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& Rehabilitation Center

**LANSING WILLIAMS**  
Washington College

**CHAMBER EVENTS**

**2/11/2015**

**Business After Hours**  
5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.  
**Kent County Public Library**  
408 High Street  
Chestertown, MD

**2/12/2015**

**Chamber Board Meeting**  
12:00 P.M.  
Chamber Office  
122 N. Cross Street

**AND THE WINNERS ARE ...**

The Kent County Chamber of Commerce 45th Annual Excellence in Business Awards Gala was held this past Friday evening at the Prince Theatre at the Garfield Center for the Arts. ...and what a gala it was!

The theme this year was an "Evening in Paris" with French fare and classic French music from the boulevards of Paris.

With nearly 100 in attendance, the Chamber celebrated the "Best of our Best".

Following introductions of the Chamber Board members and the Chamber's Sponsors, we were honored to have Kimberly Scott, owner of an Eastern Shore business, The Great Gourmet located in Federalsburg, address the crowd. She spoke of her modest beginning in 2003 and how through hard work, developing relationships, and trust in God, she has grown and diversified into a multi-million dollar business. What a truly inspirational woman and business leader! To find out more about Kimberly and her business, you can visit her website at [www.thegreatgourmet.com](http://www.thegreatgourmet.com).

The 2014-2015 Kent County Public School Teacher of the Year, Florence "Flo" Terrill was recognized for her years of leadership and dedication to the students of Kent County. Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students. Flo has truly made an impact on so many students in Kent County. Congratulations Flo!

36th District Senator, Stephen S. Hershey, Jr. and 36th District Delegate Jay A. Jacobs were also on hand to present the Maryland General Assembly's Senatorial Citations and the House of Delegates Citations to the evening's award recipients.

Then it was on to the awards!

And the winners of the  
2014 Excellence in Business Awards  
are:

***Environmental Awareness Award***  
**- Washington College -**  
with Lansing Williams accepting the award

***Community Service Award***  
**- The Peoples Bank -**  
with president Ralph Dowling and staff members accepting the award

***Best New Business of the Year***  
**- Bloomin' Wild -**  
with owners Amy Hague & Jennifer MacPherson accepting the award

***Outstanding Business of the Year***  
**- J.R.'s Past Time Pub -**  
with J.R. Alfree accepting the award

***Business Leader of the Year***  
**- J.R. Alfree -**  
of The Lemon Leaf Cafe, J.R.'s Past Time Pub & Foglia di Limone

Congratulations to all of our Award Winners, as well as the twenty-two other businesses and individuals who were nominated! To be nominated by your peers is an honor in itself and something not to be taken lightly. We are all proud of your accomplishments, efforts and the pride you take, not only in your businesses, but also in Kent County. We applaud each of you!



In addition to recognizing our award winners and nominees, I don't want to miss the opportunity to acknowledge those businesses and individuals who were instrumental in making this year's Award Gala such a success.

The Evening's Event Sponsors:  
**The Peoples Bank** and **Price Rentals & Events.**

**The Prince Theatre at the Garfield Center for the Arts**  
Andy Goddard & Tess Hogans and all the others at The Prince for providing the beautiful venue, and logistical and technical set-up for the evening

**The Kitchen at the Imperial**  
Steve & Monica Quigg and their staff for providing the fabulous authentic French fare

**The Finishing Touch**  
Bob Ramsey for again creating our beautiful awards

**Chestertown Mayor Chris Cerino**  
for the donation of his beautiful book, "Kent County by Water" for the 2014 Teacher of the Year recognition



And last, but not least, I want to thank all of our members and guests who joined us to celebrate and honor the "Best of our Best" and who helped make the evening such a grand success. Thank you to all of you, and again, congratulations to all of our Award Winners!!

One last reminder, the Chamber's February Business-After-Hours will be hosted by the Kent County Public Library on **Wednesday, February 11th from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M.** So mark your calendars and plan on joining us and seeing what exciting new things are happening at the Kent County Public Library. You may be surprised!! Don't forget to bring your business cards for networking and door prizes. Call or email me at 410-810-2968 or kentchamber@verizon.net to register.

Hope to see you there!

Loretta

*Loretta*

Loretta M. Lodge  
Executive Director



**"Hire character. Train skill."**  
- Peter Schutz

## OUR SPONSORS

**PLATINUM**