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WELCOME !!! *Reasons to belong to your local Chamber !*

What is a chamber of commerce?

A chamber of commerce is an association of businesses and community individuals who come together to creatively promote local businesses and the local economy along with local / regional tourism and development. The chamber is a place to talk about important issues facing our community and business environment. It is a place to take action. We create commerce through local resources, our publications, our organized events, our internationally visited web site and our special promotions. It is a crucial portal to promoting the concept of "Shopping Locally". It is a place to meet people, promote your business, gather and share new and old ideas, make new clients and maybe even some new friends. Business owners have strength in numbers. In these economic times, local business owners need to band together to collectively promote the greater business community as well as their individual businesses as a cohesive successful vibrant entity. Become an active part of **YOUR** working community.

The Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce – Mission Statement

The Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce is organized and operated by local volunteer business community members for the purpose of advancing business relations in the local communities of Westhampton, Westhampton Beach, West Hampton Dunes, Quogue, Quogue, Remsenburg & Speonk. The goal is to improve business relations within this area as well as to work for the improvement of the general economic and cultural welfare of our greater community. The Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce produces and sponsors a series of successful events throughout the year – encouraging people to make our communities a chosen destination. In 2010, as times are strained and we enter a new era of economic challenges, it will be necessary for all businesses to figure out the **NEXT ECONOMY**.

Chamber Objectives

- ❖ To be a resource to chamber members for referrals to small business support services. We all deserve success!
- ❖ To promote tourism in the Greater Westhampton area, emphasizing our cultural events, natural resources, scenic beauty and unique commercial offerings here only 75 miles from the greatest city in the world.
- ❖ To promote the Greater Westhampton area as a **SUPERB** place to live or visit, and to promote our **VIBRANT** community as a desirable business environment to attract commercial as well as professional businesses to come to our great community.
- ❖ To band together as concerned community business members sharing and promoting all positive business activity in our greater community in an endeavor to promote local business success using a **SHOP LOCALLY** campaign.

Why Join the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce?

You'll play a role in the development of our community's commercial success. Joining the Chamber allows you to have a voice in local commercial endeavors and local government activities. Your membership means you've joined a chorus of other business people who truly understand the unique needs of our towns, villages and hamlets who strive to make our greater community a better place to live, visit, work and vacation.

We encourage you to promote your business to other members. The best way for Chamber members to grow their businesses is by spreading the news - tell others about your business! With well over 200 projected members for 2010, and hopefully constantly growing, the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce is a great place to start a word-of-mouth campaign for your local business. Never underestimate the power of participation, volunteering your time or the visual impact of being seen at chamber of commerce functions, dinners, meetings and community events.

Enjoy monthly guest speakers at Chamber of Commerce lunch, dinner, cocktail party and new member networking business meetings. Chamber members receive invitations to listen to guest speakers each month during our meetings. Chamber speakers are always informative, lively guests who share what is going on in our greater community. Their business tips, stories, reports and advice for our members are usually invaluable tools for operating in the greater community and region.

Share ideas and network for success. Other chamber members are a great resource for ideas, inspiration, and advice. Our chamber members offer member discounts for goods, services and networking to help one another. Success comes when we all help one another gain the success we all rightfully deserve. When you join the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce, you strengthen our membership, strength or community voice and advance our goal of advocating for greater business success in our hometown communities. This in turn helps support and promote your own and fellow businesses locally.

Many people unfortunately assume that participation in the chamber of commerce is limited to business owners and company principals. **That is absolutely not true.** In fact, participation is equally encouraged by member employees, associates as well as community members. Professional development and business advancement is encouraged on every level. We have even recently added a "Non Business Related" Community category to our membership specifically designed for retirees and community residence who simply want to see all of our communities and local businesses thrive. All of our events & meetings are always open to the general public.

Wait ! There's more... 

What are the benefits to membership in the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce?

Member Discounts:

You'll benefit from members-only discounts offered by your fellow local merchants, businesses and vendors.

Small Business Resource:

The Chamber is an excellent resource for local businesses, and in fact, the chamber helps with SBA loan information, grants, and local incentives for new commercial business owners locating to our community.

Networking and Marketing Opportunities:

You'll meet other business people who recognize your successes and unique challenges as a business owner or professional in a year-round coastal resort community that thrives on regional tourism. They'll share their perspectives, dispense advice and offer to swap cards and make referrals. You'll also benefit from access to the Chamber's mailing list of over 200 members for your commercial use. Our office receives thousands of calls and visits every year from local residents, visitors and second homeowners and routinely recommends member businesses. **A NEW MEMBER BENEFIT:** All members paid in good standing are entitled to use the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce's recently acquired 1st Class Bulk Rate Permit for business use at no cost reducing USPS mailing costs by over 40% on a minimum of 200 pieces. This saving alone could reduce your first class mailing from .44 to as low as .256 per piece!

Ever Improving Chamber Web Site --- www.whbcc.org and also now on **facebook** You'll enjoy the advantages of receiving publicity for your business or your special company event on the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce web site with your individual Member listing with narrative business description, contact information, link to your own web site, e-mail links and your corporate logo or photograph. We are proud to have had well over 150,000 unique hits to our website this past year from those locally, across North America as well as from around the globe. We will be launching a brand new chamber web site in the beginning of May and we will continue to make sure that our site is always improving and is a dynamic community resource site complete with community information, resources and up to date calendar of events for all of the communities in our service district. Be sure to link your member business and become a fan of the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce **facebook** page to further promote and encourage social business networking. Have any other ideas to encourage social business networking and success? We welcome all input.

Publicity for Your Business as well as Yourself:

We promote our member businesses in our printed Membership Directory which is found within the official chamber guide, "Passport to Greater Westhampton" updated and printed each May and via many special co-operative advertising venues at extremely discounted rates throughout the calendar year. For added publicity and recognition, chamber businesses are offered many opportunities to sponsor Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce events and activities throughout the year which is always publicly acknowledged within event promotions in the community. Many sponsorship opportunities exist at all levels.

Support Promotion throughout the Hamptons, Long Island and beyond:

The Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce is an active member of The Hamptons Visitors Council (HVC), an alliance established in 1990 of the six Chambers of Commerce within the Town of Southampton whose purpose is to promote regional tourism to the Greater Hamptons community - especially in the shoulder seasons. We are also an active member of the Long Island Visitors and Convention Bureau (LIVCB) promoting our community for regional wide business endeavors as well as a tourist destination. Through these relationships we promote the Greater Westhampton business community in national and regional print, internet marketing as well as at national and regional travel expos such as in New York City in cooperation with the New York Times & in New England in conjunction with the Boston Globe.

A taste of 2010 Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce Sponsored Events & Festivals:

Winter Doldrums Activities – January thru March
Easter Egg & Scavenger Hunt – March
Art Show Poster Contest Judging – April
Westhampton Farmer's Market – April thru December
Supporters of the PBMC East End Garden Festival - May
New Membership Breakfast – June
Spring Soiree "Summer Kick Off" Reception – June
Spring Arts and Crafts Show – June
20th Annual Joe Koziarz 5K Run / Walk – July
WHB Summer Kids Fun Run – July
Summer Concerts on the Green – Summer Thursdays

Kids Summer Fun on the Green in WHB – Summer Tuesdays
38th Annual Mary O. Fritchie Juried Outdoor Art Show – August
Summer Movie on the Great Lawn – August
Community Blood Drive – August
Fall Fling "After Season" Reception – September
Fall Arts & Crafts Show + Harvest Festival – October
Fall Merchants Sidewalk Sales in WHB – October
Halloween Parade & Community "Trick or Treat" – October
Annual GWCOG Holiday Party – December
Holiday WinterFest in the Village – December
Festival of Lights – Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting – December

We are always looking for member participation to help coordinate and volunteer at the many existing Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce events as well as spearhead new and innovative events in all of our local communities in hopes of promoting our vibrant business communities not only during the summer months, but also in the shoulder seasons and year-round.

The Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce appreciates your interest in our organization. We hope you visit our great web presence at www.whbcc.org and look forward to receiving your 2010 membership application. On behalf of the entire executive board of directors of the Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce... we thank you!

2010 Membership Committee & Executive Board of Directors
Greater Westhampton Chamber of Commerce