

Sponsoring an After 5 Event at Your Business

These monthly events are a great chance to network, make new friends, and meet potential customers. Hosting an After 5 is a great way to showcase your business and a perfect opportunity to introduce your products and/or services to fellow chamber members and attending guests.

One of the obvious benefits of hosting an After 5 at your business is awareness and exposure. Your event will be listed in the Chamber list of upcoming events and posted on our Facebook page. In addition, announcement of the event will be emailed to over 1,000 recipients each week.

Attendance is dependent on a number of factors including weather and location however, average attendance is between 20-30. Keep in mind, if you invite clients and associates who do not normally attend our events, plan for extra people. Personal invitations from your company will also prompt more to attend so keep that in mind when planning the food. The Chamber can provide you with a mailing list should you choose to mail personal invitations.

What to consider

EVENT SPACE

Not all businesses are necessarily set up for these types of events so be creative but also be practical. Consider guest flow through the space and proximity to restrooms. Guest parking should also be considered to ensure there is plenty of space available. Be aware of any limitations on number of attendees per any town or emergency services ordinances. It is strongly recommended that you check with your landlord (if applicable) to ensure that these types of events are permitted. Do the same with your insurance carrier particularly is serving alcohol.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Food should consist of light to heavy hor d'oeuvres. We suggest some hot and some cold selections. And encourage you to contact any other Chamber member who may be able to provide these services. Beverages should include beer, wine, soft drinks and water, and should be ready to serve at 5:00 p.m. It is perfectly acceptable if you choose not to serve alcohol.

THEMES & ENTERTAINMENT

Themed events are festive and attractive to Chamber Members. Please let the Chamber know what you are planning as the theme so it can be incorporated in the announcements. Entertainment is welcome but not necessary. Most themed After 5's have coordinating entertainment. Background music is suggested.

WEATHER CONTINGENCIES

If you are holding an outside event, you should have a rain plan in place and notify the Chamber of your rain plan so we can properly inform the membership. Be reminded that these events would fall under the Chamber's inclement weather policy.





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Our After 5's are occasionally held at any of the great watering holes around the county. Many times these are hosted by the establishment however not always. Being either the featured host or co host, can benefit your business.

Attendance is dependent on a number of factors including weather and location however, average attendance is between 20-30. Keep in mind, if you invite clients and associates who do not normally attend our events, plan for extra people. Personal invitations from your company will also prompt more to attend so keep that in mind when planning the food. The Chamber can provide you with a mailing list should you choose to mail personal invitations.

What to consider

LOCATION

Providing a dedicated space is recommended just as you would with any large reservation. Guest parking should also be considered to ensure there is plenty of space available. Be aware of any limitations on number of attendees per any town or emergency services ordinances.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Food, if offered, should consist of light to heavy hor d'oeuvres. We suggest some hot and some cold selections, especially if any are house specialties. If you are co-hosting the event, offering the host location to pay for a portion of the total cost is encouraged.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment is welcome but not necessary, however, please let the Chamber know if you are planning to have entertainment so it can be incorporated in the announcements.

WEATHER CONTINGENCIES

If you are holding an outside event, you should have a rain plan in place and notify the Chamber of your rain plan so we can properly inform the membership. Be reminded that these events would fall under the Chamber's inclement weather policy.





The Chamber hosts two After 5 events; The Chamber After 5's are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month and the Young Professional's After Work Networking Events are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. Both are posted on the Chamber's Event calendar.

CHAMBER AFTER 5

- FEBRUARY 9
- MARCH 9
- APRIL 13
- MAY 11
- JUNE 18
- JULY 13
- AUGUST 10
- SEPTEMBER 14
- OCTOBER 12
- NOVEMBER 9
- DECEMBER 14

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AFTER WORK

- FEBRUARY 16
- MARCH 16
- APRIL 20
- MAY 18
- JUNE 15
- JULY 20
- AUGUST 17
- SEPTEMBER 21
- OCTOBER 19
- NOVEMBER 16
- DECEMBER 21

Select which event you would like to host. Be sure to check the Chamber Calendar first to see which events are available to host.

Contact the Chamber offices with your selection. We will then confirm or provide an alternate date.

The cost for hosting is \$150 and includes all promotional services provided by the Chamber. Costs for food and beverage and any other entertainment will be the responsibility of the sponsor.



Better Business. Better Community.



Sponsoring a Greet & Meet New Member Event

These monthly events are popular and valuable allowing new and current members to interact and share business opportunities.

These monthly events are a great chance to network, make new friends, and meet potential customers. Hosting one of these events is a great way to showcase your business and a perfect opportunity to introduce your products and/or services to fellow chamber members.

One of the obvious benefits of hosting is awareness and exposure. Your logo will appear on the event listing and be featured on the event presentation. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to open the event with a presentation on your business. The event will be listed in the Chamber calendar of upcoming events and posted on our Facebook page. In addition, announcement of the event will be emailed to over 1,000 recipients each week.

Attendance is dependent on a number of factors including weather and the number of new members however, average attendance is between 15-20.

LOCATION

Unless otherwise noted, the Greet & Meet New Member Luncheons are held in the Rappahannock Room at the PATH Foundation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Chamber staff will make all arrangements for lunch and beverage for the event. Your cost to host the event will be used for this purpose.

<u>2023 EVENT DATES –</u> These events are held the first Tuesday of each month (adjusted for holidays) from 11:30 – 1:00pm. Please note that the May, September & November are designed as a more robust program that includes specific instruction on how ALL members can be sure they are getting the most from their membership. Attendance at these events is generally higher than others.

- FEBRUARY 7
- MARCH 7
- APRIL 4
- MAY 2 *

- JUNE 6
- JULY 11
- AUGUST 1
- SEPTEMBER 5 *

- OCTOBER 7
- NOVEMBER 3 *
- DECEMBER 5

Select which event you would like to host. Be sure to check the Chamber Calendar first to see which events are available to host.

The cost for hosting is \$150 and includes all promotional services provided by the Chamber.





A lunch and learn is a departure from your typical workday meeting. Unlike meetings that tend to adhere to known formats, lunch and learns are decidedly non-standard events with varying topics, presenters, and structures. They offer the opportunity to share fun, interesting, or otherwise relevant knowledge in a casual and apprehension-free environment.

One of the obvious benefits of hosting is awareness and exposure. Your logo will appear on the event listing and be featured on the event presentation. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to open the event with a presentation on your business. The event will be listed in the Chamber calendar of upcoming events and posted on our Facebook page. In addition, announcement of the event will be emailed to over 1,000 recipients each week.

Sponsoring a Lunch & Learn Event

LOCATION

Unless otherwise noted, the Greet & Meet New Member Luncheons are held in the Rappahannock Room at the PATH Foundation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Chamber staff will make all arrangements for lunch and beverage for the event. Your cost to host the event will be used for this purpose.

<u>2023 EVENT DATES –</u> These events are held the Third Tuesday of each month (adjusted for holidays) from 11:30 – 1:00pm

June – Starting a Business 101 July – Writing a Useful Business Plan August – The Customer Experience September - The Power of Branding October – The New Human Resources November – Google Analytics

Select which event you would like to host. Be sure to check the Chamber Calendar first to see which events are available to host.

The cost for hosting is \$150 and includes all promotional services provided by the Chamber.