

CHAMBER CHATTER

The Newsletter of the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce
 Phone: (724) 627-5926 • Fax: (724) 627-8017
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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.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This past month I had the pleasure to show off Waynesburg and the surrounding area to a reporter and photographer from the Tribune Review.

For two and a half days, we visited area merchants, business owners, local offices and historical sites throughout Waynesburg. They were genuinely impressed with the people and the town. They could not comprehend the fact that we could just walk in and speak with the President of a bank or the owner of a business without an appointment. The fact that all of us in the downtown know one another and are on a first name basis also seemed to come as a surprise.

We traveled several miles on foot and a few more by car over those two and a half days and they went home with almost 100 images on film and page after page of notes. In the two weeks that followed their visit, they have phoned the office on several occasions, checking facts and spellings. They told me their community profile is to consist of about 500 words but they could easily write 1000 or more.

The community profile will appear in the Focus Section on September 15th in the Sunday edition of the Tribune Review. The Chamber office will be receiving copies that are available at half price, or .50 cents an issue.

I want to thank the many businesses and local offices who graciously took time from their day to speak with the reporter and have their photo taken. They truly enjoyed their visit here thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,
 Melody R. Longstreth
 Executive Director

New Flower Baskets

Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, Inc. recently installed flower baskets on each lamppost in the downtown area. Each day they become more and more lovely.

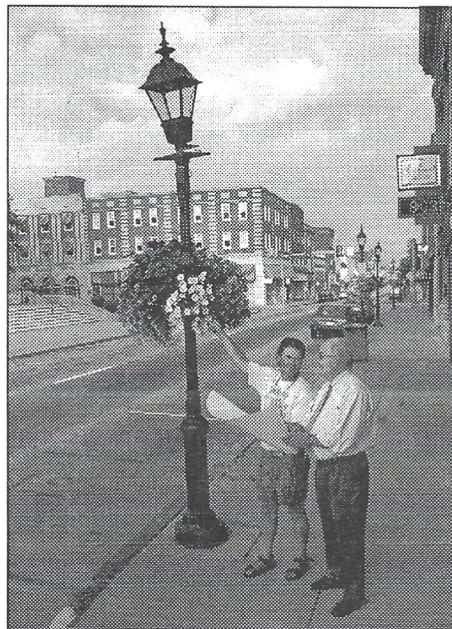


Photo by Gretchen Graham – Picture Perfect Images

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President's Letter

Classic cars filling the crowded main drag, people going in and out of stores, the sound of neighbors greeting neighbors, the smell of roasting chicken on the Fire Department's grille—all these sensations were reported by those who were in town last Saturday.

Congratulations are in order to the Promotions Committee of Waynesburg, Prosperous and Beautiful for the first annual Car Cruise. Chamber members will know that the sponsors of the Cruise are a friendly spin-off from the Chamber, and their work complements ours. The key element to note about the Car Cruise, in addition to the good will it generated, was the fact that **it increased business volume in the High Street stores.**

During the event, organizer Chris Kiger of the Fashion Shopp, went door to door to gauge responses. The overwhelming majority of merchants reported strong visitor traffic and sales. One reason, as stated by the wives of the car owners was that, ordinarily the car shows take place in a field or at a stadium, but this time, they were treated to a beautiful small town in which they could shop! This is what is called a Win-Win situation, and the committee is to be commended.

On another note, don't forget to reserve your places at the annual banquet. This is a great time for all of us to get together for an evening and relax. It is also a time to recognize leadership. This year, in addition to the Service Award, we will be honoring Yost Drilling for their heroic efforts in saving the trapped miners. Also, Jeanine Henry from the Small Business Development Center of the University of Pittsburgh will be presenting **WriteIdea**, a unique business plan competition for women-owned enterprises that are start-ups or have been in business for a year or less within the county. The local winner will be recognized and go on to compete for part of a \$25,000 prize.

I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
 Charles Perrine
 President

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2002
Noon to 1:00 p.m. • Groovy's American Cafe

SPEAKERS: DAVE KAHLEY, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE PROGRESS FUND
DIANE L. WIEGMAN, SENIOR LOAN OFFICER

TOPIC: THE PROGRESS FUND – LEARN HOW THE PROGRESS FUND CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY
Networking Opportunity - Bring Your Business Cards for Door Prize Drawing

ANNUAL BANQUET OCTOBER 12TH

This is an evening full of good food, awards, entertainment and networking. Don't miss it. The event will be held at the Waynesburg Elks beginning with no-host cocktails from 6:00 to 7:00, dinner and awards from 7:00 to 9:00 with after dinner music to follow. Special community awards will be unveiled and the Distinguished Service Award will be presented. Deadline for reservations is October 4th. Phone 724-627-5926 or 724-627-8683.

Painting Class Offered

Studio R will be offering their final series of beginner's painting classes - a Fall series and a Winter/Spring series. Carol will be retiring in the summer of 2003. As with all classes, there is a last day to register or withdraw. Students were turned away from her most recently session because of a full roster, so don't wait to register if you are interested. All classes run from 8:30 to noon Saturdays. Coffee and tea are provided.

- Pen & Ink Floral - September 18 & 25 Register by September 11
- Tole Saw - September 21, 28, October 5 Register by September 7
- New Geneva/Greensboro Pots Still Life October 2, 9, 16, Register by September 25
- Brush Lettering - October 12 Register by September 28
- Shriver Covered Bridge in Winter - October 19, 26, November 2 Register by October 5
- Winter Mail Pouch Barn (on 19 South) - October 23, 30, November 6 Register by October 9
- Portrait - November 9, 16, 23, December 7 Register by October 2
- Do Your Own Thing - November 13, 20, December 4 Register by October 30

For further information on any of the classes, please contact Carol Randolph at Studio R at 724-852-6363, stop by at 43 North Morgan Street or visit her web site at www.mystudior.com.

MEMBER PROFILES



Rolling Meadows Nursing Home is a non-profit nursing facility located in rural Waynesburg providing care for Greene, Washington and Fayette County. They are fully accredited and approved for Medicare and Medicaid. They are committed to serving those individuals requiring long-term nursing care or rehabilitation therapy. Rolling Meadows has been in business for 8 years and employs 130 individuals. For more information contact representative Heather Bendik at 724-627-3153 or visit them at 107 Curry Road in Waynesburg.

If you would like to see your business profiled here, please contact the office at 724-627-5926 or send in an article with logo and photo if desired.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Braden Run Animal Hospital
Dr. Anita McMillen, V.M.D.
216 Braden Run Road
Waynesburg, PA 15370
724-627-5079
Fax: 724-627-6812
hunt4rocks@alltel.net
3 employees
Veterinary Practice

Gene Yost & Son Excavating and Drilling, Inc.
372 Steel Hill Road
Mt. Morris, Pa. 15349
724-324-2205



Laick Design
Mr. Alan Laick, Creative Director
25 Phillip Circle
Fairchance, Pa. 15436
724-564-5854
alan@laickdesign.com
www.laickdesign.com
2 employees
Graphic Design/ Web Design

Waynesburg Floral
Mr. Jay Gardner
138 East High Street
Waynesburg, Pa. 15370
724-627-6196
Floral Shop

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 also 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Covered Bridge Festival
September 21 and 22
- September General Membership Meeting
September 25 - Groovy's
- Arts in the Park Festival - Ryerson Station State Park
September 28 & 29
- Board of Directors Meeting - Groovy's
October 2nd (one week early)
- Chamber office closed
October 3 to October 10
- Annual Member Banquet - Waynesburg Elks
October 12
- Waynesburg College Homecoming Weekend - October 19 and 20
- Harvest Festival - Greene County Historical Society
October 19 and 20

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Lavern's Restaurant has recently taken the spotlight as the setting for the NBC drama "The West Wing." On August 27th, the restaurant played host to production crew and video cameras as a little of prime time came to Greene County. The series, which is set in the White House, will have segments showing the restaurant in the season premiere on September 25th. The story line has the characters stopping at an out-of-the-way diner in Indiana. And Lavern's happened to be just the backdrop they were looking for. The Pittsburgh Film Office markets the southwestern Pennsylvania area to television and movie producers as possible set locations. Make sure to tune in!!

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY LAW CHANGES

Recent changes to Pennsylvania's Unclaimed Property Act took effect on June 29th, 2002. These changes will impact your unclaimed property report for calendar year 2002. The most significant change to the law reduces the "dormancy period" for reporting most categories of unclaimed property from seven to five years. In addition, un-cashed payroll checks must now be reported after 3 years, rather than seven. The change in dormancy means that property due for years 1995, 1996 and 1997 (and in the case of payroll checks, 1998 and 1999) is due next April 15. This change affects Financial Institutions, Business Associations, Insurance Companies, Utilities, Hospitals, Government Agencies, Political Subdivisions, Public Officers, Authorities, Legal or Commercial Entities and Fraternal Benefit Societies, not limited to Nonprofit Organizations. The threshold amount for aggregate reporting is now increased from \$25 to \$50. All amounts less

than \$50 can be reported in the aggregate without names and addresses. Also under the new legislation all business entities must report and remit all property by April 15. In the past, the law allowed businesses to report property with a value greater than \$100 but not remit until a demand letter was received from our office. The new law also grants an amnesty period through December of 2003. The amnesty grants a waiver of interest and penalty during this period. If you are holding property that should have been reported in prior years, this is a great opportunity to become current without being penalized. The sections of the law affecting gift certificates, traveler's checks, court-ordered utility refunds and property distributable in the course of dissolution remain the same. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the office of the PA State Treasurer, Barbara Hafer at 1-800-379-3999.

Regional Emergency Training Center Ground Breaking

Westmoreland County Community College recently broke ground for the Regional Emergency Training Center in South Huntingdon Township. The \$7.5 million state-of-the-art facility will be used to train fire fighters, police and emergency service personnel from southwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The Center will be located on a 160-acre site, off Interstate 70, donated by Westmoreland County. The county is also paying for half the construction costs of the first phase of the project, with the state funding the remainder. The initial phase of the project will include construction of a six-story firefighter training structure, commonly referred to as a "burn-building," along with a classroom and administrative office facility. The 13,300-square foot burn building is being designed to simulate residential, commercial and industrial structures. The burn tower will have flat roofs and peaks, open staircases, enclosed staircases to resemble homes, retail stores, hotels and warehouses. The facility has options not only for fire fighter training, but police tactical units as well. The groups can practice fighting fires or rescue operations in a six-story high rise, three-story residential setting or both. Two computerized natural gas furnaces, operated by a trainer, will create live fire situations in the burn building. The fire simulators will be equipped with sensors that will gauge whether the fire is being extinguished properly. If the firefighters don't extinguish it properly, the

controller will be able to make it worse. A natural pond on the site will provide some of the water for extinguishing the fires and could also be used for water rescue training. The classroom building, which will resemble a fire station, will be adjacent to the burn building so student will be able to come right in off the burn pad, in full gear, take off their fire equipment in the classroom and watch films of their performance. The college plans to expand the project to encompass a tactical village which will include a railroad hazardous materials training area, a driver training pad for fire trucks, police cars, school buses and ambulances, and indoor and outdoor firing ranges. The tactical village could also be used for antiterrorist training. The total cost of the entire project is approximately \$30 million. The college is seeking funds from other sources to pay for the remainder of the project. Completion of the first phase is anticipated for August 2003.

Chamber Polo Shirts Available

Green polo shirts with the Chamber logo embroidered in white are 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.

Kyowa Makes Educational Fund Donations

Each year at the Rain Day Festival, Kyowa America Corp. sponsors a food booth. And each year, the profits from that booth are donated to the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund. This year was no exception and a donation was recently received on their behalf. Thank you to this special donor.

THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you to Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful, Inc.'s Promotion Committee for providing a 50's Car Cruise Tee Shirt to be used as the door prize for the August General Membership meeting. Congratulations to Frank Pecjak, of Pecjak's Sunoco for being the lucky winner of the door prize.

CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

At the 2001 Annual Membership Banquet, the Educational Scholarship Fund Committee hosted a Chinese Auction which turned out to be a huge success in it's inaugural year. The committee will once again be coordinating a Chinese Auction which will take place on October 12th at the Annual Banquet. All proceeds from the auction will be placed into the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund which awards a \$1,500 scholarship annually to a Greene County student. At the event last year, members were approaching committee members volunteering items for this year's banquet. If you are interested in providing an item, gift certificate or funds to purchase an item on your behalf, please contact the Chamber office at 724-627-5926. This is a perfect opportunity to share your product and/or services with other chamber members. All donors receive recognition in the program and during the drawing.

ANNUAL
MEMBER
BANQUET
OCTOBER 12TH
WAYNESBURG



Special Awards

Presentation featuring:

Special Recognition Award
to Gene Yost & Son
Drilling for their part in the
9 for 9 rescue at Quecreek
Mine



WriteIdea Award

Presentation to the Greene
County winner of the
Business Plan competition
for Women Owned Busi-
nesses and recognition of
other Greene County
participants



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And a few surprises!!



Don't miss this evening of
recognition and
fellowship



RSVP by
October 4th

WriteIdea

Southwestern Pennsylvania Women's Business Plan Competition

Jeanine Henry, Management Consultant for the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center Greene County Outreach Office is pleased to announce that four local entrepreneurs have successfully submitted entries to the WriteIdea, a unique business plan competition for women-owned enterprises that are start-ups or have been in business for a year or less within the county. The four individuals are Ms. Kathy J. Kiger, owner and operator of the Airport Restaurant, Dr. Anita L. McMillen, VMD, president of Braden Run Animal Hospital, Ms. Deborah Rohanna, and Ms. Leigh A. Scritchfield, president of S&S Fire Protection, Inc. A fifth client of the SBDC, Ms. Sarah L. Gancos, owner and operator of Memory Lane Photography is participating in the Fayette County portion of the competition.

A panel of judges representing Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties are currently reviewing each entry for innovation, employment capability, a management plan, high growth potential and overall viability. Once the initial scoring is completed, two of the four Greene County entrepreneurs will be chosen as finalists and will travel to Seton Hill College's National Education Center for Women in Business in Greensburg, PA to make a presentation in support of their plan and interview with the judges panel on Wednesday, September 18th. One winner from each of the four designated counties will split a cash prize of \$25,000. Seton Hill University's National Education Center for Women in Business will announce the winners on Thursday, September 26, 2002, during a free networking event at the Christian W. Klay Winery located in Chalk Hill. **The local participants and eventual winner will also be recognized at the Waynesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Member Banquet during the Special Community Awards portion of the program scheduled for Saturday, October 12th, 2002.**

In an effort to accelerate the business start-up process of women entrepreneurs in the Southwest Region of Pennsylvania, Seton Hill College's National Education Center for Women in Business, is administering the business plan competition on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) who are supporting this initiative.

The competition was open to start-up businesses or businesses in operation for less than a year that are at least 51% owned by a woman with a maximum sales volume of \$100,000. For consideration, applicants must be 18 years of age and within Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland Counties.

GREENE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OPEN TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS



The first Greene County Bassmasters Open Tournament held in August proved to be a success for the club. A guaranteed first place prize of \$2,500 drew almost 50 boats to the competition. Winner of the first place prize was another Chamber member, Ron King from Advanced Physical Therapy and his partner Jeff Hamilton. The event would not have been possible without the help of several other chamber members who helped as sponsors - First Federal, RAG American Coal, Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, Wade's and Greene County Tourism Agency. The club wishes to thank all those who helped with the event and plans to hold the second annual tournament in August of 2003. For more information on the

club and other tournaments, please phone Robert Reedy, Treasurer, at 724-627-0390.



Winners of the first Greene County Bassmasters Open Tournament. Left to right are Jeff Hamilton and Ron King, first place winners and Brian Longstreth representing Greene County Bassmasters and sponsor Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Karen Zalom - RAG American Coal
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 Shirley Stockdale - Clerk of Courts
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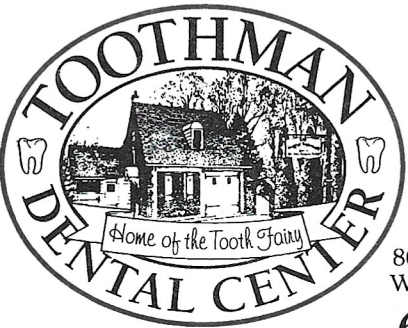
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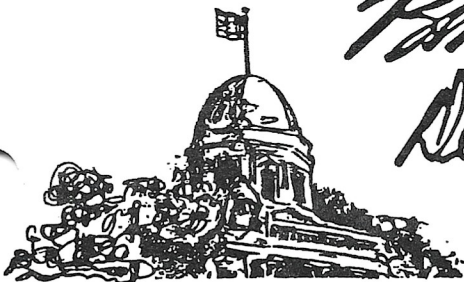
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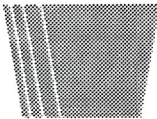
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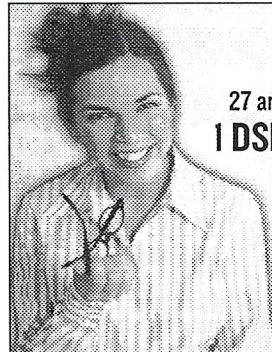
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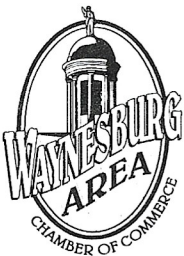
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**WAYNESBURG AREA
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9/11/01
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