



Chamber Chatter

MIDDLETOWN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SEPTEMBER 2009

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Date Change For MACC Business to Business Expo

Fall is the season of change and the planned Business to Business Expo event for this month has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 20, 2010.

This is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to showcase their expertise and network with other business owners.

Opportunities are available for vendors, advertising and sponsorships. Please contact committee heads, Andrea Brown-Clarke:

andrea@whatsyourinspirationinc.com or Sital Soni:

elmsr@verizon.net for details.

More information will be provided through the Chamber Chatter in the upcoming months. Mark you calendars for March 20th!

See Page 5 for flier information.

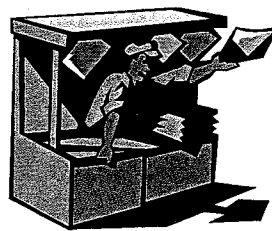
Some of the Vendors You Will See Include:

BIL Enterprises, Christiana Care, Cover & Rossiter,

Edward Jones, ELM Strategies, Faulkner Sterling Design,

Four Seasons Sunrooms, Korean Martial Arts

Institute, Liberty Mutual, MACC, PNC Bank, Sign-a-rama, Simon Eye, Tender Loving Kare, What's Your Inspiration, Inc., WSFS Bank



Former MACC Board Member,

Sharon Fields Wins

National Optical Award!

See Full Story on Page 2! Congrats, Sharon!!

Picture courtesy of delawareonline.com

SOME LEGAL ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR NEW DRIVER

By: Richard A. DiLiberto, Jr., Esquire
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP

As our children approach their 16th birthdays, they are often excited about obtaining their drivers' licenses. But, their excitement must be tempered with a serious talk about Delaware law, and their vital responsibilities as new drivers.

A motor vehicle can be a deadly weapon, and new drivers must be aware of the potentially catastrophic effects of a personal injury car accident. According to the Delaware Department of Transportation, in 2008, there were 7 teenage drivers and passengers killed in car accidents. The top factors in Delaware teen fatal crashes have been speed (43%) inattentive driving (17%) and improper passing (10%). Parents, guardians or employers who sign the license application for a minor under 18 are "jointly and severally liable for any damages resulting from the minor's negligence." 21 Del.C. § 6104. A car owner who permits a minor under 18 to drive his car also is "jointly and severally liable with such minor for any damages caused by the negligence of such minor." 21 Del.C. § 6105. So, parents (and others) who sign a minor's license application and/or permit her to use their cars are placing themselves in danger of civil tort liability for injuries or death the minor may cause by careless driving. Obviously, the minor must understand she shall earn the adults' trust before this legal commitment is made.

Delaware mandates seatbelt use for the driver and all passengers. 21 Del.C. § 4802. The driver is responsible to make sure all passengers "buckle-up." Children up to age 7 and up to 65 pounds must be in a child safety seat. 21 Del.C. § 4803. Children under 12 must be in the backseat.

A driver's license is a privilege, not a right. It can be taken away for many reasons. For example, Delaware law permits the minor's license to be revoked if he is suspended from school (21 Del.C. § 2707), commits a drug offense (21 Del.C. § 4177 K), or drives after consuming **any** alcohol (21 Del.C. § 4177 L).

The Graduated Driver's License Program (21 Del.C. § 2710) limits why, when, how, with whom, and with how many passengers a new driver may drive. Details are available at www.dmv.de.gov under the link "teen driving." The site has helpful information parents and new drivers can peruse together.

By having a serious discussion with your new driver about these laws, you may prevent an accident, or even save a life. It is an investment of time you will never regret.

Rick DiLiberto, Esq. is a partner in the Personal Injury Section of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, with offices in Middletown, Wilmington and Georgetown. He regularly represents families whose loved ones were injured or killed by someone's negligence. He is a past-president of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association, and a former state representative. He is available for consultation at (302) 571-6657, (302) 449-1338 or rdiliberto@ycst.com.