firm with
 Emphasis on Real Estate, greg@demc-law.com
jeff@demc-law.com, www.demc-law.com

Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra, Marshall Brown,
 P.O. Box 2154, Bristol, CT 06011-2154,
 860-584-1055, Professional Orchestra,
info@nutmegsymphony.org,
www.nutmegsymphony.org

The Body Firm, Tony Pullman/Carolyn Phillips,
 51 East Main Street, Avon, CT 06001,
 674-9859, Personal Training Studio,
body.firm.avon@sbcglobal.net, www.body-firm.com

Thier Law Offices, Clifford Thier,
 1007 Farmington Avenue,
 West Hartford, CT 06107/61
 Lord Davis Lane, Avon, CT 06001,
 236-2600, 231-1052, Law Firm,
cliffthier@thierlaw.com, www.thierlaw.com

**Check out the membership directory
 at: www.avonchamber.com/directory.**

The Avon Chamber would like to thank the following businesses for renewing their membership

And How Hearing
 Auto Club of Hartford
 (AAA)
 Avon Wellness Center
 Dental Associates
 Dr. Leora Berns
 Boulder Ridge Day Camp
 Coldwell Banker
 (Lee Lester)
 Consumer Reactions
 CT Sportswear
 Michael J. Donoghue,
 Attorney

Ensign Bickford Realty
 Farmington Savings Bank
 Five Guys Burgers & Fries
 Green Graphic Design
 Imprint Newspapers
 Juice Plus
 (Holly Kingsford)
 Law Offices of
 Peter G. Gillin
 Martocchio Music
 Masters Construction
 David M. Mazzone
 Insurance

Miller Foods
 Morgan Stanley
 Nathan, Powers & Co., LLP
 Northwest Community
 Bank - Avon
 Padgett Business Services
 Howard L. Page Co., LLC
 People's Financial Center
 Rainbow Adoptions
 International, Inc.
 Sharon Ruvane, Speech/
 Language Pathologist

SBT Investment Services,
 Inc.
 Shear Artistry Day Spa &
 Salon
 Specialty Wood Products
 The First National Bank of
 Litchfield
 Tuthill & Wells Architects

*This list represents
 renewals processed
 between January 2007
 and February 6, 2007.*



Sue Budde
 Independent Consultant
 CM ID 37604183
 2 Essex Court
 Avon, CT 06001
 Home: (860) 675-1016 • Cell: (860) 877-1324
sbudde97@comcast.net
www.mycmsite.com/suebudde
your life | your story | your way



Peter J. Vignati
 Investment Representative

41 East Main Street
 Avon, CT 06001
 Bus. 860-676-1442
 Fax 860-360-6514
 email: peter.vignati@edwardjones.com
www.edwardjones.com



Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

Free Income Tax Help

Free income tax assistance is available at the **Avon Free Public Library** from February 3 through April 14. No walk-ins are taken. Be sure to bring the following: Social Security Card and Photo I.D.; a copy of last year's return, W-2, 1099 and other needed forms; amount paid last year on Town Car and Property Taxes; plus original cost of stocks. No returns with self-employment income will be done. For an appointment call the reference department at 673-9712.

Check out Business Books

The **Avon Free Public Library** has many books of interest to the business community, including these new titles: *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* by Bill McKibbin and *How to Write a Business Plan* by Mike P. McKeever. For more information visit www.avonctlibrary.info

Wedding Planning

Avon Old Farms Hotel plays host to a *Bridal Open House* on Sunday, March 11, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Wedding cakes, decorating and favor ideas, room tours, spa and beauty services, champagne, hors d'oeuvres, 'real wedding' advice from past couples. Reservations are not required. Bring a friend. For further information call 269-0235.

Get Fired Up

The **Avon Volunteer Fire Department** is accepting applications for the third *Citizens' Fire Academy* to be held beginning April 5 for five weeks. Residents and adults who work or own a business in Avon and who are over the age of 18 may apply. Applications are available at fire department headquarters at 25 Darling Drive in Avon Park South during normal business hours, or by calling 677-2644 and leaving your name and address.

Growing Business

Odalys Bekanich of **H.B.O. Realty International LLC**, takes great pride in announcing the recent growth of her company. Heriberto Diaz, Melissa Figueroa, Ann Gertz, Barbara Kerr, and Joseph Rubino, have joined her team of real estate professionals serving the Farmington Valley and Greater Hartford areas. **H.B.O. Realty International** specializes in residential and investment property sales. For more information: Odalys Bekanich, **H.B.O. Realty International LLC**, Old Avon Village, 39 East Main Street, Avon, 676-1200 ext. 302 (t).

The Shops at Avon Green



Bangle & Clutch - Over The Moon - Country Curtains
J McLaughlin - The Madison Shop - Mr. Parks Tailor

Swain

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ENSIGN-BICKFORD REALTY CORPORATION
Ensign Bickford Realty Corporation - managing agent

(860) 843-2001

 **Sovereign Bank**[®]

Shirley Beach
Community Banking Manager

Mail Code: CT1-CBO-0486
394 West Main Street
Avon, CT 06001

phone | 860.674.2441
fax | 860.674.9888
toll free | 877.SOV.BANK
sbeach@sovereignbank.com

Learn about China

TravelVision's Jean Foisie is organizing a Globus group on a 13-day tour studying the culture and history of China April 24-May 6, 2007. Highlights include the Great Wall, Forbidden City, a magical four night cruise on the Yangtze River and the Three Gorges Dam site, and much more. If you would like to join the group a limited number of seats are available. Call Jean Foisie at **TravelVision**, 693-2515.

Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

Congratulations to **Hartford Federal Credit Union** in celebrating the second anniversary of the opening of their West Simsbury location. In celebration, the Farmington Valley office is offering discounted rates for auto and home equity loans, in addition to a member referral promotion. For more information: **Hartford Federal Credit Union**, 29 Albany Turnpike, West Simsbury, 651-1400 (t).

Published Author

Lewis Green, Chief Communications Officer and Founder of **L&G Business Solutions**, is among recognized US marketers chosen to be quoted in John Jantsch's newest Book, *Duct Tape Marketing, The World's Most Practical Small Business Marketing Guide*. Green's fifth book, *Lead With Your Heart*, is scheduled to be published by HRD Press in May 2007. For more information: **L&G Business Solutions**, 860.673.7543 (t), 860.805.9392 (cell), lewis.green@l-gsolutions.com, www.l-gsolutions.com



Free Lunch!

Attention business lunch aficionados. **Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub** in Avon has a *Lunch Club*. Present your Lunch Club Card any day from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get five stamps and your sixth lunch is free. One stamp per visit/per person. Minimum \$5 purchase. For your free Lunch Club Card visit **Ninety Nine Restaurant & Pub**, 315 West Main Street, Avon or call 677-2699.

Great Music

The next concert in the **Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra** subscription series is Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Bristol's Chippens Hill School. The program will include music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. Single tickets are \$22/adult, \$10/student. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to **Nutmeg Symphony Orchestra**, P.O. Box 2154, Bristol, CT 06011-2154.

E-mail your business news to avonchamber@sbcglobal.net or fax it to 675.0469. The deadline for the May/June issue is April 13.

50 to 75 word limit

Double Congrats

The Simsbury Bank

announces that Jay Babcock has joined the Bank's team as a vice president of commercial lending officer. Mr. Babcock is based in the Bank's Avon office and will develop and serve its client base in the southern half of the Farmington Valley. He also will serve as the Bank's residential construction financing specialist for real estate developers.



The Simsbury Bank also announces that Kim McDonald has been promoted to Assistant Vice President. Ms. McDonald has been the Bank's Avon Branch Manager since joining the institution in 2001. In addition to the Avon branch, Ms. McDonald will now manage the Bank's Canton branch. Both branches will operate in coordination to serve customers in Avon, Canton, New Hartford and surrounding towns as part of the Bank's strategy to most effectively serve businesses and consumers in that area. Visit the Bank's website at www.simsburybank.com



Best of the Best



Robert J. Biggins (second from right), (NFDA), presents Pursuit of Excellence Awards to (l to r) Carmon Community Funeral Homes' Gary Mather, Wanda Carmon, and President and former NFDA President John Carmon.

Congratulations to **Carmon Community Funeral Homes** for receiving a "Best of the Best" Pursuit of Excellence Award, one of only nine in the U.S., from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) during the Association's 125th Convention & Expo. The 60-year-old Windsor-based firm is comprised of nine funeral homes, including **Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center** in Avon. For more information: **Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center**, 301 Country Club Road, Avon, 673-8610 (t).

The Perfect After Hours

hosted by **The Perfect Workout!** at their new location – 31 Ensign Drive

January 2007 'Business After Hours'



Thank you to our hosts from **The Perfect Workout!** (l-r) Tyler Wilson, Dan Newman, Matt St. Thomas (owner), Kathy Dunn and Darcy Invgves.



Enjoying the evening are (l-r) Peter Rist of **WSI Internet Consulting & Education**, Camlyn Miller-Stevens of **Miller Foods/Oma's Pride**, and Marcia Kielb of **Candy Bouquet**.

Networking with the Chamber

The Chamber thanks the following businesses for their generous donations to the drawings at the January 10 *Business After Hours* hosted by **The Perfect Workout!**:

BodyFix – Gift Certificate for One Hour Massage

The InnerSpace – Gift Certificate for a Mat Class

The InnerSpace

Two (2) Gift Certificates for Pilates Private Equipment Session

The InnerSpace

Three (3) Gift Certificates for Pilates Group Equipment Session

The InnerSpace and The Perfect Workout!

Gift Certificate for One (1) Mat Class and One (1) Spinning Class

The Perfect Workout!

Gift Certificate for Dietary Analysis, Fitness Evaluation, and Two (2) Training Sessions

The Perfect Workout! – Movie Gift Basket

William Raveis Real Estate – Team HPR

Box of Chocolates



New member Kathryn Coyle (c) of **The InnerSpace** – whose business is located just downstairs from The Perfect Workout! at 31 Ensign Drive – is greeted by members from **Sovereign Bank** (l-r) Lissette Buccheri, Katie Carlson, Lynn Kornita and Shirley Beach.

Celebrating First Year Anniversary

hosted by **The First National Bank of Litchfield**—at their **Canton Branch**

February 2007 'Business After Hours'



Thank you to our hosts **The First National Bank of Litchfield** for a fabulous February networking event. Surrounded by many of the staff is Joseph Greco (second row, 4th from left), President and Chief Executive Officer of the bank.

Networking with the Chamber

The Chamber thanks the following businesses for their generous donations to the drawings at the February 13 *Business After Hours* hosted by **The First National Bank of Litchfield**:

Candy Bouquet – Candy Bouquet Gift Basket

The First National Bank of Litchfield
\$50 Dunkin' Donuts Gift Card

The First National Bank of Litchfield
Music Lesson of one's choice from
Martocchio Music in Riverdale Farms

The Ink Store - \$25 Gift Certificate

Logo Concepts – Briefcase

William Raveis Real Estate - Team HPR
Dozen Red Roses



(l-r): Networking together are Carol McCarthy of **New Era Telecommunications**, Jason Frankel, D.C. of **Musculoskeletal Therapy & Rehabilitation**, Kim McDonald, board member-elect, from **The Simsbury Bank**, and new member Attorney Jeffrey McChristian of **DeManche McChristian, LLC**.



(l-r): Board member and **Attorney** F. William O'Connor chats with Marcia Nozik of **Logo Concepts** and guest Jim Gordon of **The Salvation Army**.

“New Member Advocate of the Year” Award Tally Update

Who Will Break Away and Be Our Winner?

The following Chamber members have recruited new members since June 2006:

Ellen Cazzetta of Nathan, Powers & Co/NPD Payroll	2
Cheryl England of the Marriott Residence Inn-Avon	2
Holly Kingsford of Juice Plus	2
Beth Markowski-Roop of Hartford Federal Credit Union	2
Scott Nardoizzi of The First National Bank of Litchfield	2
Bruce Shein of Avon Executive Offices	2
John Bertell of Cove Creek Mortgage	1
Jennifer Cadieux of Realty Works	1
Jeff Campbell of Measure Twice	1
Jean Foisie of TravelVision	1
Dave Gillard of MW Financial Group	1
Lori Macgowan of William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty . 1	1
Kim McDonald of The Simsbury Bank	1
David Munsey of Specialty Wood Products	1
Ileen Roth of Avon Old Farms Hotel	1
Peter Vignati of Edward Jones	1

These members are eligible to compete for the “New Member Advocate of the Year” award. First given out at the 2006 Annual Meeting, this award was created to recognize those who play an active role each year in recruiting new members to the Chamber, while also providing a little friendly competition in the process.

The award consists of a crystal vase inscribed with the name of the award, which the winner(s) may display proudly at their place of work, along with a brass plate inscribed with the winner(s) name(s) and place(s) of business that will be on display at the Chamber office.

Any Chamber member in good standing is eligible to compete for this award. The recipient is chosen based upon the number of completed/paid-in-full membership applications received at the Chamber in which a member’s name is cited as being the sponsor. Qualified applications are those received starting in June, immediately following the Annual Meeting to the beginning of May of the following year.

Only a couple of months to go for you to be listed here among the members who are helping our Chamber grow and be eligible to win this great award at the Chamber’s Annual Meeting in May. So get in on the fun! Look for the new tally in the next edition of the Chamber newsletter.

PROVEN RESULTS !!

45 Properties Listed & 57 Properties Closed

Heidi Picard-Ramsay Excels!
Team HPR - Gets The Job Done!





heidi·picard·ramsay
building real estate relationships

49 West Main Street, Avon, CT 06001
Office Phone: (860) 677-4661 • Office Fax: (860) 677-6356
picardramsayh@raveisre.com



Serving the greater Farmington Valley & Litchfield County Area
860-307-0039

Newsletter Advertising Opportunities

The Connection newsletter will be published bi-monthly starting November 2006
All ads include a free hot link to your web site.

Best Value

Rates

Advertise for one year and get one month free!

When you pay for one year of advertising you are charged for only 5 issues.

1 Six Business card ads \$125.00
save \$25.00

2 Six ¼ and ⅓ page ads \$375.00
save \$75.00

3 Six ½ page ads \$1,000.00
save \$200.00

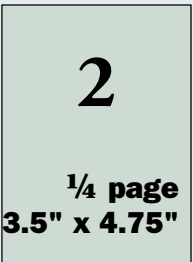
6 months

1 Three Business card ads \$75.00

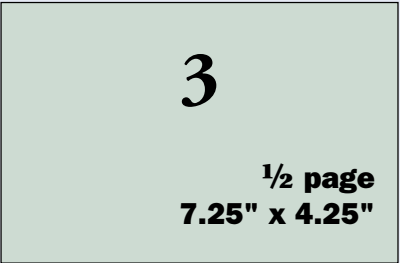
2 Three ¼ or ⅓ page ads \$225.00

3 Three ½ page ads \$600.00

**business card ad
3.5" x 2"**



**1/3 page
2.22" x 9.5"**



Ad Submission Requirements

- We accept the following electronic formats for ads: tif, eps, pdf, or jpg. Word and Publisher files are NOT accepted.
- Send ads via e-mail to: avonchamber@sbcglobal.net
- Send business cards for a business card ad to the chamber office: 412 West Avon Road, Avon, CT 06001
- Make checks out to: Avon Chamber of Commerce 412 West Avon Road, Avon, CT 06001
- Questions? Call 860.675.4832

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Business: _____ Phone: _____ Web address: _____

Advertising Choice:	One year:	business card	¼ or ⅓ page	½ page
<i>Circle One</i>		\$125	\$375	\$1,000
	Six Months:	business card	¼ or ⅓ page	½ page
		\$75	\$225	\$600