



# Business Matters

NEWS FROM THE AGAWAM SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER • APRIL 2005



## ASBAC at Expo 2005

With the cooperation of The VBO Magazine, the Agawam Small Business Assistance Center recently participated in the Business Expo 2005 at The Big E sponsored by the Affiliated Chambers of Commerce. A drawing was held for a \$50 gift certificate to the Holyoke Mall, donated by United Bank.

The winning ticket was pulled at a recent ASBAC Board of Directors meeting.

## Contact us to see what we can do for you

Our counselors and consultants are working (or retired) business people, highly-experienced and willing to share their expertise in financing, marketing, management, strategy, and more.

Our hours are 9am to noon Tuesday through Thursday.

We are located on the lower level of the Agawam Town Hall (by the mailroom) at 36 Main Street, Agawam.

You can call us at 413-786-0172 and leave a message and one of our volunteers will call you back.

Or you can contact us through our website: [www.asbac.net](http://www.asbac.net)

*Pictured above, from left to right, Gina Fusick, manager of United Bank in Feeding Hills, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, who pulled the winning ticket, and winner Denise Gerow, a financial services representative with First Investors.*

## Entrepreneurial workshop last of Spring series

The last of the 2005 Spring series workshops will be held on Wednesday, May 25, at 9:30am in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street.

"So, You Want to be an Entrepreneur" will be an open discussion on all the things you need to know to get started on your business venture.

Admission is free, but seating is limited, so advance registrations are necessary. You can register online at our website - [www.asbac.net](http://www.asbac.net) - or by calling 413-786-0172.

Be watching for news of our Fall 2005 workshops, and remember, if you have any special topics you would like us to cover, let us know.

## ASBAC receives grant from WMECO

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center announces the receipt of a grant of \$3,000 from Western Massachusetts Electric Company. WMECO has been a constant source of support for ASBAC, and was one of the founding sponsors when the Center was formed three years ago.

In announcing the grant, Cynthia Ayre, Chair of the ASBAC Board of Directors, explained that it will enable the Center to continue to provide free services to new and newly-started businesses in the Greater Springfield area.

During the Center's three years of operation, it has received over 160 requests for counseling on such subjects as starting up; business loans; market sales; accounting; taxes; human resources; inventory control; employee training, technology and computer systems and business planning.

Counseling is provided by SCORE, and is held on an appointment basis.

## Welcome, volunteers!

The Agawam Small Business Assistance Center welcomes three new faces. SueEllen Duga, Micheline Shea and Fred Stratton joined our cadre of volunteers, assisting in the Center's office making sure that all inquiries are handled promptly.

Welcome aboard!

## Agawam Small Business Assistance Center

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