

Candor Hosts Economic Development Expert at Forum

by Jaime Cone

As part of its Candor Forward, Onward, Upward initiative, the Candor Chamber of Commerce will host a presentation by Howard Garrity, economic development specialist for the United States Small Business Administration, at the August 11 chamber meeting.

The new initiative aims to strengthen the Candor business community by highlighting its assets, such as the people, the natural beauty, the unique commerce, strategic location and history of the area. At its next meeting, the chamber plans to start assembling teams to help with planning, marketing and beautification.

“We need to draw more businesses into our village so we can hopefully draw people down this way,” said Rita Kellogg, Candor Chamber of Commerce president. “We just need to emphasize what we have.” She mentioned by way of example that the chamber was recently awarded a match grant to beautify Hull Park.

Garrity, who works at the Syracuse district offices of the SBA, will help chamber members plan for stage two of Candor Pride. “He’s going to be telling us what avenues we can travel as far as starting a new business or enhancing an already existing business,” explained Kellogg. “There are plenty of opportunities out there to grow or even start businesses, and he’s going to help us figure out where we can go.”

Because the Chamber’s efforts are aimed at helping both existing businesses and possible new businesses, Kellogg said she hopes potential entrepreneurs will attend the talk.

“That’s what really excites me the most, because there might be some husband and wife team who says they really want to start business but don’t know where to start,” said Kellogg. “The SBA can start you off right.”

She said that Garrity may be able to point business owners toward grant funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture or other sources. As the owner of Side Hill Acres Dairy Goat Farm in Spencer for 30 years, she can attest to how helpful the SBA can be.

“I used the SBA to learn how to present a business plan and things like that,” she said. “That was 30 years ago, but it was a big deal to have their help, especially starting out.”

The next meeting of the Candor Chamber of Commerce will take place at the Candor Fire Hall on Route 96 B at 1:30 p.m on August 11. All are invited to attend.