



It's Your Business

Serving the Greater Maple Valley – Black Diamond Business Community
November 2009

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Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM
◆◆Lake Wilderness Lodge◆◆
22500 SE 248th Street
RSVP by 10 am on Monday, November 16, 2009



Chris Widener, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* & *Amazon.com* Best-Selling author is November Luncheon Speaker

For nearly twenty years Chris Widener has been involved in leadership in the business community, the non-profit world, and as a speaker and author. He has learned what he shares through his own experience and his interaction with and observation of the most successful people in the world.

The Chris Widener Ezine, has subscribers in 105 countries, making it one of the world's most widely distributed newsletters on success and leadership.

This promises to be a great program. Here are some testimonials:

"Chris Widener is the **leader of a new generation of personal development and leadership experts**. His content is rich and practical, and his style is dynamic and engaging!" **Jim Rohn**

"Chris Widener is one of the **brand new top stars on the International platform speaking circuit**." **Denis Waitley**

"Chris Widener is one of the **best speakers in America today**. He does wonderful introductions, wonderful development, extremely motivational, he is funny, he is sharp, he is quick and to the point." **Brian Tracy**

Chris, his wife Lisa, and their four children make their home in a suburb of Seattle, Washington.

Info-mercial: Robin Erickson, Carol's Maple Valley Floral

2009-10 Luncheon Costs
Chamber Members at the door \$18
Non Members and Invited Guests \$25
RSVP Luncheon Reservations
by 10 AM on Monday, November 16, 2009
425.432.0222 or chamber@maplevalley.com

Catering by Gloria's
London Broil
Oven roasted potatoes
Broccoli in cheese sauce
Salad
Dessert





A MESSAGE FROM SUE

Free Enterprise, Not Government Controls

(as it appeared in the November 9th Voice of the Valley, It's Your Business)

As chambers of commerce, it is our mission to be the advocate for business in our local communities especially with the challenges of today's economy. One of the biggest frustrations for small business owners is to hear state officials tout the notion that our state is one of the best states in which to do business. What isn't being said is that this state has one of the highest rates of business failures. Small business owners know that the regulatory environment and rising costs of doing business prevents business growth and stability. Growing and stable businesses employ people and keep the economy moving.

At a time when it is least affordable, the Department of Labor and Industries announced a 7.6 percent increase in workers' comp system premiums for 2010. Keep in mind with every business tax increase, every additional regulation, or with every new mandate particularly in health insurance, business growth is stifled. Ask any business owner what they would rather do . . . hire more workers and increase production and level of services or pay more taxes. Free enterprise, not government controls, will bring prosperity back to both small business and the workers employed by them.

I certainly appreciate having the opportunity to express these thoughts to Senator Claudia Kauffman who met with local economic development directors and chamber executives last week. The Senator listened intently to the concerns expressed by representatives from Auburn, Covington, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Renton, and Federal Way. Our message was clear: solutions will come only when the policy makers recognize the reality of the cost of doing business in Washington.

As we approach the new legislative session, this chamber will be actively engaged in voicing these concerns to all our state representatives and senators through our membership in the East King County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Coalition and in our annual visit to each legislator in Olympia on Chamber Day in February. And as we have been reminded by our legislators, real stories from real business people carry a strong message. Please contact us with your real story about the challenges of doing business in Washington State. Go to www.maplevalleychamber.org or www.blackdiamondchamber.org and visit our blog to post your story or e-mail directly at suevanruff@maplevalley.com.

KEVIN'S BOOK PICKS:

October "The One Minute Manager"

November: "Good to Great"

December: "The Noticer" January is "Fearless"

Respectfully,

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Elavon Merchant Direct

Annabelle Fraleigh

Maple Valley, WA 98038

(228) 257-9709

annabelle.fraleigh@elavon.com

A broad range of point-of-sale terminal and software solutions.

Do you need to update your membership information on our new website?

Go to www.maplevalleychamber.org or www.blackdiamondchamber.org

to verify all your business information. Send any updates or changes to us at chamber@maplevalley.com.

Riada Staffing Options has been sold to Northwest Staffing Resources effective November 9th 2009.

The Maple Valley Office will be closing and operations will be conducted out of NW Staffing Offices in Kent & Bellevue.

"I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you and in some cases actually working with you as well. I wish you much success in the remainder of 2009 and looking into the New Year!" - Michele O'Laughlin

FEATURED BUSINESSES ON THE HOME PAGE



WHAT DO THESE THREE BUSINESS HAVE IN COMMON?

They are all **Featured Businesses** on the Chamber's Homepage at www.maplevalleychamber.org and www.blackdiamondchamber.org.

And what a deal it is! Here are the introductory prices:

January-March or April-June: \$100

July-September or October-December: \$150

Be one of three featured business . . . Sign up today!

Call 425.432.0222

BUSINESS AND THE INTERNET ---- IS IT SAFE?

Chamber member, **Gary Sherrell of DCS**, has a personal story to share with all of us. On October 27, at 6:05 am, Gary's comptroller opened an e-mail that claimed to be from Facebook. When the comptroller hit the link, a virus downloaded into the company's system. It turned out to be an international scam that used phishing technology to wipe out a half million dollars from his company's bank account. (Read the entire story at <http://www.king5.com/video/featured-videos/Virus-Drains-500000-from-Maple-Valley-Business-69627647.html>).

In response to this experience, Gary has prepared a power point presentation to share with all business owners. Join us **on Wednesday, November 18th immediately following our luncheon** for this incredibly informative, eye-opening presentation.

NEW!!! MEMBER ORIENTATION DECEMBER 16, 1:15PM-2PM

GET THE INSIDE SCOOP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CHAMBER AND DETAILS ON YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS. EACH QUARTER, BEGINNING IN DECEMBER, WE WILL HOST A MEMBER ORIENTATION FOLLOWING THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON. THIS SCHEDULED HALF HOUR SESSION WILL EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT. DECEMBER'S ORIENTATION INCLUDES:

- ⇒ **BILL YEAGAR FROM THE AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA - DETAILS ON THE GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM OFFERED TO CHAMBER MEMBERS ALONG WITH THE FREE BENEFIT PACKAGES AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBER BUSINESS OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES.**
- ⇒ **A SHORT PRESENTATION ON OUR NEW WEBSITE WITH DETAILS ON HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR INDIVIDUAL DETAIL PAGE.**
- ⇒ **TASKFORCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS ON HAND TO EXPLAIN THEIR PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND EVENTS**
- ⇒ **Q&A**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 16TH

Congrats!

CHAMBER MEMBERS IN THE TOP 5 FOR EVENING MAGAZINE'S
2009 BEST OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

Three French Hens ♦ Stan Parente Salons ♦ Dr. Christopher Nyte
Mama Passarelli's Dinner House

go to <http://www.maplevalleychamber.org> or www.blackdiamondchamber.org and click on **Best of Western Washington Chamber Members!**

City of Maple Valley Economic Development Committee Seeks Input from Business Owners

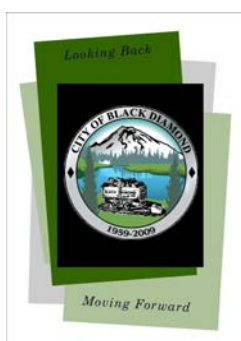
Would you like to voice your thoughts to the group on what it is like to do business in Maple Valley? The purpose of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) is to review and recommend to the City Council activities that will further economic development within the City of Maple Valley. The next EDC meeting is Monday, December 7th at 4pm at Lake Wilderness Lodge. If you would like to speak with this group, call Sue in the Chamber office. 425.432.0222.



The Greater Maple Valley- Black Diamond
 Chamber of Commerce
 P. O. Box 302
 Maple Valley, WA 98038

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Chamber Calendar

Nov 18

- 11:30am November Membership Luncheon
With Chris Widener
- 1:15pm Business & the Internet-Is It Safe?
Gary Sherrell, DCS

Nov 24

- 10:00am Membership Services Committee
Lake Wilderness Golf Course

Dec 16 December Membership Luncheon

Dec 22 Membership Services Committee

Jul 23 Chamber Golf Tournament - Fore Fun!

For more information on these and other community events visit our website and click on the Calendar tab. To request an event to be posted on the website, simply click on **Submit New Event**, complete the information form and click on the "Submit for Approval" button. It is that easy! To host a **Business After Hours** or special event celebration or to submit an article for the newsletter, call the Chamber office today!

We are driving business home to
www.maplevalleychamber.org &
www.blackdiamondchamber.org

City Council Meetings

City of Black Diamond
 First and Third Thursdays of every month,
 Public Comment
 7:00 pm, Black Diamond Council Chambers City Hall
www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us

City of Maple Valley
 First and Third Mondays—study sessions
 Second and Fourth Mondays—regular sessions, Public Comment
 7:00 pm, Tahoma School District Board Room
www.ci.maple-valley.wa.us

Advertise in the Chamber Gazette Newsletter and reach 250 Chamber Members!
Flyer Insert Advertisers must supply 275 copies for insertion by the 1st Friday of the month.
 Size of insert 8.5x11 can be double sided, light weight paper.
Cost for Chamber Members \$50; **Non-Members** \$100; **Non-Profit Groups** \$25