

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce

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www.waynesburgchamber.com

To provide services and programs that will increase the success of member businesses and organizations and enhance the economy and quality of life in the Waynesburg Area. To remain a politically unbiased and enthusiastic resource to our members and the community at large.

Chamber Awards Distinguished Service Awards for 2007

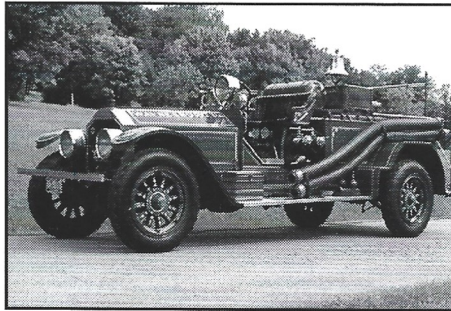


Dr. Nancy Davis

The Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce has selected the 2007 Distinguished Service Award recipients. Chosen for the individual award was Dr. Nancy Davis of Dilliner, longtime educator and founding coordinator of Westmoreland County Community College's Greene County Education Center. The Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Company was selected as the organization winner. Mr. John R. Gardner will also be honored with a posthumous Distinguished Service Award.

Each year the awards are based on lasting contributions to community welfare, participation in civic organizations, evidence of leadership ability, success in vocation, personal and/or business progress, and cooperation with other individuals and organizations. The award has no relation to work performed for the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Davis currently serves as the Greene County Education Center's workforce development coordinator. Her role as a public educator since the mid-60s has influenced Greene County's young people greatly, but her crowning role has been the part she played in establishing a branch of WCCC here in 1999 with 64 students enrolled. These days well over



Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Company

200 students attend the college each semester. Through it all, Dr. Davis has encouraged the commissioners and other community leaders to help support this effort so that people of all ages here can afford post-secondary education. Nancy has also worked for many years alongside her husband, the Rev. 'Blackie' Davis, who pastors Sugar Grove Baptist Church.

In a year when Greene County made headlines across the country for the tragic Franklin Township fire which killed six young children and the mother of three of them, the Distinguished Service Award Committee thought it fitting to honor the Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Company for their commitment to protecting the Waynesburg area and surrounding communities. Always among the first responders on scenes of human tragedy, including a large number of traffic fatalities this year, and ranging from fires and vehicle accidents to industrial accidents and natural disasters, these volunteers also devote many hours to fund-raising and community service. The company formed in 1926, a direct result of the Downey House Fire which broke out Dec. 23, 1925. At the time, the town's fire fighting operation consisted of a loosely organized group of volunteers under the direction of Chief J. R. Davis who was also police chief. The town owned one hose and one cart. Five volunteer firemen died in that fire and property losses were about \$1 million. By the 70s and 80s the number and variety of calls required ever more sophisticated equipment, like rescue vehicles and mobile command centers, and better training, as much as 50 hours annu-



John R. Gardner

ally. These days, firefighters are routinely called out well over 100 times each month to handle chemical emergencies, power line calls, vehicle accident extrications, carbon monoxide calls, "pump detail" during floods, and animal rescues, among other things.

In March of 2007, Greene County Commissioner John R. Gardner passed away. It was a sad time in the County with black buntings flying at the courthouse. John, who many referred to as "Mr. Greene County", happened to be a commissioner at the time but was so much more to so many. His service to the community started in the 1970's when he volunteered as the first zoning inspector for the Borough. In 1979, he was appointed to the seat of County Commissioner to fill the seat vacated by the death of Ernest Lemley. John was subsequently elected to three more terms, in 1980, 1996 and 2000. John had also worked part-time as a driver for Central Cab, driving charter buses for many local high school teams and universities, including Waynesburg University and WVU. He was an elder at the First Presbyterian Church and a former member of the Board of Trustees of Waynesburg University. He had served as

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(Chamber Awards continued)

both chief and president of the Waynesburg Volunteer Fire Company. John attended the Jacktown Fair and the Greene County fair for many years. He appreciated the work and dedication it took for 4-H members to raise, show and market their animals. Plus the fairs gave John an opportunity to do what he loved – talk with the people of Greene County. In the late 1970's John began purchasing market animals but always donated them back to the 4-Her or to the 4-H scholarship fund. Purchasing these animals became a way for John to give back to the community and help the 4-H program. John touched the lives of many of the people in Greene County through many different avenues. While his service as County Commissioner readily comes to mind, he had his sights set on helping move the county and its people forward.

Welcome New Members

Office Systems of Fayette and Greene, Inc.

Cam Buerger, Owner
95 East High Street
724-852-2288
cbuerger@aldelphia.net
4 Employees

Xerox Equipment Sales

JPA Land Company, Inc. Victoria Square

Mr. Phil Armstrong, President
95 East High Street,
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-344-1535
philarms1@verizon.net
3 employees

Commercial & Residential Rentals

Nationwide Insurance

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103 Carmichaels Plaza
Carmichaels, PA 15320
724-966-7156
Fax 724-966-8660

stouffl@nationwide.com
Insurance & Investments

American Red Cross

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Mr. John Demarco, Field Representative
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Morgantown, WV 26505
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Members in the Spotlight

CHAMBER MEMBER PUBLISHES NOVEL

Daniel Morris, former editor/publisher and university professor has published his first work of fiction, spinning an unusual mystery tale. "Grave Creek Connections" is a mystery set in both Pennsylvania and West Virginia and in fictional George County, a stand-in for Greene County Pennsylvania. Morris said he fictionalized the county so readers would not assume his characters were real people. The story centers on a police investigation of the disappearance of college co-eds whose bodies are found in nearby hunting lands. The clueless investigators, in desperation turn to a couple of local psychics. There is plenty of authentic history, pseudohistory and great-sounding nonsense here to satisfy lover of the mysterious and supernatural—plus visits to an abandoned penitentiary, the real-life Hare Krishna Palace of Gold in West Virginia and the surprising discovery of a buried runestones connected to the early Mormons. Eventually some of the townsfolk begin to talk, a couple of loose-lips speak and the mystery begins to unravel as they discover a shocking cult, quietly populated with the town's eminent business people. It's a real quick read and good fun with an unexpected ending that made the book editor's spine crawl. Best of all it's available for Halloween. Excerpts can be read by searching Grave Creek Connections in GoogleBooks and a short film can be seen at GraveCreek.com Bookstore or gift shop owners etc.can order deeply discounted copies in bulk by contacting Amanda Dowdy at 888-537-6727 adowdy@bookmasters.com for more information. The book is available now at Amazon.com, SunRiverBooks.com and BookMasters.com. <http://www.gravecreek.com>



Laick Design Recognized in National Publication

Alan Laick of Laick Design was recently interviewed for the September 2007 issue of Graphic Design USA, a monthly news magazine for creative professionals. The interview focused on ethnicity, race and gender in the graphic design field. The magazine will be available for purchase at newsstands

in early October 2007. Laick Design is a comprehensive visual communications company, dedicated to taking on marketing and design challenges and exceeding expectations without compromise. Our unique experiences in every facet of design – including advertising, software training, graphic design, mass media, multimedia, and web development is utilized to deliver success with your reputation in mind. Founded in 2002, Laick Design continues to harness the full power of interactive media. The company's work has earned many awards and industry acclaim. For more information on Laick Design please visit: <http://www.laickdesign.com>, 724-880-0921, alan@laickdesign.com

JPA LAND CO, INC.



JPA Land Company, Inc. began providing affordable housing for the Washington and Greene County areas in 1989. They buy, sell, rehab, lease and manage Residential and Commercial real estate. They pride themselves in taking properties that are in a state of disrepair and transforming them into the pride of the neighborhood. In 2003 as the company grew they incorporated and decided to enter into the Commercial real estate market. The latest acquisition the VICTORIA SQUARE COMPLEX located at 95 E.High St. Waynesburg,Pa.,is in the process of restoration with a plan to restore the grandeur this building once knew in an era gone by. Currently, Marshall Elevator is installing a state of the art elevator into this 5 story complex. The VICTORIA SQUARE COMPLEX is proud to announce the availability of newly renovated residential suites and commercial space ranging from 250 to 5000 Square feet. Stop in and talk to one of the residents and see why they are proud to be part of the VICTORIA SQUARE COMPLEX. For more information call 724-344-1535.

Welcome To Our New Board Members

Five members were elected to the 2008-2010 term of the Board of Directors at the October Membership Milestone Awards Luncheon. The following members will begin their terms in January.

Mike Baily

Coldwell Banker - Baily Agency

Connie Burd

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful

Anna Petrovich

Greene County Education Center of Westmoreland County Community College

David Stoneking

Mark IV Office Supply

Heidi Szuminsky

Waynesburg University

New Representatives

Heidi Szuminsky

Waynesburg University

Steve Noe

American Red Cross - Greene County

Raj Patel

Super 8 Motel

New Addresses

Douglas Saesan,

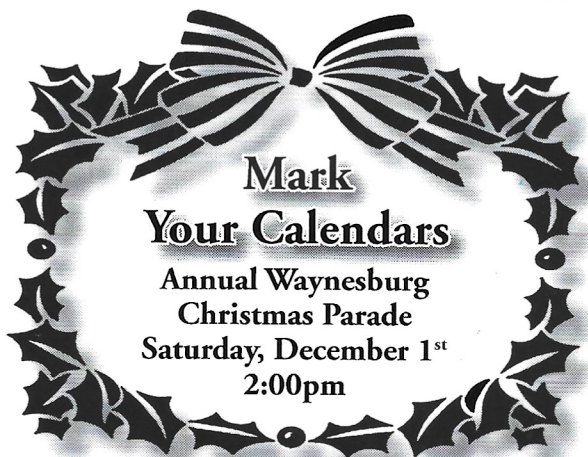
Marriage & Family Counselor

668 Anita Venue, Antioch, IL 60002

Pollock Thomas, L.L.C.

54 South Washington Street, Waynesburg

New Websites
Hoyle's Graphic Xpressions
www.hgxgraphics.com



Thompson's Christian Bookstore

"The Lord has blessed Thompson's Christian Bookstore who is quietly celebrating 50 years. November 14, 1957 to November 14, 2007. Sincere thanks to all of my Greene County family and friends from everywhere for faithful support."

-Juanita Thompson

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CARMICHAELS OFFICE: 101 West George Street • PO Box 397 • Carmichaels, PA 15320 • (724) 966-5053

WAYNESBURG DRIVE-THRU: Intersection of Routes 19 & 21 • Waynesburg, PA 15370 • (724) 852-2203

UNIONTOWN DRIVE-THRU: McClellandtown Rd • Uniontown, PA 15401 • (724) 430-2889

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 460 Washington Rd • Washington, PA 15301 • (724) 228-9005

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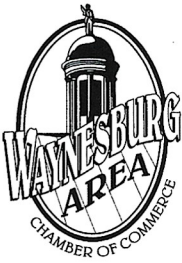
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