

## Upcoming Events:

May Luncheon	May 18
May Mixer	May 25
Multi-Chamber Mixer	May 27

# SPOTLIGHT

Newsletter of the Greater Falls  
Church Chamber of Commerce

May 2010



## The Richmond Report

By Karen Hammond

The Greater Merrifield Business Association and the Greater Falls Church Chamber joined in a luncheon on April 20 to be addressed by Delegate Jim Scott regarding the latest General Assembly session that ended in Mid March.

Delegate Scott, in addition to representing most of Falls Church City and much of Merrifield, is a charter and founding member of GMBA, and we are always grateful for his willingness to bring us a report of the laws passed that are pertinent to us.

The General Assembly considers hundreds of bills each year, and this year was no exception. Among some of the laws that were passed were:

- A law that gives tax credits to businesses that create at least 5 new jobs.
- A law extending benefits to veterans who suffer from head trauma.
- A grant to VCU to detect juveniles in the detention system who have suffered brain trauma.
- A law extending the ability of employees who lose employer sponsored health insurance to extend their coverage for 12 months. (The prior law allowed only 90 days.)
- A law allowing his constituents who have lost their jobs to be able to take advantage of the Federal ARRA subsidy for health insurance.
- A law that allows school boards to offer firearm safety in elementary schools. The bill requires that the program objectives incorporate, among other principles of firearm safety, accident prevention and the rules of the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Program. Delegate Scott relayed his concerns about this legislation, and it will be interesting to see if any school boards adopt such a program, given that schools are themselves working with lower budgets.

Delegate Scott indicated that budget woes continue to plague the Commonwealth and that hard decisions had to be made in order to adopt a budget. He also expressed concerns about decreases in funding for higher education. He indicated that there is support for a program that will allow college students to complete their education in three years. This is not a program unique to Virginia, but is something that is being looked at on a nationwide scale.

On the positive side, Delegate Scott is encouraged by the progress being made at

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2010 Sponsorships are available! Contact the Chamber office for details.

[www.fallschurchchamber.org](http://www.fallschurchchamber.org)

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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Spring is a time of renewal, a time to reflect on the past and a time to consider expanding horizons. As individuals we do so to grow intellectually. As business leaders we do so to grow our businesses.

To help you do both, we have a number of exciting events this month. In addition to our monthly luncheon and our annual Rowell Court Mixer hosted by Mark Werblood, we are also co-hosting a Networking Mixer with the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber, the N. VA Black Chamber, and VietAmCham (the Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce).

We hope you will join us for "The Power of Business Diversity in a Global Economy" on Thursday, May 27 for what we hope will become an annual or bi-annual event. It will be

## Spring Forward and Expand Your Horizons!

an exciting opportunity to reach out beyond the Falls Church community to meet new colleagues, friends, vendors and customers. Details on the event are below.

I hope the spring brings new business to all and I look forward to seeing you at the Net-

working Luncheon, the Rowell Court Block Party and the Multi-Chamber Mixer.

Dr. Ralph G. Perrino,  
Chairman

Join us for our Multi-chamber Mixer:

### The Power of Business Diversity in a Global Economy

date: May 27  
time: 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 pm.  
place: Teqcorner, 1616 Anderson Road, Mc Lean, VA 22102  
price: \$10 for members of participating chambers, \$15 for members to be.

with special guest Mr. Marques Silva, Director of Employer Solutions, Virginia Megaprojects, Virginia Department of Transportation

a little bit about your hosts:

- The Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce mission is to help to advance the business interests of minorities, women and veterans through local chapter participation, networking across chapters, broad strategic partnerships with mainstream businesses, advocacy and federal government relations. For more information visit [www.mahcc.org](http://www.mahcc.org) or call Jorge Ribas at 301 404-1946.
- The Falls Church Chamber of Commerce represents more than 250 businesses in the greater Falls Church area. The Falls Church Chamber advocates on behalf of the business community, provides professional development and networking opportunities, and promotes its members to the community. Additional information about the Chamber is available at [www.fallschurchchamber.org](http://www.fallschurchchamber.org).
- The Asian American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving the economic development for Asian Pacific American owned businesses in Metropolitan DC area. AACC also provides a link to Asian & Pacific business communities in Greater Washington area and serves as a bridge between Asian American businesses and mainstream businesses.
- The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. is committed to the success and development of our Member Partners. We facilitate the growth of minority-owned businesses in Northern Virginia and of those businesses that wish to partner with them. [www.novabcc.org](http://www.novabcc.org), or 703-879-2770
- The Vietnam American Chamber of Commerce For information about the Vietnam Chamber contact Lieu Nguyen at [lieu@mintgallerie.com](mailto:lieu@mintgallerie.com).

# CHAMBER NEWS

## The Richmond Report continued from page 1

Tysons Corner and he assured us that the road improvements in Merrifield are on track and funded.

Delegate Scott also indicated that as soon as the result of the 2010 Census are in, Northern Virginia is likely to have more representation in Richmond and that re-districting will occur. If you have not sent in your census form, please do as soon as possible!

We appreciate Delegate Scott's many years of service to Merrifield and Falls Church and look forward to continued feedback from him on matters that matter to us.

***Karen Hammond of The Hammond Agency, is the former Chairman of the Greater Merrifield Business Association where she continues to serve in a leadership role.***

View & purchase luncheon photos at: [www.brendasphotos.com](http://www.brendasphotos.com)



## Chamber Networking Mixer

### Hosted by Apple Federal Credit Union

The April Networking mixer was hosted by Apple Federal Credit Union. There was musical entertainment provided by George Mason High School students and delicious food was prepared by Chef Bernard at Open Kitchen.



## Promote Your Business!

Do you have news you want the Chamber to share in its email announcements or newsletter? It's a great way to promote your business and it's free with your membership! You can now post your news and information through the Chamber's website which also includes instructions on how to submit that info. Visit the Chamber's website, click on News & Events and then on Submit Your News.

Prefer to send it directly via email? Please be sure to send your info either in the body of an email or as a word attachment (no PDFs). Submissions should...

- be brief, no longer than 150 words
- include contact info/links for more information
- contain links to any articles/websites referenced
- be written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person
- have photos attached with captions when appropriate

# MEMBER NEWS

## Pat O'Neill Quoted in Kiplinger

Congratulations to **LTC Financial Partners' Pat O'Neill** for being quoted in "New Insurance Plans for the Long Term" in the March 2010 edition of Kiplinger's Retirement Report! Contact Pat at [pat.oneill@lctcp.net](mailto:pat.oneill@lctcp.net) for a copy of the publication.



## City of Falls Church Recognizes Erik Pelton

Congratulations to Erik Pelton of Erik M. Pelton & Associates, PLLC who was recognized this month by the City of Falls Church Economic Development Authority for his volunteer contributions assisting the city with trademark protection for THE LITTLE CITY branding initiative. Erik will also be our featured speaker at our May luncheon. For more information about trademarks or for a free consultation, see Erik's website at [www.tm4smallbiz.com](http://www.tm4smallbiz.com). For more information about the City's branding initiative, email [bwitsman@fallschurchva.gov](mailto:bwitsman@fallschurchva.gov).



## Falls Church Education Foundation Dinner

Almost 250 local movers and shakers attended the Falls Church Education Foundation and helped raise more than \$70,000 for SmartBoards, the Diversity and Affirmation Challenge Days Fund and the organization.



## PRS Kentucky Derby Fundraiser

Over 152 guests attended a Kentucky Derby Fundraiser at Supervisor John Foust's home in McLean on Saturday, May 1st. The event raised over \$25,000 to support PRS' programs and services for people in Northern Virginia working to recover from serious mental illness.



## Open Kitchen Hosts Pizzeria Night

Open Kitchen's first Pizzeria Night by Chef Matt Finarelli was a big hit! Food lovers were feasting on classic pizzas such as Margherita Pizza to artisan treats only found in Italy such as Roasted Cauliflower, Robiola Pizza with Black Truffle and Chives. They received enthusiastic requests for an encore...so, visit their website at [www.openkitchen-dc.com](http://www.openkitchen-dc.com) for info. about additional events.



## SPOTLIGHT New Members

Cheri Corrado  
**Corrado Consulting**  
(Business Consulting)  
800 West Broad St. #404  
571-249-2212  
[www.linkedin/in/chericorrado](http://www.linkedin/in/chericorrado)

Larissa Norris  
**Radley Acura**  
(Car Dealership)  
5823 Columbia Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
888-807-9496  
[www.radleyacura.com](http://www.radleyacura.com)

Lien Tran  
**Venus & Mars Spa**  
(Nail & Hair Salon & Day Spa)  
450 West Broad St. #116  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
571-282-4522

# MEMBER NEWS

## In The News

### Dress For Success

**Curves** is hosting a clothing drive for Dress for Success through the month of May. Clean, seasonally appropriate clothing can be dropped off at 240 W. Broad Street Mon - Fri. And, Curves is offering 30 days for \$30 for any new member who contributes clothing and commits to a 12-month membership. For more info call 703-536-0140.



### Scholarships

**The American College of Commerce and Technology** is offering Chamber members and their families a \$500 scholarship to their associates, Bachelors, Masters and certificate classes which start in June!

The American College is located at 150 S. Washington Street. Visit [www.acct2day.org](http://www.acct2day.org) for more information.



### The Ultimate Man-Cave

**Foxcraft Design Group** transformed a 3 car detached garage and created the Ultimate Man Cave for the 2010 Design House to benefit Children's National Medical Center. Check it out at [www.dcdesign-house.com](http://www.dcdesign-house.com). For more information about Foxcraft visit [www.foxcraft.com](http://www.foxcraft.com).



### The Original Pancake House

The **Original Pancake House** is moving from its current location on W. Broad Street to newly renovated space a mere 1.5 miles away in early September. The new location is at 7395 Lee Highway between the Safeway and the Rite Aid in the Outlet Center (which will be renamed when renovations are underway). Thankfully, OPH will still have a private dining area for meetings and the Bulman's will continue to support the FC community! For more information call 703-891-0148.



## Vantage Fitness Raises Funds for Breast Cancer

Vantage Fitness hosted its 2nd Annual "Pennies for Pounds", an event to raise funds for trainer (and Argia's manager/bartender) Kavon Atabaki's Avon Walk for Breast Cancer team. The event featured a special group exercise combo class (spinning, turbo kick and yoga), raffle, Members vs. Staff Tug O'War competition and individual strength competitions by personal trainers (pictured at right).

Also pictured, Vantage General Manager Lisa Hublitz and Solano Spine & Sport Chiropractic's Dr. Raymond Solano who attended the event to provide support as needed! More than \$4,000 was raised for the cause.

Argia's hosted a happy hour and raffle for the cause which raised an additional \$1,000.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## May Chamber Luncheon

Erik Pelton of **Erik M. Pelton & Associates, PLLC** will present "Protecting and Leveraging Your Intellectual Property" at the Chamber's Networking Luncheon on May 18. This will be a terrific opportunity to learn about tangible and intangible assets, intellectual property, the difference between a trademark, a copyright and a patent, and how your business can create a brand and protect itself. The Luncheon will take place **Tuesday, May 18 from 11:30 am - 1:15 pm at the Italian Cafe**, 7161 Lee Highway. Reserved tickets are \$27 for members and \$32 for nonmembers. An additional \$5 is charged for walk-ins.

## May Networking Mixer

The Chamber's May Mixer is the Annual Rowell Court Block Party hosted by **Mark Werblood, Tesler & Werblood**, in the Old Brick House Square courtyard. The Mixer will take place from 5:30 – 7pm on **Tues, May 25** and will no doubt include a variety of food and beverages from local restaurants along with raffle prizes and great company. The event is free for Chamber members, their families and friends. RSVPs are not required. The old Brick House Square office town homes are on Rowell Court just off of W. Broad Street, across from Bangkok Blues.

## Multi-Chamber Mixer

The Chamber has joined forces with several other Chambers to host a Mixer celebrating diversity in the business world. See page 2 for details.

## Congressional Forum

The Falls Church Chamber is supporting a business-focused Congressional debate hosted by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Additional supporters include the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber, Springfield Chamber, Northern Virginia Black Chamber, Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax Chamber, and the Vienna-Tysons Chamber and FC Chamber. Forum participants include Congressman Jim Moran (D), Matthew Berry (R), and Patrick Murray (R). 6:30-8:30pm, Thurs, May 13 at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel. Registration at [www.alexchamber.com](http://www.alexchamber.com) is required.

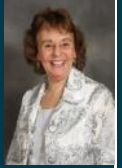
## FIRSTFriday of Falls Church

The next FIRSTFriday event will be June 4th and will include ArtALot with artist booths, live music sponsored by Tori McKinney (Your Green Realtor Providing Rock Star Service) and "Cruise-In Friday" sponsored by Don Beyer Volvo. For a listing of all the events and specials, visit [www.firstfridayoffallschurch.com](http://www.firstfridayoffallschurch.com). Images below are from the FIRSTFriday of May event. Photos courtesy of Gary Mester.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **Brenda Schrier** for photographing our Gala and luncheons.



View the photos at:

[www.brendasphotos.com](http://www.brendasphotos.com)

- **Carol Beales of Galleria Florist** for providing flowers for our luncheons.



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