



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

for business. for life.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 27, 2014

CONTACT: Carol Wilber, 518.828.4718, cwilber@columbiaedc.com

CEDC and County Clerk's Office Hold Roundtable

Entrepreneurs and small business owners quiz local industry experts

HUDSON, NY - More than a dozen entrepreneurs and sole business proprietors had a chance to quiz a panel of local tax, legal and banking experts last Thursday morning at a free roundtable discussion sponsored by the Columbia Economic Development Corporation and the Columbia County Clerk's Office.

The "Ask the Experts" Roundtable at the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce offices at 1 North Front St. featured nearly three hours of presentations and discussions geared to new, existing and prospective small business owners.

"Our mission is simple. It is to help businesses and to create jobs," said Kenneth J. Flood, CEDC executive director. "The majority of the businesses we help are small businesses. Small business is the backbone of America and that is who we deal with the majority of the time."

County Clerk Holly Tanner agreed with Flood and noted the informational and networking opportunity the "Ask the Experts" Roundtable offered. "Small business is the lifeblood of the community," said Tanner. Business owners must work with the Columbia County Clerk's Office to file paperwork for DBAs, motor vehicle and other legal requirements so Tanner's office is very involved in the small business startup process.

Roundtable presenters included local Attorney Kristal Heinz; Michael Bucci, CPA, and Therese Wolfe, EA, Pattison, Koskey, Howe & Bucci, CPAS, PC; and Nathan Winch, VP Credit Administration, Kinderhook Bank. Informal question and answer periods followed each presentation, as participants were able to ask the experts about specific concerns.

"Everyone on the panel was very well-versed and very informative," said Dawn Gardina, proprietor of Poochini's Pet Salon in Copake Lake. Gardina, who opened her business in April, said she attended to expand her knowledge as a new business owner. "After listening to the presentations, I feel confident that the steps I've taken I've done well," she said.

The roundtable, coordinated by CEDC Marketing Director Carol Wilber, was attended by business people from a variety of fields including landscaping, food service, financial planning, pet care, plumbing and heating, real estate, daycare and engineering.

“While big businesses may command many of the local headlines, small businesses are really the engine that drives much of the county’s economy,” stated Wilber. “CEDC’s business retention and expansion program helps to cultivate our entrepreneurs and local businesses by providing them with low-interest loans, technical assistance, information and training they need to be successful. Our doors are open - we are here to help.”

Roundtable participant Eleanor Kinney stated, “CEDC is doing a great job helping small businesses.” Kinney, who owns the Kids Day Care at 86 North Seventh St. in Hudson, said she has worked with CEDC in the past for help with her business. “I went to the CEDC for help and it was the easiest thing I’ve ever done,” she said. “They are the ‘go-to’ guys.”

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), the leading economic development organization in Columbia County, is committed to strengthening the county’s tax base through economic development and job creation while maintaining the quality of life so desired by the people who live and work here. For more information about CEDC programs and services, please visit our website at www.columbiaedc.com or call 518.828.4718.

PHOTOS:



(l to r) Ed Zaik, Kristal Heinz; Therese Wolfe, Michael Bucci and Nathan Winch



Ed Zaik and Kristal Heinz



Michael Bucci

XXX