

people news



First place in the Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union Art Competition in the seven years and under category went to Lean Farrell, Cloontuskert NS; second place went to Katie Gouldsbury, Killashee NS; third place went to Jack Murray, Cloontuskert NS. They are pictured with Joe Donlon and Martina Chapman from Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com



First place in the Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union Art Competition in the eight to ten years category went to Regina Mullen from Cloontuskert NS; second place went to Jillian Banahan from Ballagh NS; third place went to Aine Halpin from Tarmonbarry NS. They are pictured with Joe Donlon and Mary Casey from Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com



First place in the Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union Art Competition in the eleven to thirteen years category went to Rachel Banahan from Ballagh NS. Second prize went to Emma Kenny from Lanesboro Community College (missing from picture) and third place went to Lauren Guinan from Lanesboro Community College. They are pictured with Joe Donlon and Martina Chapman from Lanesboro Ballyleague Credit Union. Pic: www.hursonphotography.com

Second enterprise week at Bank of Ireland

Bank of Ireland this week launched its second National Enterprise Week which will feature over 60 tailored advice seminars along with showcasing opportunities in branches for business owners, taking place across its retail branch network from Monday 24th to Friday 28th May 2010.

The week-long initiative, which is open to both customers and non-customers, is being held as part of the Bank's ongoing commitment to actively support business recovery in the SME sector by providing them with the necessary financial support and practical advice during the current challenging trading environment.

This two-stranded approach aims to provide advice events for businesses with an opportunity to meet with leading industry experts, and learn from their experiences, while the 'Show your Business' element will give businesses a platform on which to promote their product/service in our branches to a new marketplace and to network with other businesses who face similar challenges. The initiative has been recognised as part of European SME Week 2010, which takes place across Europe between 25th May and 1st June.

The advice events will take the format of breakfast briefings, enterprise evenings, presentations and seminars, on themes such as 'Starting/Maintaining - Getting the most out of your business', 'Succeeding in a challenging environment', 'Combating the recession' and 'Diversifying your business in challenging times'.

As part of the Enterprise week, Bank of Ireland Roscommon will be hosting a breakfast briefing entitled 'Supporting New and Existing Businesses' on Wednesday 26th May from 8 am to 9.30 am. Opening the event will be Michéal Curley, Commercial Manager, Bank of Ireland, Roscommon.

Speaking at the event will be Michael Finneran TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, with special responsibility for Housing and Local Services and Denis Naughten TD, Fine Gael, Front Bench spokesperson on Immigration and Integration. Colin McClean, a mentor with Enterprise Builder, the Bank's independent mentoring service, will be talking about the initiative and how companies can avail of this support. Niall O'Shea, Managing Director, System Label, a business that was recently involved in a management buy-out will be speaking about availing of a business opportunity. Gary Greene from Accounting and Taxation Services will also present and give practical examples and case studies about how to prepare bank proposals and cashflow planning. Caroline Dervan, a Business Manager with the Bank will give an overview of the services on offer.

According to, Michéal Curley: "The extensive positive feedback we received from businesses and local communities following the inaugural event last year and the two subsequent 'Show your Business' weeks held in October and December, served to highlight the importance of continuing to offer tangible advice and information to SMEs, along with supporting the financial needs of sustainable and viable businesses through these challenging times.

"Recent research we conducted with our branch managers/business advisors indicated that progressive and more innovative businesses that have adapted their business to changes in the marketplace as early as possible, are the businesses who are best positioned for an upturn in the economy. It also highlighted that many customers still perceive credit as unobtainable, as many have

expressed surprise when their applications were approved. Our message is that if you are a viable business (i.e. have a good business plan, sound knowledge of your market and have the capacity to meet repayments) we will support you financially.

"Our commitment to the SME sector remains steadfast. We continue to approve four out of every five loan applications received. Our approval rate has been consistently around 80 percent over the past three years, albeit against the backdrop of a reduced number of applications. In the first four months of 2010 we approved approximately €1 billion of facilities for our SME customers and continue to provide over-

draft facilities to the value of €2.2bn.

While usage of these overdraft facilities will fluctuate on a daily basis, on any given day average usage is less than €1.1bn. This means that over half of the overdrafts we approve for our SME customers are not being utilised. We have a number of specialist funds available to small businesses and we have given a commitment to Government to make €3 billion in new lending facilities available to this sector this year and in 2011.

"A key focus for us is supporting customers in difficulty. Given the challenging conditions, we have undertaken an internal restructuring, and our most experienced bankers are

now working to help and support these customers. We have made available significant additional resources to implement our 'early intervention initiative', which is a pro-active contact programme with customers where a deteriorating trend is emerging in the operation of their bank accounts. Our objective is to work out a structured proposal to help them address the issue. As always, we would ask customers to come to us as informed as possible regarding their current financial position and the potential implications of any issue identified for the business", concluded Michéal Curley.

In addition to the business seminar on May 26th, Roscommon branches will also play

host to a number of local businesses who will be exhibiting and displaying their wares during the week. Businesses exhibiting will include: Bank of Ireland Roscommon, Roscommon Fireplace Centre, System Labels, Anwyn Equestrian, Marie Costello, Travel agent, Karen Gordon, Roscommon Chocolate, Mary Ward, Maggiemay's Gift Ideas, McNulty Furniture, Strokestown Bank of Ireland, Calla Floral Design, Healthy Beings and Jazel, Western Stoves and Damien Garvey Home insulation

For the most up to date information on events taking place across the country during National Enterprise Week log onto www.bankofireland.ie/business or contact your local branch.

Bank of Ireland 

As part of Bank of Ireland's National Enterprise Week, we would like to invite you to our

Bank of Ireland supports new & existing business

Date 26th May 2010
Location Bank of Ireland Roscommon
Time 8.00am - 9.30am
 Light refreshments will be served

Bank of Ireland's
 National
 Enterprise
 Week

