

ABOUT THE CHAMBER

The ANNANDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE joins businesses, community organizations, and professionals for the purpose of maintaining a favorable business climate while contributing to the quality of life that makes Annandale a special place. It is a business organization of approximately 200 members that has been in continuous service to Greater Annandale since its incorporation in 1943. The Chamber's primary goal is to build the Annandale Marketplace. Additionally, emphasis is placed on the following efforts.



Quality Government: To work with county and state government to encourage good management practices at every level, including sensible budgets, rational decision making, and advanced planning for public facilities.

Beautification: To participate in "Annandale Beautification Days" and to work to beautify Annandale by encouraging and supporting good architecture, more landscaping in the Central Business District, and along medians and main thoroughfares.

Alliance for Progress: To work with civic, service, and business organizations in addition to individuals to improve the quality of life in our community.

Public Safety: To work closely with the Fairfax County Police Department in order to ensure every resident and every person who works in Annandale safety while at work, at home, and while traveling by foot or by car through the Annandale community.

Revitalization: To encourage the revitalization of older buildings and properties into well-designed, comprehensively planned, mixed-use development.

The Chamber has proudly produced their quarterly online news magazine, *ENDEAVOR*, since January 2008. In a few short years it has become the *must read* publication for all of Annandale. It heralds both chamber members and our home town; it discusses major issues affecting Annandale; it informs with interesting columns such as *The Police Beat*, *Roads and Rage*, *From Capitol Hill to Capitol Square*, *A Community of Cousins*, *View on Nature*, *Tax Talk*, *Health Watch*, and *What's Cooking*; and, it provides timely schedules of local activities and stories of special interest. *ENDEAVOR* also provides expansive advertising opportunities to businesses and organizations. See the current and past issues on this website.

The ANNANDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE invites all interested citizens and businesses to join in making Annandale an even better place in which to live, work, and play.

ANNUAL EVENTS SPONSORED BY THE CHAMBER

Hospital Bed Race and Spring Carnival: May

The Chamber teams with VA Special Olympics and the Mason District Police Station in sponsoring this whacky event. It is held on John Marr Drive where businesses send a team of 5 who race decorated pediatric hospital beds to promote their business. Many local politicians participate, news agencies, and citizen spectators. The two week Spring Carnival is held in conjunction with the Bed Race along John Marr Drive. There are games along the midway, carnival rides, food and fun for all ages. It is a family friendly event enjoyed by thousands each year. Business Sponsors are welcome to display their banners on the carnival fencing for the full ten days of the carnival where tens of thousands of commuters will view them.

Awards Ceremony & Luncheon: June

This special ceremony honors chamber members and Annandale citizens alike. Achievement awards are given to three outstanding Annandale Students and Awards of Valor are bestowed on members of the Annandale Volunteer Fire Dept. www.avfd.org and the Mason District Police Dept. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/. Please see the events schedule on this website for details and reservation requirements.

Parade and Fall Festival: Fourth Saturday in October: The annual parade dates back to the 1950's and attracts an enormous attendance. Together with the Festival, these are the largest attended public events in Greater Annandale attracting upwards of 12,000 people. The Parade commences at the historic Annandale Methodist Church www.annandale-umc.org and progresses down Columbia Pike to the Bowling Alley www.amf.com and Safeway www.safeway.com on Little River Turnpike where the Fall Festival is held. The Festival hosts one hundred vendors selling handmade and manufactured wares, inflatable rides, amazing food from multiple culinary cuisines, games for children of all ages, a climbing wall, bungee jumps, an obstacle course, costumed characters and International Dancers, a treasure hunt, the Lion's Club vision and hearing screening van, and toe tapping live entertainment.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Reception: First Friday in December

Madrigals, choirs, and student carolers entertain the outdoor assembly at Toll House Park while the town tree is lit for the holiday season. Santa also makes an appearance much to the delight of the little ones. Then stroll down the street to a festive reception held at Burke & Herbert Bank (4235 Annandale Road) www.burkeandherbert.com where a string quintet fills the air with musical perfection while guests are invited to feast from the groaning board and exchange the greetings of the season. This is an old fashion evening honored and enjoyed by all.

Monthly Networking Luncheons: Held the second Thursday from September through June, NOON to 1:30 pm with programs featuring current business topics, real estate and political updates on Annandale, Fairfax County, and the Commonwealth. Please check the event schedule on this website for updates, details and reservation requirements. This is also a networking opportunity to meet many of Annandale’s business owners and business men and women. Bring your marketing materials.

Sample Luncheon Programs:

State of the Commonwealth: Speaker State Delegate Vivian Watts who will provide an overview on the State of the Commonwealth; new laws and how they may affect you; as well as a look into the legislative agenda for 2011.

Find the Best! “The Labor Market and the War for Talent” Staffing your business is as much an art as a science and always a time consuming experience. Learn from these seasoned professionals. Robert Reuss, one of Washington’s most successful and dynamic recruiters will present a past, present and future overview of the employment market and what it means to employers and our communities. He will also discuss how firms can develop strategies that make talent acquisition a key component of the company’s vision, mission and culture instead of a chore or an overhead nuisance.

Newly Approved Annandale portion of the County’s Comprehensive Plan with speaker Matthew Flis of the County Office of Revitalization and Reinvestment. Learn what advantageous changes have been approved to spearhead commercial development in the Annandale Central Business District.

Tax Talk for Small Businesses: Changes in Business Tax Law You Need to Know. Speaker: George Kresslein, CPA. By popular demand George is back to enlighten us on the good, the bad, and the ugly changes in Tax Law and what we need to know in order to plan appropriately.

Love is in the air – What do Small Business Owners Need to Know about Sexual Harassment and other EOC issues in the Workplace. Speaker: Diane S. Gold, JD, EEO Management Solutions. Ever since the confirmation hearings for Clarence Thomas, the American public has openly engaged in discussion of this issue. Because of new industries and working conditions, it is particularly important that as business owners and managers we continue the dialogue.

What are Your Concerns about Annandale? – A panel of County Staff and Supervisor John Cook will be available to answer your concerns and discuss how the business community can help build a better Annandale. Some issues that are of great concern to everyone in Annandale are commercial vehicles illegally parking on residential streets, excess commercial signage, boarding houses, crime & how to make unfunded mandates work. What are your concerns? Join the discussion.

Update on Annandale Real Estate: The Numbers Look Promising. Will the 5 year outlook be even better? Speaker: Christine Todd, CEO of the Northern Virginia Realtors Association

Measuring Your Business Financial Fitness! Learn how to read the promising or troubling signs of the financial health of your business. This is an extremely helpful program. Learn to see the red flags early while there is time to remedy your finances and turn things around.

Police Activities in Annandale: Meet the new Mason District Station Commander, Captain Gun Lee who will discuss crime prevention and local police activities. Share your concerns and join the dialogue.

Networking Breakfasts: Held every other fourth Tuesday from September through June at 8:30 to 9:45 am. Please check the event schedule on this website for updates and details. Spotlight Speakers will be selected in advance to provide a presentation about their company. Bring plenty of business cards and marketing materials to exchange.

Networking Mixers: Alternates with the Breakfasts from 4-5 pm with hors d’oeuvres provided. This is a quick fire networking session you can enjoy on your way home from work while meeting many of Annandale’s business owners. If your company is interested in sponsoring a Mixer, please contact the Chamber office. Significant advertising & promotion will be given to each sponsor.



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