

CHAMBER NEWS



The Newsletter of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce

Volume 15 Number 1

March 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Company Brings
the World to
Elizabeth ... 2

Calendar,
Mark this date ... 3

GECC welcomes
members ... 4

From the
Director's Desk ... 5

Chamber Chatter
... 6

(908) 355-7600
Fax: (908) 436-2054
e-mail: GECC@juno.com
www.elizabethchamber.com

INVESTMENT THE THEME OF STATE-OF-CITY

MAYOR BOLLWAGE GIVES ADDRESS AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON



Mayor Christian Bollwage gives his annual address to the GECC membership.

Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage continued a chamber tradition when he delivered his State-of-the-City address to members at a luncheon in the Hilton Newark Airport on January 12, 2011.

The mayor focused on investments that will give residents more opportunities, build a stronger economy, and secure Elizabeth's position as the greatest urban center in the state.

"Our INVEST Elizabeth vision is about sound fiscal management, great partnerships, and planning for the future," said the mayor. "The quality of our investments is defined by the strength of our partnerships and the impact on our future,

but the greatest investment we can make is in the potential of our residents."

The mayor identified five areas targeted for investment: beautifying and preserving the environment; growing our economy exciting, new ways; improving the health and well-being of the city's children; using green technology and enhancing opportunities; and improving safety through state-of-the-art advancements.

The mayor then described the city's major accomplishments of the last year. Using stimulus program funds, the city invested in new streetscapes on Elizabeth Avenue and Broad Street. Streets throughout the city were re-surfaced and a \$3 million flood improvement program was put in place.

Soon it will be easier to find a parking space when an eight-story, 1,500-space parking garage open in midtown. The new development will include a three-story office/retail building.

The city has also partnered with Kean University to create a University Boulevard that will link the university to midtown.

The city also partnered with Kean University to create a new, touch-screen kiosk at Jersey Gardens Mall that allows visitors to navigate the city and the university. Now, they will be able to find a restaurant, a place to stay, or an activity, as well as shop.

Commented the mayor, "With 15 million visitors from 154 countries, Jersey Gardens (Continued on page four)

SPOTLIGHT: Construction & Marine Equipment Co. keeps the world's cargo moving by sea, rail, and truck



Moving the Concorde from Kennedy Airport to the Intrepid Air & Space Museum ranks as one of the most unique cargoes ever handled by Construction & Marine Equipment.

The ship sailed into the Arthur Kill on a cold, February morning carrying a cargo so secretive that only those with security clearance were allowed on the property.

The beginning of the latest thriller? Book or movie? No, just a typical day at Construction & Marine Equipment Co., Inc., (CMEQCO) a U. S. Coast Guard MARSEC certified facility. The company has been providing marine support for the world's shippers for 35 years.

Situated on 10 acres on the Arthur Kill, the company has 750 square feet of usable bulkhead that can accommodate deep draft barges and ocean going vessels. The company provides such services as stevedoring, ship repairs, freight forwarding, ship brokering, and marshalling, which means to place cargo



Construction & Marine specializes in international and domestic shipments of oversized cargo.

in the proper location within a certain area.

It also has 90,000 square feet of warehousing space with 24 hour security, three rail spurs with two switching locomotives. Most importantly, the company has access to the three most important modes of transportation: water, rail, and truck.

"Our unique location in the port of Elizabeth with access to rail and water gives us an advantage when it comes to warehousing and logistics for critical equipment," said Denise MacQuirk, director of sales and marketing for CMEQCO's sister company Worldwide Holdings & Logistics, located in the same facility. Worldwide provides logistics and warehousing for critical spares, such as motors for the power generation industry.

The company maintains a fleet of tugs, as well as barges, railroad engines, cranes and material handling equipment. CMEQCO also provides subassembly for construction and heavy transportation services.

CMEQCO also recognizes the importance of Chamber membership. Says Denise, who is a GECC board member, "Any business located in or around Elizabeth should belong to the GECC. Their tireless efforts to help strengthen and grow the business community in Elizabeth helps everyone."

CMEQCO is located at 330 South Front Street, Elizabeth, 908-820-8301.

Greater Elizabeth
Chamber of Commerce
456 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208
(908) 355-7600
FAX: (908) 436-2054
e-mail: GECC@Juno.com
www.elizabethchamber.com

President/Chief Executive Officer
Gordon Haas

Executive Committee
Angel Cabrera, chairperson
ARCO Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Merritt Duffy, vice chairperson
BB Miller & Company
Adam Farrah, vice chairperson
UCEDC
Denise Palazzo, vice chairperson
Jersey Gardens Mall
Larry Wolgin, treasurer
Gordon & Sanderson PC CPA
William Holzapfel, secretary
City Attorney of Elizabeth
Charles Mancuso, past president, ex officio
Marcy Metz, chairperson emeritus
B J & M Auto Inc.

Board Members
Bo Farkas
AMB Properties
Barbara Gaba
Union County College
Stephen Hehl
Hehl & Hehl, Esq.
Mira Kostak
Kean University
Small Business Development Center
Jim Lape
Trinitas Regional Medical Center
Albert Mauti
M & M Construction
Denise MacQuirk
Construction & Marine Equipment Co.
John Perry
Council for Airport Opportunity
Steven Pesce, Sr.
Elizabeth Truck Center

Photos by Darren Bryden

Chamber News is written
by Fran Sullivan

Printed by NA-VET Printers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE CHAMBER-SPONSORED EVENTS

GECC LUNCHEON HONORING CHARLES MANCUSO

Location: Renaissance Hotel

Save the date for this important event when the Chamber says thank you to a founder and past president.



ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

Location: Elizabethtown Gas Company
1085 Morris Avenue, Union

Time: 8 to 10 a.m.

Don't miss this popular Chamber event and the opportunity to meet your governmental representatives!



Watch your mail for information about the 2011 GECC

Wine and Cheese Party!

IT'S A WRAP: A look back at Chamber events



Bambu Lounge provided a festive backdrop to the GECC holiday social.

Approximately 70 Chamber members crowded into the recently opened Bambu Lounge at 545 Bayway Avenue in Elizabeth, December 7.

The attendees enjoyed delicious food and great company as they got into the holiday spirit. The party spilled over to the two floors of the restaurant. Downstairs the restaurant is an attractive, inviting place to gather with exposed beamed ceiling and neon lights. The menu is international with French, Italian, and Spanish influences. Upstairs, the renovated banquet room is a sophisticated space -- perfect for a party.

All were aboard for the annual Walk to Washington train ride



GECC members didn't miss the opportunity to network with their elected officials January 28 to 29 when they boarded the train for the 73rd Annual Walk to Washington

The tradition began in 1937 when several of the state's top business executives took a train to Washington to have dinner with New Jersey's congressional delegation. The Walk to Washington, so called because few sit and instead literally walk the train the whole way to DC, begins when the chartered Amtrak train departs Newark, stopping at Metro Park, New Brunswick, Trenton, Philadelphia and Wilmington

Once in Washington, the approximately 1,500 attendees converge on the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel for the annual Congressional Dinner. This year's keynote address was given by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. The evening also featured a round table discussion with members of Congress focusing on issues important to the New Jersey employer community.

The Walk kicked off the 100th anniversary celebration for the NJ State Chamber, which was founded in 1911. The dinner marked the beginning of a year-long celebration of events that will culminate at the 2012 dinner.

CHAMBER WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS

DONALD LA PENNA ASSOCIATES

Insurance
Luis Rodriguez
732-574-8000

ELIZABETH PACKERS

Social service
Denise George Carroll
973-921-5519

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Banks
John Gibardi
908-282-9881

LAW OFFICE OF LAWRENCE M. CENTANNI

Attorneys
Lawrence Centanni.
908-351-0028

MD CARE URGENT CENTER

Healthcare facilities & services
Kamran Tasharofi, MD
908-961-3800

T-RIFFIC TEES

Advertising, printing
Victor Herman
908-272-5140

UNITY FUELS--GREASE LIGHTNING

*Chemical manufacturers & distributor,
petrochemicals, petroleum related*
Jamie Hutson
973-531-7816

VALLEJOS & MORALES

Attorneys
Peter Morales
908-351-8700

MAYOR BOLLWAGE GIVES HIS STATE-OF-CITY ADDRESS TO MEMBERS

(Continued from page one)



remains one of the top tourist destinations in the state.”

The mayor mentioned the Elizabeth-based non-profit Brand New Day (BND) who are continuing to assist area residents. A new, six-unit condominium complex on First Street has made the dream of home ownership a reality for first-time buyers.

BND has also developed the YouthBuild initiative to provide job training and career counseling services.

Last year, the city was named one of 67 municipalities in New Jersey to receive a bronze level certification through the sustainable Jersey program. It will increase the city's eligibility for grant funding and the enhancement of green initiatives. One of those initiatives will be the retrofitting of solar panels on all the municipal buildings in Spring 2011.

The recently launched Energy Revolving Loan Program will allow residents to make their homes more energy efficient. Several city businesses are following suit: Laundry Warehouse is 40 percent due to a green heating system. Atalanta Corporation has added motion sensor lights, solar panels, and trees along Slater Drive.

Under the Elizabeth Development Corporation's (EDC) Renewable Energy Capital Stimulus Program, Danic Two will install solar panels that will save \$45,000 a year.

Last year, EDC distributed more than \$1.6 million in funding, created more than 100 employment opportunities, and leveraged more than \$16 million in private and public investments.

The city's first senior, affordable Gold LEED certified building will open in Elizabeth. This \$10 million, mixed use building will contain 30 units and 3,700 square feet of commercial space. It will include Energy Star appliances, a rainwater catchment system, sun shades, and solar paneling.

In 2010, the city received \$5 million in Neighborhood Stabilization funds that leveraged an additional \$14 million in investments.

With the aid of more than \$44 million in Recovery Zone bonds, Wakefern will invest in a new facility that will add 32,000 square feet. The corporation will not only retain 345 jobs, but will create 350 new ones.

Trinitas Regional Medical center, the county's second largest employer, serves approximately 50,000 people every year. It is currently developing a state-of-the-art Center of Regional Education on Elizabeth Avenue. Trinitas has also created one of the country's top wound healing centers.

Elizabeth residents are now safer, too. With grants totaling more than \$2 million, the police department installed 150 cameras linked directly to headquarters, mitigated traffic problems, and eased transportation. Twelve, new police vehicles equipped with mobile data terminals and global positioning systems are now patrolling the streets.

More than \$2 million in federal grant funding enabled the addition of heavy rescue and maritime response units, extrication equipment, and turn-out gear and personal rescue systems.

Concluded the mayor, “As we move forward, hand and hand, we continue to expand our horizons and embrace our investments together because these are our neighborhoods, this is our home, and this is Elizabeth's moment.”

Charles Mancuso to be honored by Chamber

Charles Mancuso, a GECC founding member and former president, will be honored by the GECC at a luncheon at the Renaissance Hotel, March 16, 2011.

Charlie is a familiar face in many boardrooms. Charlie has been a lifelong resident of Union County where he served as mayor and councilman in Hillside. He is one of the founding members of the GECC. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Union County Crime Stoppers, which encourages residents to share information related to any criminal activity.

For the last 45 years, Charlie has been associated with the Union County Vocational Technical School Board of Education, serving as its president and board member. He was instrumental in building up the Union County Vocational Technical Schools' campus.

He helped add five high schools to the district including UC Tech, the Academy for Performing Arts, Magnet High School the Academy for Allied Health Science (the first four-year high school for students interested in health care), and the Academy for Information Technology. He is the treasurer of Park Place in Springfield, a member of the Knights of Columbus and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Aside from all his community activities, Charlie has had a long, successful career in banking, working to develop the business community.

Despite his busy schedule, Charlie has always put his family first. He has been married to his wife, Rose Ann, for 50 years and they are the parents of Charles "Chuck" Jr., and Roxanne.

Jersey Gardens Mall installs Roof Top Solar System

Jersey Gardens Mall is currently constructing the largest single-roof top solar system in North America. It will generate enough power to offset 11 percent of the electrical consumption of the mall. The project, which was begun in February, is scheduled for completion in August 2011.

Jersey Gardens is owned by Glimcher Realty Trust, a real estate investment trust that owns, manages, acquires, and develops malls and community centers.

With its 1.3 million square feet of leasable space, Jersey Gardens Mall is one of Glimcher's largest properties in its regional mall portfolio.

The addition of the solar array was made possible through the partnership with Gerding Edlen Development and its subsidiary Gerding Edlen Sustainable Solutions. Gerding Edlen Development is a full service real estate investment, development, and asset management firm with experience in sustainable development, renewable energy, and creative financing structures.

Gerding Edlen Sustainable Solutions

provides comprehensive development services to public and private real estate portfolio owners.

Glimcher has entered into a power purchase agreement with Clean Focus Corporation who will finance and own the system. All solar renewable energy credits and environmental benefits associated with the system will be owned by Clean Focus. Jersey Gardens will buy the electricity at a predetermined, predictable price, providing a long-term hedge against rising power prices with no initial capital investment.

The Jersey Gardens solar system will be designed, installed, and maintained by SunPower Corporation. The T5 Solar Roof Tile is the first non-penetrating rooftop product that combines a high-efficiency solar panel, frame, and mounting system into a single, pre-engineered unit.

This is just one in list of the mall's green initiatives. It already employs a recycling program and recently completed a light retrofitting to replace fluorescent and exterior neon lighting.

A WORD FROM THE CEO'S DESK

The snow is finally melting, as we dig out from one of the worst winters in recent memory. Spring with its promise of new beginnings is right ahead of us. It's time for positive thinking.

There is more than just weather that's changing. Finally, after a long, dark winter of an economic downturn, we are seeing some light. More jobs are being created. Companies are investing more in their businesses. The signs of economic recovery are everywhere.

Now is when your GECC membership means the most. As I have said numerous times in this column, the best way to find new customers is through being recommended by colleagues. We all feel more comfortable doing business with those we know. Our networking events are great places to increase your contacts and expand your business.

Now that the economy looks like its starting to turn for the better, let your GECC membership work for you. Take advantage of all the Chamber has to offer. Come to our networking events, recommend a member's business, or become a customer yourself. Let's help each other more forward. Your success is our success.

As we begin this new season, I am optimistic that the worst is behind us. I see the future as definitely looking brighter.

I wish all of you health, happiness, and, most of all, prosperity!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our next event.

-- Gordon Haas
President & CEO



Greater Elizabeth Chamber Of Commerce
456 North Broad Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

*SAVE THE DATE -- MARCH 16, 2011!
GECC HONORS FOUNDING MEMBER AND PAST PRESIDENT
CHARLES MANCUSO
RENAISSANCE HOTEL, NOON TO 2 P.M.*

CHAMBER CHATTER, *the latest news from GECC members*

Elizabeth Packers, a Pop Warner football team was one of nine, winning teams in the Tiny Football League (TFL), sponsored by Toyota. There were more than 600 entries nationwide. The applicants had to demonstrate their commitment to Toyota's values of team work, constant improvement, and determination.

The campaign showcased several Pee Wee football teams during NBC Sunday Night Football halftime programming.

"We wanted to spotlight kids who demonstrate key Toyota values both on and off the field in a fun, unexpected way," said Tim Morrison, corporate manager of marketing communications for Toyota. "We also hoped that the Tiny Football League would inspire adults to get involved with Peek Wee football, further nurturing and developing the value of team work, constant improvement, and determination."

Elizabeth Packers received a \$5,000 donation from Toyota.