

# CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce  
Phone: (724) 627-5926 • Fax: (724) 627-8017  
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[www.greenepa.net/~wbgchamb](http://www.greenepa.net/~wbgchamb)

## President's Letter

Well summer is over, kids are back to school and autumn will be upon us. The chamber will be busy out and about at the upcoming festivals in the area. If you would like to volunteer to help Melody, call her for dates and times.

The annual membership banquet has been scheduled for November at the Elks in Waynesburg: the date has not been set. As you probably know we honor the Distinguished Service Award winner at the banquet. The Chamber is making some changes to the banquet this year so come and enjoy a night out with your fellow members.

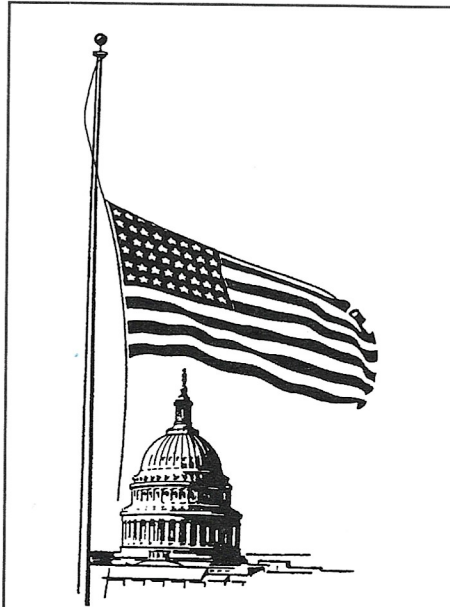
The Distinguished Service Award applications will be in this newsletter, if you have any suggestions, please fill out the form and return it to Melody at the chamber office.

The Chamber will be producing its last Christmas ornament this year. The 2001 ornament will have the Original Greene County Courthouse printed on it. There have been a total of 5 ornaments starting with the current Greene County Courthouse, which we will have reprinted because they are no longer available. For those of you that want to have a complete set we still have the other years available at the chamber office.

The revitalization vision statement and kick off will be **October 10th** watch for the time and place and join us for the festivities

October 16th and 17th the chamber will be having a membership drive, Laurel from ChamberChoice will be in the office to assist Melody.

Susan W. Stoy, President



## One Important Note . . .

Many of you are looking for ways to support the countless victims of the recent tragedies. The Central Blood Bank in the Southwest Region has been flooded with calls, and the lines are continually busy. You may visit the following site, where you can complete an online appointment request form. Much simpler, and the Blood Bank will return a call within 48 hours.

<http://www.itxm.org/CBB/CBB.HTM>

## WELCOME New Members

### GREENWOOD PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

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### RICH'S MANUFACTURED HOMES

Donna Hoy  
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Carmichaels, PA 15320  
724-966-5718  
724-966-8413 fax  
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and modular homes

## WELCOME New Representatives

Susan Cowan representing Warrior Trail School.

Amy Widdup representing Greene County United Way.

Although not a new representative, Dr. Amy Rameas has recently tied the knot and is now Dr. Amy Negrey. Congratulations Amy!!

## Food for Thought

"Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together . . ."

-Carl Zwanzig

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2001**

**Noon to 1:00 p.m. • Groovy's American Cafe**

**SPEAKER: NANCY DAVIS – SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**TOPIC: HUMAN CAPITAL: THE CHANGING ECONOMY OF SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

*Networking Opportunity - Bring Your Business Cards*

**ChamberChoice™**  
*Health Plans for Small Business*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 30th

Revitalization Committee Training - 6:00 p.m. - Stover Center - R.S.V.P. required for dinner

### October 10th

Revitalization Public Meeting and unveiling of Vision & Plan - 6:00 p.m. - Waynesburg Theater & Arts Center

### October 15-19

Annual Membership Drive

### November 3rd

Annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting and Banquet - Waynesburg Elks

### December 1st

Annual Downtown Christmas Parade - 2:00 p.m. - sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

## Members Take Advantage of Alltel ADSL Service

Members are offered the chance to sign up for high speed Internet service (ADSL) through Alltel. The following members have signed up to take advantage of this great benefit.

Kiwi Fence Systems

John Owen

Timothy N. Logan, Esquire

The Corner Cupboard Food Bank

This high speed internet service is on display at the Chamber office and if you'd like to stop by and surf the net for a few minutes, you'll see how much time you can save with this feature. In addition, you no longer need two lines to use your phone and your Internet service at the same time; this one line does both at the same time. For more information or to get a sign-up sheet faxed to you, please call the Chamber office.

## Diabetes Classes

Greene County Memorial Hospital

October 9, 11, 16 & 18, 2001

6:00-9:00 p.m.

Learn how to live well with Diabetes

Call for more information

724-627-2645

## WCCC & Cisco Systems To Provide Technology Education to Students

Westmoreland County Community College is teaming with Cisco Systems, Inc., the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet, to become the site of a local Cisco Networking Academy starting this September at the college's Youngwood campus. As a local Cisco Networking Academy, WCCC will conduct coursework to prepare students to take the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) examination. Upon successful completion of the program and certification exam, students gain CCNA certification and are prepared to pursue higher education in computer science or computer engineering or enter the information technology workforce. The CCNA preparation includes 280-hours of hands-on instruction by Cisco trained WCCC faculty on Cisco equipment. The first in a series of four course modules is Telecommunications Fundamentals, a five credit class that will meet Tuesdays and Thursday from 1 to 1:45 p.m. beginning September 11th. As one of 5,700 Cisco networking academics around the world, the WCCC program is open to adults desiring to prepare for an information technology career and high school students who have previously received Cisco training at their vocational-technical schools. The Networking Academy program at WCCC will provide coursework in basic through advanced networking concepts. Through a combination of web-based, instructor-led learning and hands-on instruction, students will learn how to design, build and maintain computer networks of local, national and global business. Students must complete an additional four modules of coursework to prepare for Cisco Certified Networking Professional (CCNP) certification. Registration is currently being conducted for the Telecommunication Fundamentals class and enrollment is limited. To register or for information, call WCCC at 1-800-262-2103.

## Chamber Polo Shirts Still Available

Green polo shirts with the Chamber logo embroidered in white are now available to members at a cost of \$20 each, \$24 for XXL. Members are encouraged to purchase shirts and wear them proudly to let everyone know that you support your Chamber of Commerce!!! To order shirts, please contact the office.

## Illuminate Pennsylvania in Pink

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and participation is being sought in the "Illuminate Pennsylvania for Breast Cancer Awareness" program. During the first week in October, buildings, organizations, companies, and other important community landmarks throughout the state will be illuminated in pink. Evelyn Lauder's Breast Cancer Research Foundation will be conducting the same awareness campaign on the international level. Illuminating all prominent buildings and landmarks will highlight the importance of early detection of breast cancer in a unique way. All Chamber of Commerce members are invited to take part in this special program and will be provided at no cost, gel filters that can be placed over floodlights or up to 1000 watts, on buildings or landmarks. Gel filters for flood lights come in two sizes: 10"x10" and 20"x24" and can be cut to fit. To get your filters, please contact Carolyn at the Penn State Extension Office at 724-627-3745. Let's illuminate rural Pennsylvania to spread the message: the best protection against death from breast cancer is early detection.

## FRESHMAN PLUNGE IS A PART OF WAYNESBURG COLLEGE WELCOME DAYS

Waynesburg College students began the school year plunging into service work on Saturday, August 25th. From 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, over 420 freshman students and upperclassmen orientation leaders assisted over 50 social service agencies in Greene County. Some of the service sites included: Warrior Trail School, Greene County Women's Center, and Mt. Morris Food Pantry, where students did painting, cleaning, and food preparation. Center for Service Leadership Director Pat Delaney coordinated the event. "This is a great way to immediately involve our incoming students with our service program," explained Delaney. "The Plunge is our commitment to community service and a way to introduce the community and the many types of services the county has to offer to our students". The plunge is one activity among others planned to kick off the new school year. Students also participated in a Challenge by Choice team building initiative at Ryerson Station on Sunday afternoon and the Passing of the Torch Ceremony on Campus at Johnson Commons. Classes began on August 27th.



## Tapping Workforce Development Resources Proves Beneficial to Travel Tourism and Hospitality Industry

Employers in the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Industry are tapping into Pennsylvania's workforce development resources by actively participating in the Team PA Workforce Investment Board and Youth Council, and by using the CareerLink system. Here is what some industry insiders are saying.

"Until my appointment earlier this year to the Team PA Workforce Investment Board our industry was not represented at the state level," said Bill Brett, Vice President of corporate services for Crown American Hotels. "Our industry has got to become more involved with the 23 local Workforce Investment Boards across the Commonwealth so that we're in a position to better communicate our industry's workforce needs to local policy makers," Brett added.

"Often local workforce investments have not been targeted toward our industry because workforce development officials have not been made aware of our industry's needs," said Nate Douty, Vice President of Human Resources at Hershey Entertainment & Resorts and a member of the statewide Youth Council. "It's our responsibility to become involved with the state and local workforce investment boards and councils if we expect our industry's workforce needs to be addressed," Douty added.

The PA Travel Council encourages its members to consider utilizing the CareerLink resources as part of their overall human resources planning and recruitment strategy. "CareerLink has been a phenomenal resource," said Don Griffin, director of human resources at the Hilton Pittsburgh. "The job candidates we've secured through the CareerLink system have been high quality and we've had success filling entry level, supervisory and management positions from among the CareerLink candidate pool. With over 450 employees, we rely on many recruitment sources, but recently, the CareerLink has consistently delivered about 15-20 percent of our overall candidate pool", Griffin said.

Nadine Costigan, recruiting coordinator for Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Spa--one of Southwestern Pennsylvania's largest employers with over 800 employees--reports that, "Our property has used the CareerLink

service extensively to recruit candidates for hourly, supervisory, and management positions. We are very pleased with the quality of candidates coming through CareerLink and it now represents the single largest source of our applicants with approximately 10-15 percent of current new hires coming from the CareerLink network," Costigan added.

The PA Travel Council has offered assistance to its members in becoming involved in local boards and councils. Also, according to Terry Singer, director of workforce development for the Council, "The PA Travel Council is offering a workshop this fall on how to use the CareerLink system." For more information about the Council's workforce development efforts, please contact Singer at 717-232-8880, ext. 100, or via email at [tsinger@patravel.org](mailto:tsinger@patravel.org).

## ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION

We always welcome your news articles and press releases concerning your business. Please submit material for the Chamber newsletter by the 1st day of each month for the month in which you would like it published. Photos are encouraged.

Inserts may be placed in the newsletter for a fee of \$65 and advertising rates are also available at \$20.00 per month for a business card size.

For more information or to discuss an article idea or ad, please contact the Chamber office.

### WAYNESBURG PROSPEROUS & BEAUTIFUL, INC.

### DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE TRAINING

Design - Promotion  
Organization  
Economic Restructuring

**Thursday, September 27th • 6:00 p.m.**

Dinner will be served - \$6.00  
Stover Center - Waynesburg College  
R.S.V.P. to 627-5926 by September 25th

Please try to attend. At this meeting, Mr. Fontana will be present to conduct training for each committee and answer questions.

# TAX RELIEF – What's in it for you?

By Timothy D. Matthew, 724-743-6151, [www.tmatthew.com](http://www.tmatthew.com), in conjunction with Lincoln Financial Advisors.

With the enactment of the much-talked-about Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, nearly every taxpayer will see their federal tax burden drop. How greatly will you be affected? To give you an idea, we've summarized the major provisions of the new law below.

## Lower Income Tax Rates

The new law lowers individual income tax rates over the next five years. (See table) It also creates a new 10% individual income tax bracket for a portion of taxable income that is currently taxed at 15%, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000. Rather than incorporating the 10% rate into the 2001 tax rate schedules, the new law directs the Treasury to mail an "advance refund" check to most individual taxpayers who filed a return for 2000. The maximum refund will be \$600 for married couples filing joint returns, \$500 for heads of households, and \$300 for single filers and married persons filing separately.

	2001	2002-2003	2004-2005	2006 and after
28% Rate Reduced to:	27.5%	27%	26%	25%
31% Rate Reduced to:	30.5%	30%	29%	28%
36% Rate Reduced to:	35.5%	35%	34%	33%
39.6% Rate Reduced to:	39.1%	38.6%	37.6%	35%

## Itemized Deductions and Personal Exemptions

Higher income taxpayers are limited in the amount of itemized deductions they can claim and often are unable to use some or all of their personal exemptions as well. Under the new law, the limitation on itemized deductions and the personal exemptions "phase-out" will be reduced by one-third in taxable years beginning in 2006 and 2007, and by two-thirds in taxable years beginning 2008 and 2009. The limitation on itemized deductions and the phase-out of personal exemptions will be eliminated for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

## Higher Tax Credit

Before the new law, qualifying taxpayers could claim a \$500 tax credit for each qualifying dependent child under the age of 17. Under the new law, the child tax credit is increased to \$1000 over 10 years, starting 2001.

Calendar Year	Credit Amount per Child
2001-2004	\$600
2005-2008	\$700
2009	\$800
2010	\$1,000

## Estate Tax Repealed – Gift Tax Reduced

Starting in 2002, the top estate and gift tax rates will drop gradually and the amount of property exempted from estate and generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax will increase in steps. The GST tax is applied to lifetime or death-time transfers to a member of a generation more than one generation younger than you - a grandchild, for instance. It's equal to the highest tax rate and is paid in addition to estate tax.

Year	Estate Transfer Exemption	GST Exemption	Highest Transfer Tax Rate
2002	\$1 Million	\$1.06 Million Indexed	50%
2003	\$1 Million	\$1.06 Million Indexed	49%
2004	\$1.5 Million	\$1.5 Million	48%
2005	\$1.5 Million	\$1.5 Million	47%
2006	\$2 Million	\$2 Million	46%
2007	\$2 Million	\$2 Million	45%
2008	\$2 Million	\$2 Million	45%
2009	\$3.5 Million	\$3.5 Million	45%
2010	Taxes Repealed	Taxes Repealed	35%

\* gift tax rate equal to the highest individual income tax rate

The law contains a "sunset" provision that reinstates the current law (2001) for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010. So, unless Congress changes the law in 2011, the tax rate will be back to 55% with an exemption of \$1 Million.

## Step-Up in Basis

Starting in 2010, the present rules providing for a fair market value – "stepped-up" – basis for property inherited from a decedent will be repealed and replaced with a modified *carryover* basis rule. In general the basis of property received from a decedent will be lesser of (1) the decedent's adjusted basis in the property or (2) the property's fair market value on the date of death. The new rule allows a limited step-up in basis: (1) generally a \$1.3 million basis increase is permitted and (2) an additional \$3 million basis increase is available to a surviving spouse. Thus an estate of a descendant with a surviving spouse could pass up to a total of \$4.3 million with a step-up in basis for the appreciated portion of their property.

These are only some of the many changes wrought by The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. Other changes could have a major impact on most people's financial, retirement, and estate planning. Your professional financial advisor can help you determine how greatly you are affected.

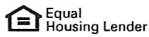




# Community Bank

Telephone Banking 1-888-223-8099

Carmichaels 724-966-5041	Greene Plaza 724-627-3134	McMurray 724-941-9030	Washington 724-225-5300	Washington Mall 724-225-4797
Claysville 724-663-7723	Greensboro 724-943-3581	Pioneer 724-499-5136	Waynesburg 724-852-1715	Southpointe 724-743-0700



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Call the office if you are interested.



## Schedule for 2001

October 17 Rand Whipple performs Shakespeare's Clowns  
In the local schools and Waynesburg College PAC

## Bell's Wholesale Grocery, Inc.

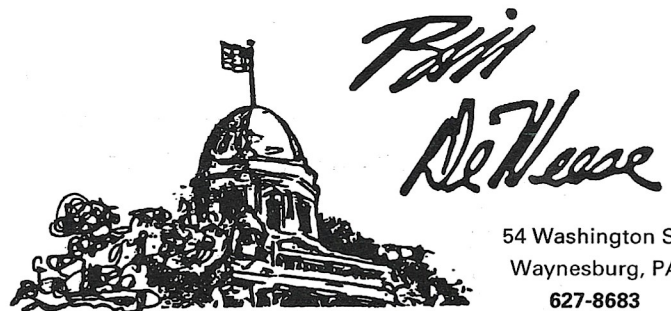
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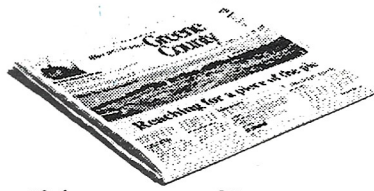
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FAYETTE OFFICE: Main & Beeson • PO Box 1246 • Uniontown, PA 15401 • (724) 437-2861  
CARMICHAELS OFFICE: 101 West George Street • PO Box 397 • Carmichaels, PA 15320 • (724) 966-5053  
WAYNESBURG DRIVE-THRU: Intersection of Routes 19 & 21 • Waynesburg, PA 15370 • (724) 852-2203  
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For all your community's needs, we're there, keeping your lines of communication open and more.



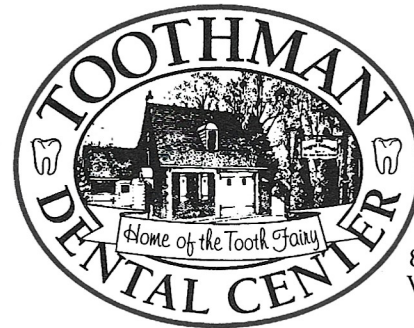
**P R O M I S T A R**



**BANK**

WAYNESBURG OFFICE  
1 West High St.  
Waynesburg, PA  
Sheila Barger, Manager

Ph.# 724-627-6126  
Fax# 724-627-6645

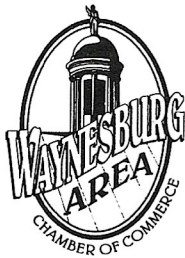


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**WAYNESBURG AREA  
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