

**Subject:** Avon Chamber Events and Information NT December 6 2013

**From:** Avon Chamber of Commerce <avonchamber@sbcglobal.net>

**Date:** 12/6/2013 5:22 PM

**To:** avonchamber@sbcglobal.net

**CC:**

Just a reminder that you are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Avon Chamber of Commerce. Please consider sharing this email with fellow colleagues as well as other area businesses that you feel might benefit from what the Avon Chamber has to offer. Thank you!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Your Business Connection - Now In Our 49th Year

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[December 11 - Business After Hours/ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT/SALVATION ARMY TOY DRIVE](#)

[December 17 - A.W.E. \(Avon Women Entrepreneurs\)](#)

[December 23 - Avon Chamber Day at The Salvation Army Holiday Store](#)

**\*\*No January 2014 Morning Business Network Connection\*\***

[JANUARY 8 2014 - Combined Business After Hours/Happy New Year](#)

[January 21- A.W.E. \(Avon Women Entrepreneurs\)](#)

[February 5 - Morning Business Network Connection](#)

[February 12 - Business After Hours](#)



## Events and Information

December 6, 2013



[Forward this issue](#)

JOIN the AVON CHAMBER GROUP on

Click on the link to check out our current **Featured Member**  
**River Ridge at Avon**



**Avon Chamber Day**

at

**The Salvation Army**

**Holiday Store**

**Monday, December 23**

**Avon Chamber Day** at **The Salvation Army Holiday Store** is scheduled for Monday, December 23, 7 AM-6 PM.

The Holiday Store collects non-perishable food; new, unwrapped toys; and monetary donations

**February 18 - A.W.E. (Avon Women Entrepreneurs)**

For a complete listing of all  
**UPCOMING AVON CHAMBER  
EVENTS** [CLICK HERE](#)

**FEATURED MEMBER  
BENEFIT**



**Avon  
Chamber  
of  
Commerce**

**LOCAL FIRST** is coming soon! This is a unique and exciting program that is intended to encourage area residents to shop and use the services of Avon Chamber members by providing them with an easy way to find your place of business AND your website. Participation for Members is FREE! Please **CLICK ON THE LOCAL FIRST LOGO** and fill out the **LOCAL FIRST Form** so as to insure we have your correct web address.

**FEATURED MEMBER  
BENEFIT**



**CHET  
Advisor  
529 Plan**

The **Avon Chamber of Commerce** has established a relationship with the **CHET Advisor 529 Plan**. Members and their employees are eligible to participate in this program at no cost - the up-front sales charge of up to 5.5% is waived for Chamber members. In addition, saving for your child's education in this CHET Advisor 529 Plan can reduce your state income tax burden, as the CHET Advisor 529 Plan includes a state income tax deduction for individual filers contributing

on behalf of those less fortunate in our greater community. **Avon Old Farms Hotel** has graciously provided a permanent home for the Store since its return to Avon in 2006. Each year since then, the **Avon Chamber of Commerce** and its members have supported these two Chamber members in this endeavor by generously volunteering one day to act as greeters for those donating and sorters of items donated.

**Shifts Are Now OPEN!** for members that would like to sign-up to be part of this very special day. Shifts are in two-hour increments and we need a minimum of 2 volunteers per shift. Because the Chamber's day this year is the day before Christmas Eve, it is sure to be very busy!

Thank You to the following Chamber members that are generously volunteering their time:

7-9 a.m. Peg Mayer, **Howard L. Page & Co.**; Bill Peck, **William R. Peck, CPA**

9-11 a.m.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Michael Mezheritskiy, **Visionary Private Wealth Management Group**

1-3 p.m.

3-5 p.m. Robin DiNicola, **Simsbury Bank**; Chip Janiszewski, **SendOutCards**

If you would like to volunteer please email Lisa at the Chamber or click on the link below

**Avon Chamber Day at The Salvation Army Holiday Store**

at **Avon Old Farms Hotel**  
Route 44, Avon  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23**  
7:00 AM to 6:00 PM



**MEMBER BENEFIT  
Avon Chamber of  
Commerce**

and



up to \$5,000 and for those filing jointly contributing up to \$10,000. Start with as little as \$50.

**For more information please contact Chamber member**

**Edward Jones-Peter Vignati at 860.676.1442**

### GOT A DATE-SPECIFIC EVENT OR SPECIAL FOR

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE MEMBERS

EMAIL -- 50 WORDS OR LESS -- TO  
TO  
[AvonChamber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AvonChamber@sbcglobal.net)



### WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE MEMBERS

#### AVON HEALTH CENTER

On Saturday, December 14, starting at 10:30 AM, **Avon Health Center** is hosting a **Children's Holiday Party**. A Magic Show with Magician Tom O'Brien starts the day, followed by a visit from Santa. Children will also be able to decorate and take home a one-of-a-kind Gingerbread Cookie. **Avon Health Center** is located at **652 West Avon Road, Avon**

#### BELLE TERRACE AT AVON OLD FARMS

On Saturday, December 14, from 6:30-11:30 PM, **Belle Terrace at Avon Old Farms** is hosting a **Big/Little Holiday Party**. This event is a celebration perfect for smaller groups, together for one large event. From 6:30-7:30 PM enjoy a Bruschetta Station, Chef's selection of Butler Passed Hors D'oeuvres and Open Bar. Dinner follows which includes: Apple Cranberry Salad, Winter Fruit Cous-Cous Salad, Bourbon & Brown Sugar Glazed Pork Loin, Chimichurri Marinated Sirloin Tip Steak, Seared Scallops, Lemon Scented Grilled

**Avon Chamber** and **Valpak** teamed up to bring you a first-ever **Avon Chamber Valpak Mailer**. **Our Blue Envelope** was mailed in mid-October to people in the towns of Avon, Canton, and part of Simsbury

**CLICK ON THE VALPAK ENVELOPE TO PRINT ALL THE OFFERS FROM OUR MEMBER ADVERTISERS**

Thank you to the following Chamber members that are part of the first **Avon Chamber Valpak Mailer**:

- Avon Executive Offices
- Benefits Plus
- Dunstan Jewelers Ltd.
- Fitness On The Run
- Healthtrax Fitness
- Marriott Residence Inn-Avon
- Miller Foods/Oma's Pride
- Premier Energy
- River Ridge at Avon
- Shear Artistry Day Spa & Salon
- The Salvation Army
- TravelVision
- Visionary Private Wealth Management Group
- Waste Material Trucking
- William Raveis Real Estate - Lori Macgowan

## Avon Chamber of Commerce AND My Hometown Map

Asparagus, Cheese Tortellini along with Homemade Dinner Rolls & Focaccia Sweet Cream Butter. Top your evening off with their Dessert Station featuring assorted individual locally made pies. Cost is \$49/guest, tax and service charge additional. **Reservations are Required** and can be made by calling **860.404.5051 Belle Terrace at Avon Old Farms** is located at **1 Nod Road, Avon**

### COMCAST

On Thursday, December 19, from 7:30-10 AM, at The Hartford Club, **Comcast** is sponsoring a free small business seminar entitled **Using Technology to Help Your Small Business Thrive -- Tips & Tricks to Better Use Technology To Your Advantage** This is a free event. Breakfast will be served. Limited space is available. Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. To register go to [www.Comcast-business-series.com](http://www.Comcast-business-series.com)

### GUIDING LIGHT ORPHANAGE

On Tuesday, December 10, from 4-9 PM, at Flatbread at The Shoppes at Farmington Valley, **Guiding Light Orphanage** is holding a **Pizza Fundraiser** to benefit the organization. Pizzas are available for dine-in or take out. The event includes a 50/50 drawing and prizes. For more information visit [GuidingLightOrphanage.com](http://GuidingLightOrphanage.com)

### RIVERDALE FARMS SHOPPING

Today, Friday, December 6, starting at 6:30 PM, **Riverdale Farms Shopping** is hosting their annual **Lighting of the Flame on the 'Kids For Kids' Candle of Hope** The event includes a Christmas Tree Lighting, an Old Fashioned Carol Sing, the arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn sleigh, along with Hayrides and Holiday Goodies. Admission & Parking are Free. The event takes place rain or shine. 'Kids For Kids' benefits the UConn Children's Cancer Fund. **Riverdale Farms Shopping** is located at **124 Simsbury**



The Map has been mailed and is available at various locations throughout the community. Need additional Maps -- the Chamber has some available.

**Click on the Map** to View it Online as well as Links to All Our Participating Member Advertisers that

**Put Their Businesses on the Map**

- Allstate Insurance - Jennifer Johnson
- Andrighetti & Sons
- Autumn Light Studio & Gallery
- Auto Club of Hartford-AAA
- Avon Education Foundation
- Avon Kempo & Aikido Academy
- Avon Old Farms Hotel
- Avon Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center
- Edward Jones-Peter Vignati
- E.N.E Realty Associates
- Farmington Valley Academy Montessori
- Farmington Woods Golf Club
- Huntington Learning Center
- Jolie Boutique Consignment
- Jung & Associates
- Keller Williams Realty - Sylvia Colvin
- Law Office of Brian S. Karpe
- Miller Foods/Oma's Pride
- Patient Advocate For You
- River Ridge at Avon
- Sayward Companies
- Shear Artistry Day Spa & Salon
- Simsbury Bank
- Spargo Construction
- Talcott Mountain Academy
- The Zoo Health Club
- TravelVision
- Waste Material Trucking
- William Raveis Real Estate - Lori Macgowan

**MEMBER BENEFIT**



Road/Route 10, Avon

## SEND OUT CARDS

On Tuesday, December 10, from 5:30-7:30 PM, at the West Hartford Senior Center, **SendOutCards** Chip Janiszewski is facilitating **Speed Networking with a Holistic Approach**. Spend one-on-one time with other business professionals in a special format. Sponsored by fellow **Avon Chamber member Guiding Light Orphanage**. Cost is \$10/person. Refreshments will be served. To register and pay online (required) visit [HolisticBizAlliance.com](http://HolisticBizAlliance.com)

## TASTE BY SPELLBOUND

Today, Friday, December 6-Sunday, December 8, **Taste by Spellbound** has a **Gingerbread House Replica of the historic Isham Terry House** featured on display at the Governor's Residence Holiday Open House, 990 Prospect Avenue, Hartford. Only five food establishments in the state were commissioned to create these historic Connecticut landmarks in gingerbread for this event. **Taste by Spellbound** is located at **5 Ensign Drive, Avon**

## THE INVESTORS CENTER

On Tuesday, December 10, from 6-8 PM, **The Investors Center** is having a **Holiday Open House, Art Show and Food & Sparkling Wine Tasting** RSVP 'yes only' to Ellen at **860.677.8808** or email [ellenw@TheInvestorsCenter.com](mailto:ellenw@TheInvestorsCenter.com) **The Investors Center** is located at **70 East Main Street/Route 44, Avon**

## VILLAGE GATE OF FARMINGTON

Tomorrow, Saturday, December 7, from 9-11 AM, **Village Gate of Farmington** is hosting an **Pancake Breakfast and Toy Drive**. Breakfast is free with the donation of one unwrapped toy per guest or family up to 4. Toys will be given as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in Hartford county. Santa will be in attendance and happy to pose for photos. Space is limited.

## Get Your Membership Plaque(s) Today!!



**Studies have shown that consumers are 63% more likely to buy goods and services from a business that is a member of a chamber of commerce . . .**

Now there are TWO great ways for you to show the community that you are a proud member of the Avon Chamber.

First -- Our **MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES** have arrived and are ready for you to display at your place of business, trade shows, special events, etc. . . You can hang them on a wall or stand them on a counter. Please make sure to pick yours up today and display it prominently.

Second -- Join with fellow Chamber members **Ace Marketing and Sales, Avon Education Foundation, Digital Design Chick, E.N.E. Realty Associates, Ink 13, Keller Williams Realty-The Zambellos, Miller Foods, Mind My Life, Molly Maid of Farmington, Progressive Animal Wellness (PAW)** and the numerous others that are displaying our **VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE** on their websites. Just like our membership plaque can be displayed at your place of business, the Virtual Membership Plaque is designed to be displayed on your website, facebook page, etc

## Here's How to Get Your Plaques

**MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES** Will be available at every Chamber event or you may contact the Chamber office and make arrangements to pick yours up.

**VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES** Are available in JPG format and can be obtained by contacting the Chamber office. Additionally, the Chamber will provide you with HTML code to link your virtual plaque back to the page where your business listing appears in the Chamber's Online Membership Directory.

*Plaque Artwork generously donated by*  
**BONNER & COMPANY Creative Communications**



Join Us for our December 2013  
**Business After Hours!**

RSVP by calling 860.676.8626  
Village Gate of Farmington is  
located at 88 Scott Swamp Road,  
Farmington

### VILLAGE GATE OF FARMINGTON

Wednesday, December 11, from 11  
AM-3 PM and Friday, December  
20, from 11 AM-2:30 PM, **Village  
Gate of Farmington** is offering  
**Holiday Shopping Trips** Skip the  
mall crowds and find great,  
affordable gifts for yourself and all  
the ladies on your list. Space is  
limited. **RSVP by calling  
860.676.8626 Village Gate of  
Farmington** is located at 88 Scott  
Swamp Road, Farmington

### VILLAGE GATE OF FARMINGTON

On Saturday, December 21, at 2  
PM, **Village Gate of Farmington** is  
hosting **Winter Wonderland  
featuring Jerome Riley** Step in  
from the cold and cozy up with  
classic hits from the 50s and 60s.  
Famous for his position in Herb  
Reed and The Platters, Jerome  
continues to entertain crowds of all  
ages with his high energy solo  
show. Space is limited. **RSVP by  
calling 860.676.8626 Village Gate  
of Farmington** is located at 88  
Scott Swamp Road, Farmington

### VILLAGE GATE OF FARMINGTON

On Sunday, December 22, at 2 PM,  
**Village Gate of Farmington** is  
holding their **Holiday Concert**  
Spend an afternoon with the  
ever-popular Village Gate voices  
who will perform all the holiday  
classics. Reception to follow. Space  
is limited. **RSVP by calling  
860.676.8626 Village Gate of  
Farmington** is located at 88 Scott  
Swamp Road, Farmington



**NEW**

**Health Savings**



## Annual Holiday Event/ Salvation Army Toy Drive NEXT WEDNESDAY

It's holiday time, and you know what that means,  
time for the Chamber's Annual Holiday Event and  
Toy Drive to benefit The Salvation Army Holiday  
Store. Have fun following the trail that leads you  
to our event hosts. Enjoy dance performances by  
the students of **A Dancer's Palette**. Go to see  
one of our newest members **Be. Yoga** and be  
amazed at how easy it is to do yoga. Talk with the  
folks from **H & R Block** about all your year end  
tax questions. Visit **Fitness Together Avon** and  
get your free posture analysis. And don't forget to  
check out all the great things **River Ridge at  
Avon** has to show you.

**We are Collecting New, Unwrapped Toys** at this  
event for our fellow Chamber member **The  
Salvation Army** in preparation for **AVON  
CHAMBER DAY** at their annual Holiday Store  
open again this year at fellow Chamber member  
**Avon Old Farms Hotel**. Please consider bringing  
a donation.

**If you would Like to Offer A Drawing Item** at  
this event please contact **Anne Boychuk** at **River  
Ridge at Avon** so she can post your business  
name and announce your participation.

**If you would Like to Be A Host of this Event**  
Please contact Lisa at the Chamber.

### December 2013 Business After Hours/Annual Holiday Event/Salvation Army Toy Drive

hosted by: **River Ridge at Avon**  
**A Dancer's Palette**  
**Be. Yoga**  
**Fitness Together Avon**  
**H & R Block**

at: **River Ridge at Avon**  
101 Bickford Extension, Avon  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED** by **MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 9**

**Members - FREE, Non-Members - \$20**



Join Us in December 2013 for  
**A.W.E (Avon Women  
Entrepreneurs)**

## Accounts (HSAs)

Simsbury Bank and the Chamber Insurance Trust have partnered to provide Chamber members with high quality **HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSAs)**

These are premium interest accounts designed to complement the portfolio of HSA-compatible health insurance

plans from 

To learn about the **Simsbury Bank** HSAs please call **860.676.2265** or [CLICK HERE](#)

## **Small Group Health Insurance for Chamber Members**

Aetna is now offering Chamber members **SMALL GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE** These plans include several consumer-directed, HSA-compatible options.

With any of the plans available, Chamber members will receive access to Aetna's industry-leading online tools, as well as other Aetna resources specifically designed for small businesses, including: the **Small Business Tax Credit Calculator** that quickly helps you determine if your company is eligible for a tax credit through the Affordable Care Act, along with the **Aetna Resource Connection** that gives participants access to discounts on a variety of services.

In addition, this insurance may be integrated with Aetna's new **Chamber Hospital Indemnity Plan**, an exclusive opportunity for Chamber members that provides a flat-dollar payment for a hospital stay plus a per diem payment for each day in the hospital.

The Avon Chamber's newest Group -- **A.W.E. (Avon Women Entrepreneurs)** offers the A.W.E.-some women of our Chamber an opportunity to engage with one another and discuss issues that are unique and of particular interest to them. Each month the group will meet for an hour at a different participant's place of business. Everyone will have a chance to introduce themselves and their business, to be followed by a 10-minute Presentation by our Host. We will conclude by opening the meeting up to explore topics of importance in the lives of our professional women. Presently, this is a MEMBERS ONLY group; though a guest policy is being developed and will be announced at a future date.

### December 2013 A.W.E. (Avon Women Entrepreneurs)

at: **Avon Old Farms School**  
500 Old Farms Road, Avon

**Please Note: You MUST RSVP by Thursday, December 12 for this Meeting** - Exact Directions to our Meeting Location will be Forwarded To You

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**  
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

**This is a MEMBERS ONLY Group**

## Join Us for our February 2014 Morning Business Network Connection



That's right -- due to the New Year's holiday

-- the next time this networking group meets is not until **February 2014!**



**Così**

This group provides an excellent opportunity to network with other Chamber members and guests in a more intimate setting. All attendees have the chance to briefly introduce themselves and their business. So stop by, promote your business, and exchange ideas and referrals.

**Another Great Reason to Attend** -- At the conclusion of the networking portion of this event a different Avon Chamber member is featured and has the opportunity to offer a **3-Minute Presentation** A new member is chosen each month -- YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO BE CONSIDERED

February's Presenter is:

To learn about these new health insurance options

**Click on the AETNA LOGO above**



## BENEFITS FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS

Dental **Chamber Dental Prime** and **Chamber Dental Complete** are competitive insurance programs with one of the largest dental PPO networks in Connecticut.

Three core plans are available -- **VALUE Dental Plans** that include coverage for basic services such as cleanings, x-rays, and fillings; **CLASSIC Dental Plans** that include coverage for basic services and most major services, all with high annual maximum benefit levels; **ENHANCED Plans** that offer the greatest level of coverage and include even higher annual maximum benefit levels and lower co-insurance amounts. In addition, **VOLUNTARY Dental Plans** are available that allow employers to offer dental coverage to their employees at no additional cost.

Vision **Blue View Vision** plans cover regular eye exams and include additional savings programs that allow members to save even after their annual benefits are used up. That is a 40% discount on unlimited extra pairs of eyeglasses, 15% on regular contacts, and 20% on many other items including sunglasses.

### Disability and Life

Coverage options include Group Term Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D), Dependent Life, Short-Term and Long-Term Disability -- Available on an employer-paid or employee-paid (voluntary) basis.

For more information click

**Janina Cummings** of



**We are also collecting non-perishable food every month at this event to be given to the Avon Food Bank**

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FOOD DONATION!!!**

**February 2014 Morning Business Network Connection**

hosted by: **COSI**

385 West Main Street/Route 44, Avon  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM

**Members - Free, First-Time Guests - Free**

## **CHAMBER EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**CLICK HERE To See the Programs We Offer**



On Friday, November 1, the **Peter M. Bakker Agency** and **Pullman & Comley, LLC**



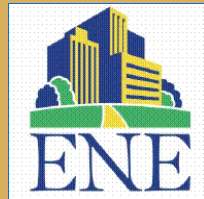
hosted and presented respectively **What Does the Affordable Care Act Really Mean for My Business** Members had the opportunity to listen to attorney Sharon Freilich discuss various aspects of the Affordable Care Act and the impact each has on small businesses and their employees.

**Look for This Program again in Spring 2014**



on this link:  
[Chamber Dental, Vision,  
Disability and Life](#)

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
CORPORATE  
SPONSORS**



**Office and Medical Space**



**Remember**



Our September **Talk to the Town-Doing Business in Avon** program gave members of the Avon Chamber the opportunity to hear from and speak with key town officials that are the primary contacts for businesses in Avon. Special Thanks to Brandon Robertson - Avon Town Manager, Steve Kushner - Director of Planning and Community Development/Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Harry DerAsadourian - Town Assessor.

**Look for This Program again in March 2014**



Tuesday, September 17, saw the return of our popular computer training classes. Starting us off for the year was instructor Bruce Shein of **Avon Executive Offices** with **Microsoft Excel 2010 for Business-Creating a Good Worksheet and Tips for Beginners to Intermediate Users**

Special thanks to **Farmington Woods Golf Club** for hosting this class.

**Look for this program again in June 2014**



**Free Medication Lists  
Made for You, as well as  
Review of Medications**



This and many other offers are available to Avon Chamber members and

## and Discussion of Chronic Disease Management Options

their employees as part of our **ACBD** (Avon Chamber Business Discounts) **Program**. To take advantage you MUST HAVE AN ACBD CARD. Cards are available at all Chamber events or you may contact the Chamber office.

Offered by: **Patient Advocate For You** \* 30 Tower Lane \* Avon Park South \*  
Avon, CT 06001 \* 860.703.1575 \* [sharon@ptadvocate4u.com](mailto:sharon@ptadvocate4u.com) \*  
[www.PTAdvocate4u.com](http://www.PTAdvocate4u.com)



Try it FREE today.

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