

## Businesswomen banding for Morristown

Written by Michael Izzo @MIzzoDR

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Marisa Sweeny (left) and Mary Dougherty are members of the Morristown Women in Business Executive Committee.

**Morristown Women in Business Kickoff Event****WHAT:** Networking breakfast followed by speeches and Q&As from members of Women in Business, Mayor Tim Dougherty, and Morristown Partnership's Michael Fabrizio**WHEN:** Thursday, Jan. 9, from 8 to 10 a.m.**WHERE:** Morristown Hyatt, 3 Speedwell Ave. in Morristown**REGISTRATION:** \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers at <http://www.morristownwib.com/registration.html>**CONTACT:** [morristownwib@gmail.com](mailto:morristownwib@gmail.com) or 862-812-0962 with any questions

### MORRISTOWN

— When someone tells Mary Dougherty they are disappointed a local business just closed, the first thing she asks is when the last time they shopped there was.

“You can do it all in Morristown, so I make sure to shop local,” Dougherty said. “On a recent date night, my husband and I had dinner at Roots, went to see a show, and had dessert at Strawberry Fields. We were in bed by 11 p.m. Everything’s right here.”

Ensuring the closing of local businesses happens less was part of the impetus for Dougherty to create the Morristown Women in Business Committee, which hosts its kickoff event next week.

By encouraging people in town to support each other by shopping local and creating a networking platform for women who live and work in Morristown, Dougherty hopes to strengthen Morristown from within.

“There are over 1,200 businesses in Morristown’s central business district alone, and this organization can empower business owners to grow with networking and leads,” Dougherty said.

The seeds for Morristown Women in Business were planted in October, when Dougherty left her female trainer at a local gym and headed to her nutritionist just down the street, also a woman, and realized the two didn’t know each other.

“The health and wellness industry is a small part of the whole, but I just met someone 100 yards away from my shop that I didn’t even know was there. We’re in such close quarters in Morristown, but we don’t know about each other,” said Marisa Sweeny of Be Well Morristown.

Dougherty has been part of Women in Business organizations in other areas and decided it was time for Morristown to have one.

“Melody Whitehall of the Main Event wanted to do something similar so we met and decided to get it off the ground,” Dougherty said.

Two months later, the group is a week away from its kickoff breakfast at 8 a.m. Jan 9 at the Hyatt Morristown.

“We decided to roll it out for the New Year,” Dougherty said.

Dougherty’s husband, Mayor Tim Dougherty, will deliver a speech on the topic “What’s Happening in Morristown and How It Will Enhance Your Business.” Michael Fabrizio, executive director of the Morristown Partnership, also will speak.