

Board of County Commissioners

Julia W. Gouge, President
Dean L. Minnich, Vice President
Michael D. Zimmer, Secretary



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485; TT 410-848-9747

News Release

*For more information, contact: Denise Beaver
Department of Economic Development, 410-386-2070*

For Immediate Release

Carroll Businesses Honored

November 29, 2007

Westminster, MD - The Carroll County Department of Economic Development and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce joined together on Thursday November 29th to recognize 14 outstanding Carroll companies who are industry leaders that make significant contributions to the local economy.

Economic Development Director Lawrence Twele said "The Business Awards Dinner is an important event and partnership with the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. We have a common primary goal to support local business and this event helps both of our organizations to achieve that goal. Chamber President Richard Haddad added, "Our growing partnership can only help to strengthen the Carroll business community."

Nearly 200 attended this first annual **Carroll County Business Awards Dinner** held at the Portico of St. John in Westminster. The evening featured a celebratory reception, followed by an awards ceremony where Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development Secretary David Edgerley spoke about the importance of business to Maryland.

The Chamber of Commerce recognized three top businesses for the 2007 Small Business of the Year awards in the following categories "Small Business of the Year with 1-5 Employees" award given to Terry's Tag & Title Service, LLC. "Small Business of the Year with 6-50 Employees" awarded to Gypsy's

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or TT (410) 848-9747. The mailing address is: 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play

Board of County Commissioners

Julia W. Gouge, President
Dean L. Minnich, Vice President
Michael D. Zimmer, Secretary



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485; TT 410-848-9747

Tearoom/Inspirations. And the “Small Business of the Year with 51-200 Employees” was awarded to Lehigh Cement Company.

The Carroll County Department of Economic Development recognized the following industry leaders:

Agribusiness Award -Pheasant Echo’s Farm
Business Expansion Award - Evapco, Inc.
Business Expansion Award – Flowserve Corporation
Design Award – Smokers Barbeque Restaurant
Design Award – Tractor Supply Company
Development Award – Illiano Properties, Inc. for Illiano Plaza, Hampstead
Small Business Start-Up Award – A Change of Taste
Technology Innovator Award - InfoPathways, LLC
Technology Innovator Award - Skyline Network Engineering, LLC
Tourism Industry Award – Johanssons Dining House
Workforce Development Award – Carroll Hospital Center

More information about all of the award winners can be found on the following pages.

#

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans With Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. If you have questions, suggestions, or complaints, please contact Jolene Sullivan, the Carroll County Government Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator, 410-386-3600 or 1-888-302-8978, or TT (410) 848-9747. The mailing address is: 10 Distillery Drive, First Floor, Suite 101, Westminster, MD 21157.

CARROLL COUNTY

a great place to live, a great place to work, a great place to play

***2007 Carroll County Department of Economic Development and
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Business Awards***

**Carroll County Department of Economic Development
2007 Business Achievement Award Winners**

Carroll County Agribusiness Award - Pheasant Echo's Farm, Barney and Debbie Stambaugh

Pheasant Echo's Farm, established in 1991, is owned and operated by Barney and Debbie Stambaugh. The family-run farm is located north of Westminster and consists of 2,400 agricultural-producing acres and a 125-head registered Holstein dairy herd.

The farm is honored to have bred seven "excellent" cows based on a national point scoring system. In addition, one of the farm's cows has been recognized as "All-Maryland", one of the highest honors for Maryland Holstein breeders. Additionally, Pheasant Echo's Farm has been recognized by the Maryland/Virginia Milk Cooperative as a recipient of the "Milk Quality Award" for the last five years.

Pheasant Echo's Farm is also a full-service provider of custom field work that includes planting, baling, chopping, combining and lime spreading. Custom farming services are provided to over 4,000 acres of local and regional farms. Without these much needed agricultural services, Carroll County wouldn't maintain the level of agricultural production it does today. Pheasant Echo's Farm is truly an unsung hero to the agricultural industry in Carroll County.

Carroll County Business Expansion Award - Evapco, Inc., William Bartley, President

Evapco, Inc., whose corporate headquarters is located in Taneytown, is in the process of constructing a 9,700 sq. ft. research and development control center and two lab areas. The new labs will provide Evapco with extra capacity for product certifications and testing for future technical advancements.

An 800' non-chemical water treatment lab is also being added. This lab will support the Pulse-Pure chemical water treatment product Evapco recently introduced to the market. This "green" technology reduces water consumption and the level of chemicals which are used in many evaporative cooled products.

Phase II of the project will consist of a 9500' office space expansion to support administrative operations such as corporate finance, product development, customer service, sales, marketing and production departments. By investing in expansion projects like this, Evapco is laying the ground work for future growth and success worldwide.

Carroll County Business Expansion Award – Flowserve Corporation, Bjorn Haldorsen, General Manager

Users of Flowserve submersible pumps and motors need local technical support to improve their operations. To meet this need, Flowserve has created a Motor Center of Excellence (MCOE) in Taneytown. This expansion combines manufacturing, sales support, testing, assembly and service for customers in the Americas.

The Motor Center of Excellence provides full technical support for the "Pleuger and Byron Jackson" brands of submersible pumps and motors; a one-stop shop for deep-well submersible pump customers. Through re-aligning and expanding business closer to its' customer base, Flowserve is in a stronger position to provide support in many strategic markets, including Oil and Gas, Power, Water Resources, Mining and General Industrial.

To support the Motor Center of Excellence, an environmentally-controlled room for the unique motor winding design has already been constructed within the existing facility. Additional reconfigurations to the plant have also been made, including the physical expansion of a 22,000' special service center.

New employees have been hired in all aspects of the business including engineering, sales order acquisition and plant personnel. Flowserve looks forward to meeting the needs of its customers at the Motor Center of Excellence in Taneytown.

Carroll County Design Award - Smokers Barbeque Restaurant, Kurt and Donna Kraus, Owners

Smokers Barbeque Restaurant is being recognized for outstanding design. Located on MD 140 in Finksburg, the attractive new restaurant offers carry out and catering services.

Named one of "Baltimore's Best" in 2000, the family-owned and operated business began in 1997 in the Upperco area of Baltimore County. Owner Kurt Kraus wanted to move the operation closer to home in Finksburg and after four years of careful planning and construction they are now open for business.

Designed and built by Dave Patton of Patton Homes, the restaurant resembles an attractive residence complete with a stone façade and carefully screened drive-through. If not for the sign out front, it would be hard to distinguish the restaurant from any other upscale home in the area.

While the goal is to have a restaurant with seating in the future, the Kraus's are happy with the reception they have received from the community.

Carroll County Design Award - Tractor Supply Company, Tim Rath, Store Manager

Even though Tractor Supply Company started out as a mail order company serving the needs of farmers and ranchers, the company now makes its home in rural communities all across America. Tractor Supply Company is the largest operator of retail farm and ranch supply stores in the United States with over 738 stores in 40 states, focused on supplying the needs of farmers, ranchers, tradesmen, businesses and people who enjoy the rural life.

Approaching its 70th anniversary, Tractor Supply Company recently opened one of its newest prototype stores at 1151 Baltimore Blvd. in Westminster. Occupying nearly 25,000 square feet and offering farm maintenance products and equipment, lawn and garden products, animal care supplies, apparel and automotive accessories, the new TSC store has it all. In addition, they have a staff of experts to provide products, services and seasoned advice for customers.

Carroll County Development Project Award - Illiano Properties for Illiano Plaza, Hampstead, Frank Illiano, President

A striking new development in Hampstead is being recognized this year. Local businessman and developer Frank Illiano for Illiano Property Management, Inc. and property owner Augusto Illiano have expanded the Hampstead J&P Pizza restaurant and developed a new retail center. Called Illiano Plaza II, the new 22,000' development has created a buzz for Main Street shoppers.

In addition to expanding the restaurant to 5,500', the Plaza features new retailers such as Rita's Ice and Ultimate Image Day Spa. Local favorites such as Snickerdoodles bakery have also moved to the new center. With excellent visibility on the busy MD 30 thoroughfare, many shops are reporting business has nearly doubled.

Architect Richard Washburn from CMW Group and Interstate Construction and Development Company worked on the project. The prominent architecture of the business can be attributed to the owner's desire to create a Plaza reminiscent of European architecture.

Capital investment is estimated at \$4.2 million dollars and an estimated 250 jobs are associated with the new development.

Carroll County Small Business Start-Up Award - A Change of Taste, LLC, Jennifer Okutman, Owner

A Change of Taste is Westminster's only independently owned (non-franchised) meal assembly business. Owned by local resident Jennifer Okutman, A Change of Taste

serves up a full menu of meal choices that allows clients to still have a hand in creating meals, but frees them from the less enjoyable and time-consuming tasks of shopping, chopping and clean-up.

Clients select meals from a diverse online menu and then schedule a convenient time to stop in and assemble their meals. With a culinary background that stretches back to her teen years, Jennifer pulls her menus and recipes from her own kitchen. She has a hand in each and every recipe and has served every one to her own family of five!

Initially operating as a caterer, in 2004 Jennifer expanded into her own line of specialty dessert sauces and spice blends. Starting the kitchen concept was a natural step.

Jennifer first approached the SBDC in June 2006 for help in turning her business concept into reality. She took full advantage of the counseling, networking and seminars offered. A Change of Taste opened for business in May 2007 and Jennifer continues to work closely with the SBDC and its partners on all aspects of the growing business.

Carroll County Technology Innovator Award - Skyline Network Engineering, LLC, Brian Holsonbake, Vice President

Skyline Network Engineering, LLC is a dynamic Information Technologies firm that specializes in designing, building and operating large scale network infrastructures. Skyline was established in July 2004, is headquartered in Eldersburg and now employs 30.

Skyline's IT services include advanced network engineering services as well as network operations and maintenance support; technologies to support the convergence of voice, video and data to common IT infrastructures; and secure mobile communications to support customer disaster recovery planning, documentation and testing.

Skyline is currently providing Commercial, County, State and Federal government customers with IT engineering and support services. They are the Carroll County Public Network Project Management firm that is developing the 110-mile public fiber optic network that will vastly improve our education, government and emergency services, greatly impacting the quality of life in Carroll County.

Carroll County Technology Innovator Award – InfoPathways, LLC, Douglas Heck and Thom Bethune, Partners

InfoPathways LLC was formed by Douglas Heck and Thom Bethune in March 2004 to provide information management solutions and network support to a wide variety of customers.

Douglas had previously worked as an independent computer consultant since 1996, providing information management solutions for NSA subcontractors, the City of Taneytown, highway construction companies, and mom and pop companies around Maryland and Virginia.

Thom began his career in the heavy highways construction industry and rose to the level of CIO, responsible for process improvement using technology.

Today, InfoPathways has six employees and recently moved into their new office in downtown Westminster. Together, Douglas and Thom support both large and small organizations ranging from contractors to municipalities. They have developed an innovative Real-time Plant Monitoring program for asphalt plants that allows customers to see and monitor business instantly from any location.

Douglas and Thom were also instrumental in planning and implementing internet connectivity for the Carroll County Non-Profit Center, saving tenants thousands of dollars annually. They serve on the Carroll Technology Council's Technology Advisory Committee and will be presenters at a January seminar on Data Management for Carroll municipalities.

Carroll County Tourism Industry Award – Johanssons Dining House, David and Wendy Johansson, Proprietors

David and Wendy Johansson are being recognized for their continuing efforts in providing excellent service to visitors and citizens alike at both of their Westminster restaurants - Johansson's and O'Lordans.

In addition, the Tourism Office has worked closely with the Johansson's for many years to provide a quality experience for group tour visitors. Many busloads of visitors have left Johansson's with a smile on their face after sampling the Cream of Crab soup as they began their "Progressive Lunch" tour in Carroll County.

On a busy night, between the two restaurants and their successful catering business, they may serve 250-300 dinners and they employ nearly 100 people.

In addition to the restaurants, the Johansson's have invested in several commercial properties throughout Westminster and the County.

The Johansson's are not only good business people; they have been very generous to our community throughout the years by supporting local charities.

Carroll County Workforce Development Award - Carroll Hospital Center, John Sernulka, President

Carroll Hospital Center has been providing healthcare for nearly 45 years. As the 2nd largest employer in the county, Carroll Hospital Center prides itself in attracting and retaining quality employees, some of whom have been working there for most of their careers. They offer training to keep employees up-to-date with the ever-changing field of healthcare and to advance professionally.

Carroll Hospital Center is a major sponsor of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce's Job Shadow Day. On November 8th, they invited 46 high school students to explore health careers that they may be interested in pursuing. Employees also speak at local high schools through the Achievement Counts Speaker's Bureau.

Most significantly, the hospital has received a 2007 Workplace Award and a Health & Wellness Trailblazer Award from the Alliance for Workplace Excellence as an employer who allows workers to experience professional fulfillment and personal wellness.

2007 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce "Small Business of the Year Awards"

2007 Chamber of Commerce "Small Business of the Year with 1-5 Employees" - Terry's Tag & Title Service, LLC, Terry Smack, President

Terry's Tag & Title Service opened its doors five years ago in Finksburg and employs a staff of five. The company prides itself on providing customers with prompt, friendly service. Services include: tag & title, duplicate title, new-to-state and new tag registration, tag return, notary, and insurance compliance. Individuals as well as organizational clients can use Terry's Tag & Title for all their tag and title needs.

Terry's Tag & Title Service will guide its clients through the process to ensure accuracy and efficiency. Customers are often asked to bring the title work with just a signature to the office, and the staff helps them do the rest. They take the time to understand their clients' needs and provide them with the best possible solution.

The company's policy of honest and friendly service with a smile has fueled its growth, and Terry's Tag & Title Service is in the process of opening a second location in Columbia, MD.

2007 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce "Small Business of the Year with 6-50 Employees" - Gypsy's Tearoom/Inspirations, Jo Fleck, Owner

Inspirations began ten years ago with custom gift baskets and home accents. Today that business has blossomed into a retail shop offering fine teas, tea accoutrements, gift baskets, Gypsy's Tearoom – a five-star tearoom, catering, and event planning.

In response to an increase in requests for bookings and children's tea parties, the company transformed an adjacent building into "The Little House," a tea room for children which teaches about tea, manners, and etiquette. "The Little House" is currently booked into 2008. Gypsy's Tearoom also offers customers its Signature Teas, a line of teas that the business has been developing. In 2007 a Gypsy's Tea Room website was created and online purchases will be available in the future.

Jo Fleck, owner of the business, believes that her staff is her most important asset and says that staff cohesiveness and a family atmosphere are key to the company's excellence in customer service. To remain competitive the staff is always current on the latest information and trends in the tea industry. Jo is a member of the Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association and the Restaurant Association of Maryland.

2007 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce "Small Business of the Year with 51-200 Employees" - Lehigh Cement Company, Kent Martin, Plant Manager

Lehigh Cement, Union Bridge is among the largest cement plants in the world whose primary products are Portland cement and Masonry cement, and an intermediate product, Clinker, which are all shipped in bulk trucks or as pallets of packaged product. The Union Bridge plant produces more clinker and cement than any other cement plant in North America.

The plant prides itself on the efficient operation of the facility, employee safety, protection of the environment, and operating as a friendly neighbor. With sustainability as its focus, Lehigh is continually seeking engineering improvements so that the company can remain competitive. Its professional sales and technical service group is able to provide 100% support of the product in the market place.

A combination of technical advances and an effective workforce has helped the Union Bridge facility become a model and showcase cement plant. With the hiring of a safety manager and implementation of safety action teams Lehigh is working to create safer working conditions and to raise employee's awareness of safety issues. By being proactive in all areas of operation, Lehigh foresees a bright future in Carroll County.