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March 2009 Newsletter

ANNUAL DINNER UPDATE:

Thanks to Jamie Lefever, Wendy Wyant and Jenn Murray for organizing a great 2009 Annual Dinner on March 21, 2009, and to Snug Harbor Restaurant, who served a great dinner to 79 members and friends. Special guests State Representative Donna Oberlander, Clarion County Commissioner Donna Hartle, CCEDC Director Brad Ehrhardt, and Clarion Chamber's Larry Summers and Tracy Becker were among those welcomed.

Awards were presented to Toni and Keith Stahlman as Citizens of the Year and to Little Bird Preschool for Business of the Year. Toni and Keith were recognized for the work they have done to bring their home and gardens back to their former beauty, for sharing with the community and for their involvement in so many community activities. Little Bird Preschool was recognized for its many years of teaching the children of the community and getting them off to a good start.

A Good Neighbor Award was presented to the Redbank Valley Municipal Authority, its staff and Board for the work they are doing to bring us new water and sewage treatment facilities while struggling to maintain the current aging system.

A special Life Time Achievement Award was given to Arnold Dinger for his many years of service to the community. President Eileen Conners also recognized the Board of Directors and Rich McGarrity, of the Jewelry Shop, for his much appreciated service as Chamber secretary and to the community.

BOARD ELECTIONS - The results of the Board member elections were announced with the following members being elected: **Cindy Campbell** of Clarion County Community Bank, **Amanda Coon** of S&T Bank, **Chuck Leach** of Charles P. Leach Agency, **Sandy Mateer** of NB Borough Council & Redbank Renaissance and **Ty Poster** of Northwest Bank.

They will join Eileen Conners, Gene Hoak, Jamie Lefever, Jack Milliren, Tim Murray, Sara Seidle and Mark Wyant and who continue in their terms on the Chamber Board.

Todd Bish (Bish Chiropractic Center) and Jackie Quinn (First United National Bank), whose terms expired this year, were thanked for their past service on the Board. President Conners thanked all of the members of the Chamber who helped during the past year with the many activities of the Chamber and those who volunteered to serve on the Board. She encouraged everyone to participate because the Chamber can make such a positive impact on the community when working in cooperation with residents, businesses and our many other community organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS...

C93 HOME SHOW - C93 is having their annual Home Show at the Clarion Mall on **March 29th from 12 – 5 PM.**

GOLF OUTING -

Get your clubs out and start practicing! The annual Bi-Chamber golf outing will be on **Friday, April 24th** with a shot gun start at noon at Clarion Oaks golf course. The title sponsor is Delta Contractors & Design Inc. Registration is \$300.00 per team or \$75.00 per player, which includes green fees, carts, lunch, dinner and refreshments. The **deadline to register** is coming up quickly on **Wednesday April 8, 2009**, so please get your registrations in soon. If you don't have a team, but would like to participate, the Chamber is keeping a list to make up additional foursomes. For more information, please contact committee persons: Mark Wyant, Jamie Lefever, Ty Poster or contact the Redbank Valley Chamber office at 275-3929.

United Valley Soccer is currently open for spring signups. Registration is on their website www.uvsoccer.com.

The Promotion Committee is seeking information from Chamber members on "Business Brief," items (for example—new product lines or services, new employees, successes, expansions, etc.) The Committee is also looking for volunteers for business spotlights in the newsletter and at every other Chamber meeting in odd numbered months.

The Chamber hopes to provide member benefit by helping businesses help each other, through greater awareness of what businesses have to offer. Please contact Sandy Mateer or Sara Seidle—Promotion Committee Co-Chairs—to volunteer or suggest a topic.

Edgewood Heights personal care community, on Keck Avenue in New Bethlehem, will host a free educational session about **Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia on Tuesday, April 14 from 7 – 8 p.m.** This is a great educational program for individuals who are caring for a loved one with dementia or for individuals who would just like to learn more about it. A **professional speaker from the Alzheimer's Association in Erie** will share information about the disease, its progression, as well as tips about communicating effectively with your loved one. There will also be a Q & A session. **Please RSVP to Lori Smith at Edgewood Heights at 275-2790 by April 7 if you plan to attend.**

You can support WRC Senior Services' charitable mission of "Providing Choices for Generations," simply by surfing the web. Use www.goodsearch.com (powered by Yahoo!©) as your search engine. Type in WRC Senior Services as your charity and start searching. Each search you do will raise one cent for charitable care!

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS—

Letter from Tim Murray: I want to thank all of you who attended our first meeting of the watershed on February 25, 2009. We had about 25 people at the meeting, which was a good turnout in my opinion. We covered the basic watershed plan and began to look ahead to the actual formation of a 501(c)(3) organization to pursue funding for various projects. Everyone filled out a board questionnaire to let me know their interests and areas of expertise. We will look to this to begin the formation of a core group of individuals to be on our board.

(The Watershed study was completed in 2007, Red Bank Creek has been placed on the Rivers Registry, and I am now ready to begin the formation of a group that can apply for grant monies that are available for the clean-up of the creek, recreational and economic opportunities associated with this, canoeing and kayaking improvements, mine drainage abatement programs, dump clean-ups, etc.)

Our next meeting will be held at the New Bethlehem Library on April 22 at 7:00 pm. I hope to have some information from legal concerning the formation of the 501(c)(3) organization. I will be contacting North Fork and Sandy Lick Creek watersheds to have them attend the meeting and help with the process. I will also be inviting PA Greenways to this meeting so if you know of any dumps in the area that you would like to see cleaned up, please bring your information along. If you know of other like-minded individuals that would be interested in protecting the Redbank Watershed, please bring them along to this meeting.

We can use all the help we can get. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 814- 275-3669. I look forward to talking to you.

Tim Murray, Watershed Coordinator

May 2nd - New Bethlehem Borough has named Saturday, May 2nd as **Community Clean Up Day** and will be providing a dumpster for disposal of street litter and debris. The clean up will be sponsored by Redbank Renaissance, Inc. as part of the Great PA Clean Up. Renaissance will provide a **picnic lunch** for those who register in advance and participate in the clean up day. To participate, please contact Sandy Mateer at 275-1718 or Rev. John Phillips at 275-2022. In addition to picking up the great amount of litter that has accumulated during the winter throughout the Borough and surrounding areas of Redbank Valley, the group hopes to finish weeding and cleaning the brush from the New Bethlehem/South Bethlehem elementary school hillside. The Chamber will work on its section of Route 66 North of town that day. Other groups who do clean ups are encouraged to coordinate.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS—

It's not too early to plan for Summer! The **Clarion County Fair** will be held in the Redbank Valley Municipal Park on **July 26 thru August 1, 2009**. Visit the award winning Fair web site, designed by Sean Bowser, at www.clarioncountyfair.com or contact the Fair office for more information, 814-365-5179.

<i>NEWS FLASH</i>	<i>THANK YOU!</i>
<p>New Traffic Signal Lights In New Bethlehem</p> <p>Like many other municipalities, New Bethlehem has switched the traffic signal lights from incandescent to LED technology. As with many lighting products, the up front cost for the new LED lighting is greater than incandescent, but the benefits are quickly realized when you consider they use up to 90% less energy and last an average of 5 to 7 years. The new LED lights provide an additional margin of safety, as they are much brighter than normal incandescent lighting. The new signals were installed by Bill Reddinger of Reddinger Electric. Bill attended the installation training workshop free of charge on the borough's behalf and worked with borough personnel to complete the LED conversion at intersections within the borough. A big thank you to Bill for all his hard work.</p> <p>Rich McGarrity N.B. Borough Secretary</p>	<p>Maybe it will stop snowing now!</p> <p>Another big thank you to Bill Reddinger, from the Chamber and Redbank Renaissance, for taking down the snow flakes and Season's Greetings banners on March 14th. Thanks, Bill!</p> <p>Did you see the new sign on The Jewelry Shop? Thanks to Lucky Kline and Rich McGarrity, for doing a great job on the sign—which also now clearly indicates where to find the Chamber Office.</p> <p>THANK YOU!</p>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES...

DEP's Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program

The Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program will accept applications Jan. 12th thru May 1, 2009 (or until funds are exhausted).

About the program: Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Small Business Energy Efficiency Grant Program, provides a 25% reimbursement grant (up to a maximum of \$25,000) to enable PA small businesses (businesses with 100 employees or fewer) to acquire certain pieces of equipment or adopt certain processes that promote energy efficiency.

Well-designed energy efficiency projects can help small businesses cut operating costs and increase competitiveness, while simultaneously reducing Pennsylvania's energy demand. The reimbursement grants can be applied toward the cost of purchasing and installing numerous energy efficient items and systems, including geothermal heat pumps; energy efficient HVAC, lighting, and refrigeration systems; insulation and air sealing projects; etc. **Copy the following link into your browser to download the application and guidelines:**

www.depweb.state.pa.us/energindependent/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=543714

USEFUL WEBSITES

CLARION CO. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

www.callclarionpa.com

This site provides useful information on business assistance and developments in the County.

CLARION UNIV.'S SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

<http://web.clarion.edu/sbdc/>

Check this site for many free and low-cost programs that provide assistance to local businesses.

REDBANK RENAISSANCE www.redbankren.org

Check the Community Calendar to avoid conflicts with other scheduled events. Check links to many websites that provide business assistance.

PA WILDS RESOURCE CENTER

Helping revitalize communities through sustainable tourism development. Small business owners, would-be entrepreneurs, outdoor and sportsmen's groups, and other community leaders and residents interested in learning more about the PA Wilds initiative or tourism development in the region now have a great new resource: www.pawildsresources.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The Clarion County Job & Resource Fair

Wednesday, April 15,

from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Clarion Mall

Cost for Employers: \$50

2009 Job Fair Employer packet.

In an effort to respond to the current economy and the multiple needs of individuals and employers, this year's event will also include additional opportunities for resource and educational agencies to participate.

The nominal cost for a participating business or agency is \$50.00. This low-cost fee provides extensive advertising for the event, support of the sponsoring agencies, the opportunity to network with area businesses and service providers, meeting with hundreds of potential employees, electric supply, refreshments, and a catered lunch by the Roadhouse Restaurant for up to two (2) representatives per table. Each business will be provided with one (1) attractive skirted table, two chairs and their own sign for the Job Fair. Additional tables can be provided at \$50.00 each. All businesses and agencies, who have paid to participate in the fair and remaining at the conclusion of the event, will have a shot at winning 1 of the 3 employer Door Prizes of A Night on the Town for Two! The package includes dinner, movie tickets and a hotel room right in Clarion. Sponsors include: Holiday Inn, Hampton Inn, Quality Inn, Red River Road House, and Applebee's.

So, for less than the cost of a conventional three-day advertisement, employers and agencies will have access to hundreds of job seekers and individuals seeking assistance. As an employer or agency utilizing the CareerLink, this fair is one more tool we provide to enable you to fulfill your needs. If you are an employer and wish to place a Job Order **at no cost**, complete the attached form and return it with your registration. If you are not currently enrolled in the CareerLink system, we ask that you do so by logging on to www.cwds.state.pa.us or by completing the attached registration form and returning it with your Job Fair Registration.

We look forward to collaborating with you and hope the 2009 Clarion County Job & Resource Fair will be a valuable tool to meet your recruitment and outreach needs. Space is limited. So, to be sure you don't miss this opportunity, please complete the registration form included in the employer packet and to the PA CareerLink of Clarion County by **Wednesday, March 25, 2009.** **2009 Job Fair Employer packet.**

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Wagner, Administrator
PA CareerLink of Clarion County

MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE

ALERT! Refrigerator Recall

Certain Maytag, Jenn-Air, Amana, Admiral, Magic Chef, Performa by Maytag and Crosley brand side by side and top freezer refrigerators were manufactured with an electrical failure in the compressor's start relay which can cause it to overheat and pose a potential fire hazard. Replacements are being made free of charge.

Check www.maytag.com or call 866-533-9817 to see if your refrigerator is involved in the recall.

Compliance Requirements

Employers must post the labor poster concerning the Clean Indoor Air Act. To obtain a free copy of the poster go to the Dept. of Health's web site at www.dsf.health.state.pa.us. Other labor posters can be obtained free of charge from the State's Dept. of Labor & Industry's web site at www.dli.state.pa.us

Effective February 2, all employers are required to use a revised edition of the I-9 Form, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, (USCIS). A new employee is required to prove that he is eligible to work in the United States. For more information and to download a copy of the Employment Eligibility Verification Form or I-9 Form visit www.uscis.gov. Paper copies of the form can be ordered by calling 1-800-870-3676.

COME TO THE NEXT BUSINESS MEETING – SHARE IDEAS!

CHAMBER'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Business Meetings – **2nd Thursday at Noon** at the Library.

April 9, 2009 Business Meeting – Spotlight on MediaPro Xpress

May 14, 2009 Business Meeting – Spotlight on Dr. Chad Shaffer & ACMH

June 5, 2009 – Farmers' Market begins

June 12-13 – Community Yard Sales

June 26 – Community Sidewalk Sales

July 3 - Fireworks

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Redbank Valley Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce our newest member: **MediaPro Xpress**
PO Box A, New Bethlehem, PA 16242
724-504-6450

Media Pro Xpress is owned by Judi & Dan Kemp and provides telephone directory distribution services in PA, NY & NC. If you see Judi & Dan, please extend a welcome as the newest members of the chamber. They will be at the April 9th Business Meeting to tell us more about their business and their plans for growth.

Please let the Chamber office know of potential new members or new businesses in the area so that we can welcome them and try to give their business a boost by introducing them to other chamber members.

MORE ABOUT PA WILDS

www.pawildsresources.org

- Ta Brant is the new regional director. The Wilds resource site includes:
- Free online classifieds for tourism-related businesses and groups
 - Database of what loans, grants and technical assistance programs are available to small tourism businesses in each county of the PA Wilds (Cameron, **Clarion**, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga & Warren counties)
 - Information on the PA Wilds Design Guide, Artisan Trail, logo use and more
 - Maps and other information explaining the Commonwealth's investments in the region
 - Success stories, frequently asked questions and other contributions from around the region
 - Ad examples run in major markets to promote PA Wilds

FARMER'S MARKET BEGINS FRIDAY, JUNE 5

The Farmer's Market will be held from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM on Fridays, starting June 5, 2009—to catch the early-season, mouth-watering strawberries—through frost, or Oct. 16, 2009. Vendors with plants, flowers and fresh produce, tasty baked goods and other products and crafts are now being sought. Call 814-275-1718 or 814-275-3929 for information.

Chamber Meeting Summary

At the Business meeting on Feb. 12, 2009, those present had a good discussion on the survey that was sent out in the December newsletter.

Parking was discussed and found to be generally good. However, it was noted that employee parking on Broad St. may deter customers from stopping at Broad St. businesses. It was recommended that businesses ask their employees to park off Broad St. Parking passes for the municipal lot are available for only \$6 per month from the Borough Secretary at The Jewelry Shop at 309 Broad St. and now that the weather has improved a short walk might be enjoyable.

It was felt that community events such as the parade and the peanut butter festival have not helped businesses very much, but that holding the car show on Broad St. did. A business exposition was thought not to be of much use if similar to the one at the fair, but ideas for making an exposition more valuable to event sponsors and participating businesses was discussed, such as prizes for visiting every business.

When asked what businesses attendees would like to see in town, the responses were a coffee shop, artists, antiques, craft and book stores, and a clothing store, like Norma Reichard's Woolrich store, were mentioned. When asked what businesses people would like to see move into town, it was noted that we have some great businesses in the area which people could visit more if they were on the walking path in town. A need for B&B's, or other lodging, was also noted.

There was also discussion of some of the examples given by author Jack Schultz in his book Boomtown USA, the 7 1/2 Keys to Small Town Revitalization. (More on that later).

At the March 12, 2009, business meeting, Dianna Brothers, Peanut Butter Festival Chair for 2009, discussed some of the plans for the upcoming festival to be held on September 18, 19 and 20th. Organizers of the Mountain Bike Race have been successful in creating a 3-race series with the Fat Tire Challenge in Sigel on June 21 and the Shannock Valley Festival in Rural Valley on July 18th. The series will conclude with the Peanut Butter Festival race and awards for the series will be awarded after the awards for those racing only in the PBF race. It is hoped that more racers and their families will be drawn to the festival and that the series might promote the exciting sport of mountain bike racing. Last year's race had 101 entrants and we're hoping for more this year. Invite your friends to the festival!

Also at the March meeting, Sandy Anderson presented an interesting idea for signage to promote the area and local events, similar to the old Burma Shave signs that draw interest by being a progressive message over several signs along the side of the road. Research and planning is in development.

Following up on the discussion at the February meeting, a small portion of a DVD of the Boomtown USA presentation by author Jack Schultz, given to the Armstrong County Foundation last September, was shown. The segment discussed how a group of 11 women in Leavenworth, Washington decided to stop the downward spiral and revitalize their community by turning it into a "Bavarian Village" even though there wasn't a Bavarian in sight! They began by redecorating an inn and 2 shops into a Bavarian motif. It took about 5 years, but their population has grown from 1,000 to 2,000, including 40 families from Bavaria; and their annual tourism income has grown from 0 to \$1.5 Million per year! The Chamber's promotion committee plans to show other segments of the DVD as time permits. The presentation and the book, Boomtown USA, have some great inspirational ideas for revitalization and improving business.

Come join us at the next Business meeting on April 9th and share your ideas.

Inspiration and Food for Thought: Check out these websites for business tips and inspirational stories including one on several towns that have formed citizen owned community stores:

http://www.newrules.org/retail/ars_archive.php

<http://www.newrules.org/retail/forumnews.pdf>

Farm Raised

NOMAD ACRES ELK



**ground meat, stew cuts
roasts, filets or jerky**

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WWW.NOMADACRES.COM