



HANOVER TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES CONNECT DURING NETWORKING EVENT

Over 79 persons representing 54 Hanover Township businesses and organizations came away with a better awareness of and acquaintance with their neighbors following Hanover Township's *"Making Connections,"* the municipality's first local business to business networking event held on Friday, May 20th, at Town Hall. Equally important, the program offered participants the opportunity to get to know members of the Township Committee and the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), the event co-hosts, in a relaxed, informal setting conducive to networking.

"This was one of the more organized and well run business networking events I've been to," noted Bruce Sherbert, Sales Manager for Diversified Printing Service. "Although it sounds like a small thing, the absence of chairs made the meeting a great success. You either move around and mingle with the other guests or stand in one place for two hours. So unless you are aspiring to be a human coat hanger, you are meeting new contacts and interacting with others. Just a very congenial atmosphere." Kim Auriemma, owner of Kim Auriemma Designs, commented, "It was nice to see my friends who own businesses in town and to make some new friends and new connections. I'm looking forward to the next one!"

"Making Connections" drew a variety of companies, offices, and non-profit agencies representing the full spectrum of corporate, retail, hospitality, tourism, medical, professional service, and other industries that build Hanover Township's economic base. During opening remarks, Mayor Ron Francioli acknowledged this diversity and stressed the value of every participant -- from the smaller, family owned establishments right up through the global corporations, and every size in between -- in shaping the Township's vibrant business community. "We're delighted with today's turnout," he commented. "This will be the first of many such events."

The idea for *"Making Connections"* came about after local businesses repeatedly approached township officials to ask for introductions to their business neighbors. "As much as we wanted to help," stated EDAC Chairman Dan Breen, "the township can't support or endorse any business or organization, nor can we make those requested introductions. Fortunately, it occurred to us that what we could do was host an event to give businesses and organizations an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another, with the added benefit of meeting Township officials. The end result was a great success. Attendance exceeded our expectations and the high level of connection and energy in the room was palpable."

Looking toward the future, Maria Verducci-Florio, Director of Community Relations for Employment Horizons praised the event and contemplated those to follow. "Kudos to the Township of Hanover for its innovative approach in assisting us with getting to know our

business neighbors and having the opportunity to introduce our missions and services. As a resident and active member of the Hanover community, I am privileged to live, work and play in Hanover Township and enthusiastically welcome any opportunity that I have to meet, interact and work with our business neighbors!”

The Township Committee and EDAC sincerely thank 3M, CareOne, Kim Auriemma Designs, Tiffany & Co., Wegmans, The Whippany Railway Museum, the New York Red Bulls, and Starbucks for their generous door prize donations for the event. They would also like to acknowledge Kim Auriemma for the floral arrangements she designed and graciously donated to assist the Township in creating a warm, welcoming ambience for “*Making Connections.*”

Hanover Township businesses who would like to receive e-mail notifications about future networking and other municipally sponsored business events are urged to register their business or organization on EDAC’s main page of the Hanover Township website by visiting edac.hanovertownship.com. For additional information on registering, please e-mail Kelli Schanz at kschanz@hanovertownship.com or Robin Dente at rdente@hanovertownship.com.