

News Release
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The Envelope, Please: Loudoun's Premier Small Businesses Honored at 12th Annual Loudoun County Chamber's "Small Business Awards"

Eight Winners honored at Awards ceremony held at Lansdowne Resort

Leesburg, VA, -- The premier small businesses in Loudoun County were honored last evening when the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce unveiled the winners in the 2006 Small Business Awards. To a packed room of more than 380 business and community leaders at the Lansdowne Resort, eight companies were honored in front of their colleagues, families and peers as the top performing small businesses in Loudoun County.

Paul Bice, Senior Vice President at Mercantile Potomac and Chairman of the Small Business Awards, announced the names of each of the winning businesses. The honorees were selected by blue ribbon panels of area business leaders in secret ballots that kept the winners' names confidential until the announcement at last night's dinner.

"These businesses and the entrepreneurs that lead them represent the very best that Loudoun's small business community has to offer. The passion, drive and courage these entrepreneurs exhibit in pursuit of their dreams and ideas are truly awe-inspiring and the Loudoun County Chamber is honored to be associated with them," said Bice, the Chamber's Vice Chairman.

Chamber President Tony Howard said that the competition for the Small Business Awards, now in its 13th year, is incredibly fierce. More than 185 businesses were nominated for these awards and just 23 finalists were by blue ribbon committees of business leaders and industry experts.

The winners are: Great Country Farms - Agricultural & Equine Business of the Year; On the Go 4 U - Home-based Business of the Year; Endless Summer Harvest - Product of the Year; Total Basket Cases - Retail Business of the Year; Amenity Day Spa - Service Business of the Year; ATI Solutions - Technology Business of the Year; Station Auto Wash - Entrepreneur of the Year; and Charron Consulting - Small Business of the Year.

"Chosen by their peers and other business leaders for this honor, the winners of the 12th Annual Small Business Awards are clearly among the most dynamic, innovative and successful companies in the region. The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce is proud to award them the most prestigious recognition for business excellence in Loudoun County," Howard said.

The 2006 Small Business Awards are sponsored by The Loudoun County Economic Development Commission, Mercantile Potomac Bank, MWAA, Middleburg Bank, AOL, Inc., Campbell and Associates and the Loudoun County Public Schools.

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 1,400 businesses in Loudoun County and Northern Virginia. As Loudoun County's largest broad-based business organization, the Chamber serves to make the connection in the community. It is committed to ensuring the growth and development of new and existing businesses within the county. For more information about the Chamber, visit www.loudounchamber.org or call (703) 777-2176.