

Crawford is new head of GTBA

GALLOWAY – Mary Crawford, a financial adviser with Merrill Lynch, is the newly appointed president of the Galloway Township Business Association. Crawford assumed the leadership role in January, succeeding GTBA founder Stephen Moliver, owner of the Gold2Cash franchise.

Born in Morris County, Crawford lived in New York City for a time, and spent six years living on Cape Cod, Mass., before moving to Galloway.

"I first joined the business association when it started to get to know the business owners in the community and see if I fit in with the services I provide," she said from her Northfield office. "I met some great people and joined the finance committee, and when I saw a need for people to step up this year, I was glad to."

With approximately 30 members, the association has not yet tapped the full potential of the township business community, Crawford said, which includes some 600 businesses, from at-home enterprises to bricks-and-mortar shops and stores.

"We are definitely looking to expand, and the way to go about that is to maintain an active calendar for the group: meetings, workshops, educational things that are planned to get the word out so people can say, 'I want to be part of this, and meet other people who can help my business.'"

One goal of the organization is to foster cross-promotional alliances, Crawford said.

"At Valentine's Day and on Mother's Day, the candy guy should know the florist," she said. "It's that old six degrees of separation – you can always find a link." A larger goal is a joint marketing campaign that promotes the community across the county and state.

Moliver said he recruited Crawford to take over the top spot.

"Over the past several years I've seen how she has demonstrated leadership on projects and initiatives that are important to the business community and community as a whole," he said. "She is doing a great job building engagement in both the GTBA and Go Green Galloway. She is an excellent communicator and the type of consensus builder who has the courage to try new ventures and advocate for positive change for the greater good."

Crawford said 2012 is a "building year" for the GTBA.

"We met together as a board and came up with four areas of concentration" including education, advocacy, joint promotion and beautification of the township.

"Once we get a really solid membership base, we can ex-



Mary Crawford, the new president of the Galloway Township Business Association, is a financial adviser specializing in retirement planning for individuals and small-to-medium-sized businesses.

"You're supporting your neighbors and friends if you use the businesses in town. Why not check here first?"

-- Mary Crawford

pand it out," she said, adding that the buy-local, stay-local movement is part of her own philosophy.

"It's a huge thing," she said. "You're supporting your neighbors and friends if you use the businesses in town instead of heading out to the mall. Why not check here first?"

Crawford's husband, Tom,

is a director of sales for World Class Flowers in Egg Harbor City. The couple has a 15-year-old daughter, Jamie, who attends Absegami High School.

For information about the Galloway Township Business Association or to join, see www.gallowaybusiness.com.



Brenda Flaherty-Pickeral of Egg Harbor Township, right, accepts a donation from Ocean City Home Bank Vice President of Marketing Tricia Ciliberto. The bank rewards employees who volunteer their time for charity.

OC Home Bank salutes volunteers

OCEAN CITY – Ocean City Home Bank has announced the winners of the annual It Pays to Give volunteer contest: Brenda Flaherty-Pickeral of Egg Harbor Township, Jen DiTroia of Upper Township and Jared Fulleylove of Mays Landing.

The bank encourages staff to donate to worthy causes, and compensates them for their volunteer time.

"In 2011, our employees donated nearly 1,400 hours – almost four times the total hours they volunteered" in 2010," said Steve Brady, bank president and CEO.

Flaherty-Pickeral logged more than 250 hours with the Egg Harbor Township Police

Athletic League. She got a cash prize of \$150, plus a \$150 donation to PAL.

DiTroia spent 120 hours volunteering for the Upper Township Challenger Program for children with physical or developmental disabilities. She received a prize of \$100, and \$100 for Challenger.

Fulleylove donated 110 hours to organizations including the Mays Landing Baptist Youth Group. He received a \$50 cash prize and a \$50 donation to the youth group.

Ocean City Home Bank recognized 37 employee volunteers. "We're thrilled that so many of our team members share our commitment to the community," Brady said.



LuAnne Duff points out some of the antique porcelain and collectible glass she sells at Mrs. Duff's Gift Shoppe in Historic Smithville.

The second time around

Retirement was short-lived for Smithville antique and gift dealers

By MARJORIE PRESTON
Staff Writer

GALLOWAY – In March 2011, after 16 years of selling antiques and collectibles in Barnegat, Dale and LuAnne Duff were approached by a businesswoman who offered to buy their business for cash.

"She bought all our inventory, all our displays," LuAnne Duff said. "We gave her everything."

The only thing the Duffs did not sell was the business name, Mrs. Duff's Gift Shoppe LLC, a decision that now seems prescient.

The couple decided to semiretire to Florida, but within a year, they unretired, moved back to South Jersey, and reopened their business.

"We came close," LuAnne Duff said of their brief stay in Winter Garden, near Disney World. "But we couldn't bring ourselves to do it."

So Mrs. Duff's is back in business, this time in Historic Smithville. While Dale haunts estate sales for merchandise, LuAnne runs the pristine shop, which is filled to the rafters with art, antiques, vintage gifts, candles, crystal perfume bottles, collectible plates, and a wall full of Rhythm brand Magical Motion Clocks, which come to life on the hour, chiming one of dozens of melodies and, in some models, putting on an animated show in which the clock faces and works dismantle and reassemble.

Suggested retail prices can reach the \$600 range, Duff said, but she prices them at about half that.

"We would rather sell a lot of clocks for less," she said. "We have always wanted our business to be a place where people could shop in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, but most of all we wanted our customers to trust us and our prices."

Indeed, many gift items can be found in the store for under \$20 and even under \$10.

"We do that for a reason," Duff said. "Many families are living on fixed incomes and have a small budget for gift giving."

The shop also stocks vintage porcelain and glassware: Delft, Limoges, Staffordshire, colorful Depression glass, and hand-blown and pressed Fenton antique glass. They also sell a line of intricately painted and decorated goose, quail and pigeon eggs that look similar to Faberge eggs. They are a favorite of men planning to propose marriage, Duff said, because a ring fits nicely in the egg.

The proprietors are also fond of Japanese memorabilia – the shelves include a number of Buddhas and geisha plates – because their 23-year-old son, Christopher, is soon leaving to teach middle school English in Matsue-shi, Japan. Their 26-year-old son, Justin, works for radiatorexpress.com.

The Duffs, who also have a booth at Days of Olde Antiques on Route 9 in Galloway, are enjoy-

ing the business community in Smithville. "Everyone has been very welcoming," said Duff.

Karen and Kevin Flood, who used to patronize Mrs. Duff's in Barnegat, visited the new store on a recent weekend.

"We always come to Smithville anyway, so we stopped in," said Kevin.

"LuAnne always has cool stuff," added Karen.

LuAnne Duff said she and her husband have never regretted coming out of their short-lived retirement and returning to the marketplace.

"We waited for this location," she said. "And we love retail."

Mrs. Duff's Gift Shoppe LLC is Store No. 6 in the Towne of Historic Smithville, 3 N. New York Road. For information call (609) 241-8174.

AC Chamber honors March 14

The Greater Atlantic City Chamber will host its annual Community & Business Leadership Awards dinner 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 at the Linwood Country Club.

David Goldberg, president and CEO of Atlantic City Linen Supply, will receive the Redenia Gilliam-Mosee Business Person of the Year Award. Barry Hackett, chairman of the South Jersey Field of Dreams, will receive the John G. Fitzpatrick Community Leadership Award.

"David and Barry have both made exceptional contributions to our community in so many ways," said Greater AC Chamber President Joe Kelly. "They are worthy recipients of these two prestigious awards, and we look forward to honoring them on March 14."

Tickets are \$75 per person, or \$750 for a table of ten. To register, see www.acchamber.com. For more information, call Elisa Monroe at (609)-345-4524, ext. 12.

Rashley, Bair promoted at Seaview

Brian Rashley has been promoted to head PGA golf professional and Michael Bair has been named director of agronomy at Seaview, A Dolce Resort and Troon Golf-managed course.

Rashley will manage retail merchandising, outings and tournaments, and overall golf shop operations. He joined the Seaview golf team in 2008, serving as the assistant golf professional and developing a ladies league/clinic and a junior program.

Bair will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations, including course maintenance, repair and landscaping for all of the golf grounds, including the Bay Course, home of the 2012 ShopRite LPGA Classic.