



Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce
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GENEVA CHAMBER ANNOUNCES NEW EVENT SPONSOR & AWARD RECIPIENTS

GENEVA- The Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce has announced a new supporting sponsor for its 2018 Annual Dinner Banquet. The event, which will be held on Thursday, January 25 at Club 86, will be sponsored by the Lake Tunnel Solar Village, presented by SmallGrid.



The Lake Tunnel Solar Village is a townhome project of SmallGrid LLC, which was founded in 2016 by Ryan Wallace, who also founded QwikSolar LLC. SmallGrid was established with the purpose of creating a renewable energy source to power the home, and later led to the creation of the LifeWall, an all-in-one renewable energy device, providing solar energy, battery storage, high efficiency heating, cooling, domestic hot water, and fresh air exchange. LifeWall will be the primary energy source used to power the anticipated Lake Tunnel Solar Village project in the City of Geneva, which includes multiple residential units and a proposed community center, all located within walking distance to the lakefront and near the 5 & 20 overpass in downtown Geneva. The project will be the most technologically advanced housing development in the northeastern United States, featuring new technologies from national companies such as Schneider Electric and EPS Buildings.

As part of the new sponsorship agreement, SmallGrid has also revealed that final Lake Tunnel Solar Village designs and plans will be released to attendees that will be present for the Chamber's Annual Dinner. "This unveiling is going to be very exciting," says SmallGrid CEO Ryan Wallace. "We are going to be showing off technologies that are totally unique and innovative. Things that are not being done, on this scale, anywhere else in the United States," he added.

Along with site plans and technology demonstrations, 3D renderings will also be unveiled at the Chamber dinner. This will be the first opportunity to see the final plans for the project, which begins construction in June of 2018.

The event is one of the Chamber's three major annual fundraisers, allowing for continued programming and the creation of new member benefits. The new sponsorship follows previous event sponsors, which in recent years have included Lyons National Bank and Casella Waste.

In addition to the new sponsorship, the Chamber has also announced that the 2018 Annual Dinner will include three new honors for the event. A "Member of the Year" award will be presented to the Town of Geneva, honoring the concentrated growth that has taken place over the last year, with a consistent focus and dedication towards developing the greater Town of Geneva community.

"This award was created as a new way to honor multiple business initiatives that a variety of people were involved in, rather than honoring just one business of the year," stated Miranda Odell, Executive Director for the Chamber. "Our members and partners at the Town of Geneva have been wonderful assets to not only the Greater Geneva Community, but to the entire region, as they have continued to work on generating new plans to support and develop vacant land and properties that had been sitting idle and full of potential," she added.

Two "Chamber Champion" awards will also be given out to honor outstanding board and committee members that have gone above and beyond to show their support and involvement towards not only understanding, but participating in Chamber programs and events. The two individuals that will receive this honor include: Stacey Pierce, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Campus Operations for Hobart and William Smith Colleges; and Chad Lahr, owner and founder of Community Proud Apparel, co-owner of I Heart the FLX clothing line, founder of FLX Entrepreneur Club, and owner/manager of a variety of other small businesses and properties in the area.

"Both Chad and Stacey have been active supporters of the Chamber, advocating for the benefits that membership provides and helping to spread the news about who we are and how we can assist other new member businesses," stated Abby Wandell, Membership Programs & Events Coordinator for the Chamber.

In recent years, the Chamber honored Zotos International, Inc. and The Finger Lakes Times for the Business of the Year; The Ontario County Humane Society for Non-Profit of the Year, Trina Newton for Citizen of the Year, and also gave a special recognition for the City of Geneva Police Department for their outstanding service.

"We are excited to announce these changes for such a major event," Odell added. "We are extremely grateful for the generous support of our sponsors, members and partners, and we are looking forward to utilizing this support towards one of the finest Annual Dinner events that the Chamber has hosted yet."

Reservations for the 2018 Annual Dinner must be made in advance. Early bird tickets are still available for \$70 per person, for members, but must be purchased by Monday December 18- a special deadline for readers of the Finger Lakes Times. Non member tickets are \$100. Please note that space is limited, and prices will increase after the deadline. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce by calling 315-789-1776, or emailing info@genevany.com. Promotional Advertising and Corporate Table options are also available.

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The Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce is a private, membership-based organization with a sole focus of serving and representing its member businesses and organizations. As a primary benefit of Membership, the Chamber generates awareness and provides exposure for its members by effectively promoting the people, products and services of each. The Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce was originally founded in 1902 and remains one of the oldest operational Chambers on record. Currently serving an average membership base of 300 individuals and businesses, the Chamber represents a broad array of companies and organizations of various shapes and sizes, within a diverse makeup of industries and sectors. The Chamber is a private 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization. It is non-government based, and is not tourism or tax-funded, allowing for the expanded operations to work independently and promote businesses without geographic designations, boundaries or restrictions. Chamber programs and operations are managed by a team of employees under the direction of the Executive Director, with leadership provided by a representative group of members serving as the Chamber's Board of Directors.