



December 2023

CHAMBER CHATTER

*The Official Newsletter of the
Greene County Chamber of Commerce*

Phone: (724) 627-5926
Email: info@greenechamber.org
www.greenechamber.org



85th Annual Christmas Parade





Parade
Underwritten by: **FirstEnergy Foundation**



CHRISTMAS PARADE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 85th Annual Downtown Waynesburg Christmas Parade. The execution of the Parade was underwritten by West Penn Power, a FirstEnergy Company.

Ninety-Nine entries appeared on Saturday representing schools, churches, civic organizations, and businesses from all over the county.

Winners of the Float Entry Competitions are as follows:

First Place Float – First Baptist Church of Waynesburg

Second Place Float – The Way Community Center of Greene County

Third Place Float – Oak View Methodist Church

Best Design – Corner Cupboard Food Bank


Most Spirit – Girl Scout Troop #80012

Most Original – Rain Day Festival/Special Events Commission

Waynesburg University's CCTV Department of Communications videotaped, narrated, and edited the parade for broadcast online. The Department is under the direction of Department Chair, Dr. Richard Krause.

** Photographs are available at www.facebook.com/greencountypachamber
Please feel free to use any that you would like.





The Greene County Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank all those businesses and individuals who helped to make this year's parade a success and officially welcomed Santa downtown to kick-off the Holiday Season in Greene County.

Corporate Sponsor – West Penn Power, a First Energy Company
Waynesburg Borough Street Crew and Manager Bryan Cumberledge
Waynesburg Borough and Manager-Athena Bowman
Waynesburg Borough Police Force and Chief Bill Nichols
Greene County Emergency Management and Richard Policz
Greene County Sheriff's Department and Greene County Sherriiff Marcus Simms
Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Jeff Marshall
WCTV - Waynesburg University's Department of Communication
County of Greene – Jeff Marshall
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Talia Tuttle – National Anthem vocalist
R&D Watters Enterprises, Inc.
Rocky Ridge Acres - Fred Kiger
First Baptist Church and The Way
First United Methodist Church
Law Office of Hook & Hook
Masontown Trophy
WANB Radio – Doug Wilson and Benji Law
The Perfect Arrangement
David Durbin – Saint Nick
Wayne Hart, Jeff McCracken, Miranda Chapman Parade Judges
Jeanine Henry Parade Photographer
Renee Jones Office Help
Waynesburg University Bonner Scholars
And volunteers who donated their time to line and disband the parade

Thank you!



Greene County Chamber of Commerce 35th Annual Membership Banquet

Our 35th Annual Membership Banquet was held recently at the beautiful Orndorff farm venue, Valley View Farm. A delicious dinner was catered by Back Bay Catering that guests enjoyed while listening to live guitar music from Cole Leathers.



We would like to thank all of our sponsors
EQT-Event Sponsor, Waynesburg Milling
Company, First Federal Savings and Loan,
Baily Agency, Community Bank, Fox Ford,
Washington Health System Greene,
Wilson Accounting, Waynesburg
University, McCracken Pharmacy, Rotary
Club of Waynesburg, Milliken &
Throckmorton Funeral Home, Inc., Hoy's
Construction Company, Inc., & Blueprints.
A special thank you to Valley View Farm,
Back Bay Catering, Cole Leathers,
Thistlethwaite Vineyards, PA Mug
Company for the unique awards, our
event volunteers and Scholarship Auction
Raffle donors for making this event
special.



We celebrated the outstanding
service to members of the
community by presenting our
Distinguished Service Award to 4
recipients this year; Joe
Ayersman, President Doug Lee,
Debbie Wilson, & Barb Wise
while the McCracken Legacy
Award to Waynesburg Milling
Company. Thanking them for all
that they have done and
brought to the county.





Congratulations to Our 25 Year Members Accepting Their Certificates!

Pennsylvania CareerLink Greene County
Grandel Financial
EMS Southwest, Inc.
Logan & Gatten Law Office
Greene County United Way
Blueprints



WINNER WINNER!

Congratulations to Marci Lewis! She held the winning ticket for the Christmas Cash and Gift Card prize package. A huge shout out to all our local merchants and business owners for participating. Robert can now "Shop Local" and "Shop Small" this Christmas!

RIBBON CUTTINGS



RGB Coffee



The Eatery at Kiln to Table

SMALL BUSINESS SEASON™

NOV 1 - DEC 31, 2022

Shop Local!



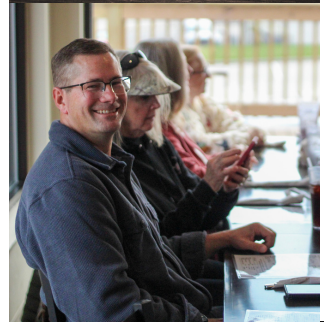
Thank you for a wonderful year
members!

The chamber office will be
closed from December 18th
through January 2nd.



Fly Boys at Asher's at the Airport

Shortly after the fire at the airport, the Greene County Chamber of Commerce office received a call from Rollie Baily, a pilot, asking for details on when we might expect the airport and the restaurant to reopen. From that initial call, a series of calls between Rollie and Melody, our Executive Director, began. Every few months, one would call the other and details were shared on what was happening with the attempt to reopen the restaurant at the Greene County Airport. Stories were shared on how from his home base in Ohio, this was a perfect trip to take a flight, land and have breakfast or lunch and fly home. The process to get the restaurant and the building reopened was plagued by one issue and after another but this only gave them more time to develop a friendship over the phone. When news of Asher's at the Airport was shared and a date set for the opening, Melody called Rollie to let him know. He was ecstatic! His group set a date for a "fly-in" for breakfast in August for Aviation Days and the Candy Drop. A few planes and a few friends joined him for breakfast and soon after, plans for a fall flight were started. This time around, it included more planes and more people. The weather caused some delays but finally the group was able to fly into Greene County on November 4th, have breakfast and Rollie and Melody finally got to meet, along with his wife and many others who share the passion of flying. Through the chamber office, Melody helped organize the gathering by working with Asher's to set up to handle the group, S.O.A.R. to coordinate the planes and to also meet the group and the local media to promote the interest in our little airport, far beyond the county lines. Things like this is what make her job so rewarding. Melody hopes to work with Rollie to bring his group back several times next year.





Membership Dues are coming your way!
They are due at the beginning of the new year in January.
You may pay by sending a check to
3157 Mt. Morris Road, Suite #103, Waynesburg, PA 15370
or by credit card through our website
www.greenechamber.org

Please also use our website under the Members Tab→Member Directory to make sure your business information is up to date!
You may email us at info@greenechamber.org to update anything or to add any new representatives to our system!

BeeGraphix★
BluePrints★
Burn's Orthodontics
Canonsburg Cake Company
Centerville Clinics
CNX
Cornerstone Care
Domestic Violence Services of SWPA
Dress for Success
First Federal Savings & Loan of Greene County★
Frick Tri-County Federal Credit Union
Greene County Chamber of Commerce
Humble Carpet & Decorating Center
Kiln to Table
Peacock Keller★
Rain Day Festival
Rockwell & Sons Pest Control
Valley View Farm
Washington City Mission
Washington Health System★
The Washington Wild Things
Watter's Pools
What's Smokin BBQ

**Congratulations to all of our members that make it into the
Top 3 of the Observer Reporter's Best of the Best!**



★ **Named Best of the Best in one or more of their categories**

Comcast Business Releases 2023 Small Business Cybersecurity Report

Comcast Business has released findings from its [2023 Comcast Business | Small Business Cybersecurity Report](#). The report found that small businesses were under frequent threat from cyber-attacks from July 2022 to June 2023, with daily malware activity roughly doubling year-over-year and peaks in both holiday seasons.

“As small businesses embrace remote and hybrid work policies, relying on off-network and mobile devices for access to applications and data, they become more appealing targets for cybercriminals,” said Shena Seneca Tharnish, Vice President of Secure Networking and Cybersecurity Solutions at Comcast Business. “In the past year, SecurityEdge™ has successfully thwarted billions of threats, helping to protect tens of thousands of small businesses.”

The widespread use of internet-connected devices has given rise to a substantial surge in threat actors targeting small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), with malware, phishing, and botnets being the most common threats. Additionally, there is a concerning lack of security measures in place for mobile devices, as Comcast Business found that nearly 1 in 10 devices, on average, attempted to connect to domains associated with malware, phishing, or malicious bot activity.

“In our current digital age, the importance of safeguarding devices and data, regardless of their location, cannot be overstated. It’s critical for organizations of all sizes to stay secure in order to maintain trust from employees, customers, and other stakeholders,” said Jonathan Morgan, Vice President of Network Security Product Management at Akamai. “With Comcast Business’s SecurityEdge, customers can rest assured that they have the right tools and support in place to help protect their connected devices. We’re proud to be a key component in that solution with our Secure Internet Access services that protect businesses and families across the globe.”

The second annual Comcast Business Small Business Cybersecurity Report is based on anonymized threat data collected from fixed and mobile devices using our SecurityEdge™ service from July 2022 to June 2023. Additionally, the report features security insights from Akamai Technologies, Inc.

For additional information about Comcast Business SecurityEdge™ and the full portfolio of cybersecurity solutions, please visit: <https://business.comcast.com/learn/internet/security-edge>

For more information, call 800-501-6000. Follow on Twitter [@ComcastBusiness](#) and on other social media networks at <http://business.comcast.com/social>.

Waynesburg University Hosts First Business Job and Internship Fair

Waynesburg University’s Pathways Center hosted its first-ever Business Job and Internship Fair for students Wednesday, Nov. 8, on the third floor of the Stover Campus Center. A total of 72 students from a variety of majors were in attendance. Though the event was open to all majors, students majoring in areas of business, computer science and communication were strongly encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to present their resumes and speak with representatives within their fields.

“The Business Job & Internship Fair allowed business, computer science and communication students to network with professionals in their area of study, gain insight into future career opportunities, and even leave with a job or internship offer for some students,” said Samantha Pete, academic services coordinator at Waynesburg University.

Faculty members from the Department of Business Administration worked in tandem with the Pathways Center to identify business contacts to invite. Thanks to their hard work, students were able to communicate with representatives from a wide range of businesses, which included the Commonwealth of PA; FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division; First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Greene County; First National Bank; Holsinger, P.C.; Internal Revenue Service; Lally & Co., LLC; Lifetime Financial Growth; MassMutual Pittsburgh; Mon Health; Northwestern Mutual; Pinnacle Consulting & Recruiting; Pittsburgh Fellows; PRO ZONE: The Agency; S.R. Snodgrass P.C.; Sasser Restoration; Schneider Downs & Co.; The Binkley Kanavy Group; Vector Marketing; Waynesburg University’s Graduate and Professional Studies; and West Virginia University and Waynesburg Army ROTC.

HONORING



JAMES

CROCKARD, III

ZETA-EPSILON

Frater Jim co-founded LOLA Energy, LLC ("LOLA1") in 2015, a locally owned, locally accountable oil and gas operating company focused on horizontal development of shale oil and gas resources based in Pennsylvania. He co-founded in 2017 Muddy Creek Energy Advisors, LLC and a second oil and gas operating company at LOLA Energy II, LLC. LOLA2 designed for horizontal shale gas development. In 2021, Jim founded LOLA Energy III, LLC ("LOLA3"), and in March 2021 closed on an acquisition of Key EM Energy, LLC, renamed LOLA Energy PetroCo, LLC ("PetroCo"). In January 2021, Jim also joined the Board of Directors of Arena Fortify Acquisition Corporation. Jim is a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre where he served as a former Chairman and currently serves as the Audit Committee Chair. Jim is currently the Chairman of the TKE Foundation, Inc.

**TKE FOUNDATION
BOARD**

**TEKE ALUMNUS OF
THE YEAR**

APOLLO AWARD

**MEDAL OF
EXCELLENCE**

**FRATERNITY FOR
LIFE AWARD**

Waynesburg University

The Advantage of a Well-Designed Communication and Education Strategy in Employee Benefits

The logo for My Benefit Advisor, featuring the text "MYBENEFIT ADVISOR" in white, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Few business owners would disagree that a comprehensive employee benefit program plays a critical role in the acquisition and retention of key talent, fostering employee well-being and contributing to the overall success of a company. To ensure that employees can fully understand and appreciate the value of these offerings, effective communication and education is paramount.

The importance of education and communication in employee benefit programs cannot be understated. Clear, targeted, and engaging communication combined with robust education initiatives can maximize the impact of benefit programs, enhance employee satisfaction, and drive positive health outcomes.

Comprehensive and transparent communication is fundamental in ensuring that employees are well informed about their benefit options. Employers should provide accessible, concise, and easy to understand information that clearly outlines the benefits available, eligibility criteria, enrollment procedures, and any changes to existing plans. By utilizing a variety of communication methods, such as emails, intranet portals, webinars and in-person meetings, employers can reach all employees regardless of their level of benefit knowledge and proactively address potential areas of concern or confusion. Transparent communication fosters trust and empowers employees to make informed decisions about their benefits, increasing overall program participation and satisfaction.

Similarly, a sound education strategy is essential to help employees fully understand the value and purpose of the benefits being provided by their employer. Offering educational resources, such as workshops, seminars, webinars, and other informative materials, provides a means for employees to more adequately grasp the intricacies of their benefit packages. These initiatives can explain the importance of various benefits, outline coverage details, highlight cost-sharing responsibilities, and provide examples of how benefits can be utilized effectively. By equipping employees with this knowledge, organizations empower their workers to make informed decisions, maximize the use of available benefits and appreciate the investment made by the company in employee well-being.

Both communication and education efforts should be continuous and not limited to initial onboarding or open enrollment periods. Employers should establish a continuous feedback loop by seeking employee input and regularly communicating updates, enhancements, and new offerings within the benefits portfolio. This approach ensures that employees remain engaged, informed, and provides the greatest opportunity for a substantial return of investment on benefit dollars spent. Additionally, conducting regular program evaluations and soliciting employee feedback through surveys or focus groups enables organizations to identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments to better align benefits to match employee needs and expectations.

The Greene County Chamber of Commerce offers its members access to My Benefit Advisor as a solution for employee benefits, including voluntary offerings. For more information about My Benefit Advisor, visit our website at greene.mybenefitadvisor.com or contact Mike Galardini at (800) 377-3539.

Bowlby Bits - December 2023



Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9am – 7pm | Tuesday & Thursday: 9am – 6pm | Friday & Saturday: 9am – 4pm

OPEN HOUSE & COOKIE WALK – Wednesday December 6th from 3:30 - 7:00 PM. Join us for Music and Refreshments! Bring the little ones for a visit with Santa and special Christmas themed programming. Children should bring their favorite stuffed friend for a Sleepover with Fetch. Anyone ordering cookies from the Friends of Bowlby Library group will pick up orders that evening.

POLAR EXPRESS ACTIVITY NIGHT – Friday December 15th at 6:30 PM. Join us for a night full of holiday activities. We'll end the night with a showing of The Polar Express movie! Hot Chocolate and cookies will be provided to all who attend. Be sure to wear your pajamas...even the grown-ups! Call, or come into the library to sign up today.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE BUILDING – Saturday, December 9th from 12:00 – 3:00 PM. Join us for a fun afternoon of gingerbread house building for kids and families. Call or come into the library today to sign up!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – Enjoy a movie here at the library Friday, December 8th, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. In the Library's STEM Room. This Month's Movie is Barbie: The Movie. FREE snack and beverage! Call the library to RSVP your seat(s).

PUZZLE COMPETITION – Saturday, December 16th @ 9:30am – 12:30 PM. A max of 10 teams of two to compete in putting together a 500-piece puzzle in three hours or less. Contact the library to sign-up. A prize is awarded to the fastest team.

COSMIC BINGO – Friday, December 22nd will be a fun night of Glow in the Dark or "COSMIC" Bingo! The game starts at 7:00 PM.

BOWLBY BOOK CLUB – New members are always welcome to join! Held on on Thursday, December 14th at 4:30 PM. This month's book discussion is on Charlotte Brontë's "Jane Eyre".

STORY CLASSES – Fall Story Classes are almost done. But our Spring story classes will be starting up in March. So call, come in, or check our website to register for our upcoming classes! Baby Lap Sit – ages 6 weeks to 18 months - Tuesdays and Thursday at 10:30 AM

Toddlers – ages 18 months to 35 months - Tuesdays at 11:30 AM and 5:00 PM | Thursdays at 1:30 PM

Preschoolers – ages 3-5 years - Mondays at 10:30 AM | Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 PM

Stories Under The Moon – ages 2-6 years - Wednesdays at 6 PM

FAMILY PLACE – Please join us every Friday for our Parent/Child Workshop Classes offered at 10:30 AM exclusively offered for 0 to 3-yr-olds. A community professional will be present at each class to share their expertise with parents. Class Date: Dec. 4th.

BOWLBY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – Monday, December 4th at 6:30 PM; meeting is open to the public.

MAHJONG CLUB – Meets every Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Mahjong is a tile-based game that's been played in Asia for over 300 years and is gaining global popularity. It's fairly easy to learn the basics.

CPR/AED TRAINING [AHA] – Saturday, December 16th 10 AM to 2 PM. CPR Certification classes for Adult, Child, & Infant First Aid, and AED. Cost is \$88 and includes 2-year certification card and manual. RSVP required to Sharon at 724-984-5702 and seating is limited

COMMUNITY SOLAR PRESENTATION – A short 15-minute presentation on Community Solar for homeowners, renters and business owners followed by questions and answers. Starts at 2:30 PM.

FRIENDS SHARING GRIEF – Meets on the first Monday evening of every month at 5:00 PM. This is a support group for those who are struggling with the loss of an important person in their life.

TECH TUTORING – Need help with one of your devices?? We want to help! Every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon [1PM – 3PM]. Call the library to reserve a time-slot. Bring your electronic devices (and charging cords if needed), account passwords, and your library card. One of our tech savvy librarians will help you with a variety of technology services.

T.O.P.S.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly – Is a weight management support group that meets every Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00AM.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME SESSIONS – Dungeons & Dragons Game Sessions are hosted at the library every Friday and Saturday afternoon. The sessions will begin at 12:30 PM and will run until 3:30 PM and will be led by Dungeon Master Eric & Matt respectively. Seating is limited so please sign up in person at the library or by calling us at 724-627-9776.

Call or stop in at Eva K. Bowlby Public Library for more info or to register for any of the above events.

724-627-9776 • 311 N. West St., Waynesburg, PA 15370 • www.evakbowlby.org





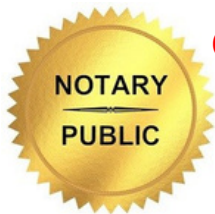
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Notary service is available by appointment. Notary work (excluding title transfers) is free to chamber members as part of your membership benefits.

Email melody@greenechamber.org or call 724-998-2386 to schedule an appointment.

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melody@greenechamber.org
 for more information!



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Want To Volunteer But Don't Know How To Get Started?

R S V P TODAY!

RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) of Greene County offers meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities for adults ages 55 & over.

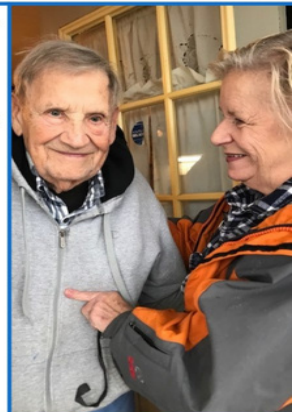


Benefits of Volunteering:

- Supplemental Accident Insurance
- Mileage Reimbursements
- Opportunity to Meet New People
- Make a Difference in your Community

RSVP volunteers may serve as:

- Financial Literacy Course Instructor
- Food Bank/Pantries
- Home Delivered Meals Drivers
- Store to Door Grocery Delivery
- Telephone Reassurance
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Tax Preparer



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