

CHAMBER TGIFs

Friday, 31 July, at AVOCA Museum was the third of the Chamber's TGIFs and featured a car show and music by "The Almost Brothers Band." The Altavista Area Chamber



of Commerce will hold the fourth and final 2009



TGIF on Friday, August 28th at AVOCA Museum beginning at 6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy music by "Key West," a cold beverage and Pizza from Dominos. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and children under 12 entry for free. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket and relax and enjoy a summer evening at AVOCA.



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THANKS to the following for sponsorship of the July event:

Central Virginia Community College, Danville Distributors (Budweiser), Eades Plumbing and the First National Bank.

CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW BUSINESS

The Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony in conjunction with the grand opening of the new Bank of the James Office here in Altavista. Located at 1110 Main Street in Altavista, the Bank of the James is the newest business here in Altavista.



NEWSLETTER GOING GREEN

Beginning in September, the Chamber will no longer provide a printed monthly Newsletter. We will still publish a monthly Newsletter but will only provide it electronically to our members through email and the Chamber's new (still under development) web site. Inserts are still welcomed and will be included. To be sure you can regularly receive the Newsletter, please ensure we have your current email address. If you are unable to receive your Newsletter via email, please contact the Chamber Office.



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

SALE!

Use your Chamber Newsletter to advertise your business and/or event. Inserts are \$25.00 each and are distributed to over 200 individuals and businesses. Contact the Chamber office for additional information.

FINANCIAL CRIME

Embezzlement is the most widespread financial crime in the U.S. Each year embezzlement accounts for almost \$4 billion in monetary losses in addition to the indirect and ongoing costs such as lost productivity, legal problems, loss of professional status and personal impact of being betrayed. Almost all embezzlement is done through a business's checking account by signature forgery, bogus invoices, presenting blank checks for legitimate signature and altering information on a check after it has been properly filled out. The number one way to protect your business is to make sure every bank statement comes to the owner first and unopened. Match each check with the bank's printout looking for unauthorized signatures, amounts that don't match invoices, checks written to unknown vendors, information that appears altered and verify all deposits.

BUSINESS CONSULTATIONS

Are you a small business owner with questions on how to solve business related problems? Thinking of starting your own business? The Region 2000 Small Business Development Center is available to serve you **FREE**. Business consultations are available here in Altavista on the first Thursday of each month.

Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 606
Altavista, VA 24517
(434) 369-6665

CHAMBER'S ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Chamber's annual Golf Tournament will be Friday, September 11th. Team entry fee is \$240.00 and includes green fees, cart fees lunch, beverages and favor pack. Prizes will be awarded for the first and second place team, longest drive and closest to the pin. Please call the Chamber Office for additional information. A team entry form is enclosed.



CHAMBER WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBERS

- **Airabella Flowers**, located at 815 Main Street in Altavista. For additional information, please contact Ms. Kathy Shirey @ (434) 369-4024.
- **Mitchell's Salon**, located at 503 7th Street in Altavista. For additional information, please contact Ms. Gwen Wells-Nelson @ (434) 369-6243.

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Message from the President:



For the last several weeks we have been working on a new website. The Chamber felt that we must have a website that we can manage ourselves. By doing this, we will not have to deal with delayed or no responses from an outside party. Please be patient with us as we are still learning the capabilities of the new site. For the next couple of months, it will be a work in progress. By the time you receive this newsletter, the site should be live and have the same URL as the old site: altavistachamber.org.

The new site will have membership management software that functions as a member-portal and interactive communications tool. It allows us to automate administrative tasks, increase member interaction, communicate with members and advocate on your behalf with one simple web-based solution. Members will have access to the Membership Directory and will be able to update information as changes occur. We will be able to automate all aspects of membership management from requests for membership through to annual renewals using this secure membership database.

We will have easy- to- use event management tools including community calendar, online registration and payment.

We will be able to bring our members together by blogging, posting news articles, creating online newsletters, documents, announcements, event photos and more.



Features of the new website:

- ▶ Community Calendar (some guidelines apply)
- ▶ Online registration
- ▶ Real-time membership directory
- ▶ Member to Member discount coupons (only members will have access)
- ▶ Newsletter viewing
- ▶ Legislative updates
- ▶ Business resource links
- ▶ Tourism and local links
- ▶ Regional and County links
- ▶ Discussion and blog opportunities
- ▶ Web advertising opportunities for members

We will be meeting with our members in the future to explain the new features of the website. It is easy to use and is designed specifically for non-technical people.

Regards,
Patty W. Eller, President

