



VILLAGE CHAT - IRVINGTON, MARCH 13, 2024

10:00am Zoom

In attendance:

Mayor Jonathan Siegel, Stacey Ciaravella (Village Rep/Community Living Media), Nicole Vallario (Village Rep/Falena), Danielle Centofanti-Davidson (Chamber President/Main Street Business Strategies), Dina Fleischman (Chamber Vice President/Oilladi), Shari Rosen Ascher (Westchester County Rep), Donna Powers (Lite Mirror), Debra Goodwin (Corcoran Realty), Judy Brazong (My Sherry & More), Hector Carvajal (Don Carvajal Cafe), Katherine Medina (Aesthetics by KM), Kamran Saliani (Rivertowns Playhouse), Mark Shedrofsky (Architectural Minerals & Stones)

Meeting Notes:

- Village Update:
 - Irvington launched Facilities Planning Committee to see where major facilities should be located, i.e. firehouse, DPW. If they were to be moved, it would allow for more businesses to be located on Main Street or Ascher Street.
 - Village will be setting up an Arts & Culture Committee as well. Will expand the bulldogs program.
 - Just completed work on the North/South Astor Street gateway, improving train access, beautifying it, and making it safer.
 - Will be adding additional parking spots in the Field Point Parking lot - details to be worked out. A developer nearby will be assisting with that.
 - New restaurant at 100 Main Street (Mambo Italiano), in addition to several others, i.e. coffeeshop, toy shop.
 - Village is receiving a grant that would allow for a lot more electric charging stations
 - Capital project - stage coming to Matthiessen Park, probably for Fall of 2025 because of grant received

- County Update:
 - Clean Energy Summit on April 3rd with Pace University
 - April 10th job fair for social justice-impacted individuals at Yonkers Riverfront Library in partnership with organization called Untapped Resources
 - Launch 1000 Program, a free County program for entrepreneurs, has a new session starting on Monday
 - April 30th diverse abilities job fair at the Westchester County Center

- Planning an event on May 21st that focuses on Chambers of Commerce and WMBEs, focusing on county and federal contracts, in conjunction with MTA and NY Power Authority;
- Don Carvajal Cafe - new business possibly opening in May 2024
- Chamber would like to know about village community events to ensure Chamber events don't conflict with Village events. According to Mayor, Recreation department has a calendar of events and Maureen DePauli is now the new Superintendent of Recreation. Chamber will connect with Maureen to discuss this in more detail.
- Discussion on how the Chamber can learn of new businesses in Irvington so that new businesses can be introduced to the Chamber. Mayor said that if new businesses go through construction, the Buildings Department would have their information. Unfortunately, other than that, the village does not have a listing of businesses as they open. Danielle proposed a Chamber section for Village newsletters. The Mayor said he would be happy to include Chamber event information in his "Letter from the Mayor" communications, in an effort to increase Chamber visibility within the Village.
- Judy - Bulldog art project was supposed to be a fundraiser to beautify Main Street, but that doesn't seem to have happened. Mayor responded that the new Arts & Culture Committee will help manage the funds for this program moving forward.. Funds left over will regenerate this year's round of the bulldog program. She suggested more benches on Main Street and possibly reinstalling flower boxes as a courtesy to the businesses who have supported this program financially. Mayor will make the recommendation.
- Chamber Updates:
 - Member-only programs introduced for 2024:
 - Discount guide
 - Chamber Classroom Series, which are monthly business education workshops to take place on the first Friday of every month at 1pm via zoom
 - Ability to link business newsletters in Chamber communications
 - Member Appreciation party on April 3rd from 6:30-8:30pm
 - Community event schedule will change a bit in 2024
 - Taste Local is being moved to the Spring (May 2024) - will not include a trolley as part of the program
 - Golf Open will be earlier in the year (September 2024)
 - Halloween event - no trolley
 - Holiday Trolley will include a kids-only line-up, and one that is specific to adults.
 - Women's Socials will continue to be 3 times per year.
 - To Note: the only Chamber event that will have a Trolley in 2024 is the Holiday Trolley Event

- Chamber is currently working on Chamber recruitment and looking to host an info session in Irvington.
- Discussion on member discounts versus paid e-blasts
- Discussion on social media re-posting (tag the Chamber and we'll repost). Other marketing opportunities available.
- Rivertowns Playhouse offers free team building workshops for businesses and informed everyone on the call that their location is available for use for community events. Also offered Rivertowns Playhouse as the venue for a future Chamber event.