

The Business Connection



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Open Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In this issue:

Page 2... Welcome,
New Members

Page 3....The Commons of
Franklin, Member
Renewals

Page 4....On the Agenda

Page 5....Member News

Page 6....Membership Showcase

Page 7Membership Showcase

Page 8Calendar of Events

Applefest® 2010

October 1-3

Seasons Greetings!

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce has joined with so many other businesses in and around Franklin in decorating our windows to welcome our neighbors and out-of-town guests.

We would like to wish our members a safe and happy holiday season and a prosperous year to come.

We would also like to remind everyone that great gifts for the whole family can be found in Venango County—and not just for the holidays.

The Chamber is supporting the 3/50 project which encourages local buying all year long. Pick 3, Spend 50, Save your local economy! Check it out online at www.the350project.net to learn how we can all make a difference for our locally owned companies.



The Commons at Franklin is now open for business! Story on Page 3.

Membership Showcase



Deer Creek Winery

Metalife Industries



Articles on Pages 6 & 7

Welcome New Members

The following new members joined the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce in November.

Please join us in welcoming them to the Chamber.

Franklin Fitness

Franklin Fitness, a new 24-hour private gym opened in November in the Hasson Building on Liberty Street. Swipe card entry makes it possible to work out no matter how hectic your schedule can be! Opening special \$20/month!

Contact: Al Gernovich
1149 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA
Phone: (814) 664-0067
Email: gerny6@verizon.net

Creative Choices Interior Design

Chlvie Stephenson can beautify your home or office, spruce up your holiday, event, or party; and offers elegant gift wrap services for any occasion from her home-based design business on Elk Street in Franklin.

Contact: Chlvie Stephenson
1602 Elk Street, Franklin, PA
Phone: (814) 673-4298
Email: chlvie@psonline.net

Bistro by Pizza Joe's

One of Franklin's newest restaurants features all of your Pizza Joe's favorites like pizzas, subs, salads, and calzones in a classy setting that makes it just as appropriate for a client lunch as a family dinner.

Contact: Jason Michaels
1145 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA
Phone: (814) 432-8000
Fax: (814) 432-8001

Sam's Club

Sam's Club, located in Erie, offers wholesale/retail warehouse sales for small business and inventory needs, and for individual consumers. Check them out online and see if the cost savings could help out your bottom line.

Contact: Samuel Wejuli
7200 Peach Street, Erie, PA
Phone: (814) 866-2343
Fax: (814) 866-0686
www.samsclub.com

Shady Acres Mobile Home Court

Shady Acres is a family built, owned and managed Mobile Home Court in a country setting close to schools, daycare, grocery stores, ball fields, municipal swimming pool and deck hockey facilities with lots and homes for rent.

Contact: Daniel Klapac
82 Horne Lane, Oil City, PA
Phone& Fax: (814) 677-3935
shadyacresmobilehomecourt@usachoice.net
www.shadyacresmobilehomecourt.com

Soni Houser

Franklin resident Soni Houser has joined the Chamber as an Associate Member to support the Chamber's mission and to stay involved in community events.

Associate Membership is a great way to show your community support and stay up to date on business news and events in the area! Many thanks to all of our Associate members for their continued support!

The Commons at Franklin Open for Business

After months of tireless restoration and renovations, the former Franklin Club is now open for business ... and open to the public!

The gorgeous Victorian structure at 1340 Liberty Street houses several special venues, including the McGinnis Irish Pub & Grill, The Terrace eclectic restaurant, and the Wedding, Banquet & Event Center - all so beautifully brought back to life, they must be seen to be appreciated.

McGinnis will feature daily specials and 10 beers on tap in an authentic Irish atmosphere, with an Irish and American menu, open Tuesday through Saturday. The grill will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with the bar staying open later. The Terrace will host special events to demonstrate the culinary prowess of chef Asa Seelbaugh. And finally, the Wedding, Banquet & Event Center will be open for private bookings seven days a week in the Grand Ballroom, Victorian Parlour, the Galena, the Franklin Room and the Heritage Room.



In McGinnis family tradition, the Commons has an all-you-care-to-enjoy brunch buffet including a made to order omelet station every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Commons kicked off the holiday season with Thanksgiving dinners, Light-Up Night specials and a Black Friday gift card sale, and will continue celebrating throughout the month. They will have Breakfast with Santa on December 5, a Small Business Christmas Party that evening, and finally ring in the new year in style at the Commons New Year's Eve party, featuring DJ Kirk Dietrich, cash bar, elegant food stations - made to order pasta bar, chilled seafood, chef-inspired hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and a continental breakfast at midnight! The party is \$80 per couple and includes a complimentary champagne keepsake to commemorate the inaugural celebration.

For more information or to book a wedding, party or event, call (814) 437-7771.

Thank You, Renewing Members

We would like to thank the following businesses and associates who have renewed their Chamber membership.

First National Bank of PA, 49 Years	Baker's Transportation Service, 14 Years	Gonstead Family Chiropractic, 4 Years
Time Warner Cable, 47 Years	First United Methodist Church, 13 Years	West Park Rehab, 4 Years
Hy-Tone Cleaners, Inc., 38 Years	Thomas F. Findlan, IV, DMD, 13 Years	Patricia Maxwell, 3 Years
Galaxy Federal Credit Union, 25 Years	Franklin Pediatric Associates, 13 Years	French Creek Café, 2 Years
GROWAY Landscaping, 22 Years	Carolyn Jamison, 10 Years	HOLeY Jeans, 1 Year
Beith Associates Real Estate, 21 Years	Woods Computer Consulting, 10 Years	Emily Altomare Graphic Design & Creative Communication, 1 Year
Township of Cranberry, 17 Years		

On the Agenda



A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Get your tickets now for the Franklin Civic Operetta's production of the Charles Dickens Classic "A Christmas Carol" at the Barrow-civic theatre. Watch as Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past and enjoy music, dance, and special effects!

Performances are at 8 p.m. December 4, 5, 11 & 12 and 2 p.m. December 13.

Tickets are \$14 per person, available by calling (814) 437-3440 or by logging on to www.barrowtheatre.com.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOURS

The **Venango County Historical Society** will be hosting Christmas House Tours **December 4, 5 & 6.**

Five homes will be on the tour this year: four in Franklin and one in Rocky Grove. The Rocky Grove home features a train room!

Tour times will be from **5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday**
1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are **\$15 per person** and must be purchased on one of the days of the tour at the Society House. Soup, sandwiches & pies will be on sale at the Society House on those days.

Call (814) 437-2275 for more information.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

FROM THE CHAMBER STAFF!



WISHING
YOU AND
YOUR FAMILIES A
SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON!



Member Entertainment

FoxTales

Saturdays, 9 p.m.-Midnight., live music
December 5 - Jack Campbell
December 12 - Joe J. Duo
December 19 - Rob & Suzi
December 26 - Fred Glatz
December 31 - Special Guests
www.foxtalespub.com

The Bricks of Franklin

Fridays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Karaoke
Saturdays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Open
Mic/Open Jam night.
www.thebricksfranklin.com

Blue Canoe Brewery

Thursdays, 8p.m.-11p.m. Live Music
Alternating between Street Legal
Acoustics and Carl Olsen
Fridays, 8 p.m.-10 p.m., Blue Canoe
Folkgrass Band
www.thebluecanoebrewery.com

Angeli Winery

2nd Annual Holiday Celebration
December 17
www.angeliwinery.com

Check our online
calendar for
New Year's Eve
parties!



www.franklinareachamber.org

Educational Opportunities

Northwest Commission
& Oil Region Alliance

The Fundamentals of International Business Contracts: What you must know!

December 17, 2009

At Sperian Fall Protection, Inc.
8:30 a.m. Registration, \$15 per person
Half-day training session on
International Business Contracts.

www.nwcommission.org
(814) 677-4800

Member News



The Chamber coordinated the first Holiday Wine Walk in downtown Franklin as a fundraiser for the Franklin Retail & Business Association in November. The event sold out, and helped cast a spotlight on shopping local for this holiday season.



COSTARS Certified

CS Technologies Plus is now on the PA DGS COSTARS-003-183 IT Hardware Contract. The contract entitles any COSTARS member to purchase technology hardware without going through the bid process. CS Technologies Plus has already gone through the bidding process and has been approved by the state. Some of the eligible brands CS Technologies will be selling under COSTARS include Acer, HP, Dell, and more. COSTARS will allow members to keep business local while still taking advantage of bulk purchasing power. For more information call Holly or Rhonda, 677-2447.

Business After Hours ~Chamber Network Advantage

More than 200 members filled the ballroom of the Quality Inn & Conference Center November 12, for the annual Franklin Retail & Business Association, Gent, Gent & Snyder, and the Quality Inn's holiday shopping kickoff mixer. Merchant displays from Retail and Chamber members were a fabulous reminder of all the wonderful gifts you can find right here close to home!



Great food from the Quality Inn and hundreds of members made for excellent networking



Holiday vendor displays helped showcase Franklin as a perfect shopping location!

RSVP now for the upcoming mixers:

December 2, 5-7 p.m., Cross Creek Resort, Franklin, Meadville, Titusville and Venango Area Chambers.

December 9, 5-7 p.m., First National Bank and Fezell's Shop n' Save, at First National Bank.

If you would like to book a Business After Hours in 2010, call the Chamber at (814) 432-5823 to pick your date. Months are filling fast!

Member Briefs

Xtreme Audio & Accessories has once again expanded its slate of services. They now offer basic vehicle maintenance services such as oil changes, in addition to its audio equipment installation, navigations systems, remote starters, and DirecTV installation. They have great gifts for any gear head!

The Uptown Bistro is now open for dinner. The restaurant shifted from breakfast to dinner service in November, and will be open for lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, featuring new dinner entrees and seafood specialties. Call (814) 432-8900 for more.

Diner's Club Cards sold for the Franklin Kiwanis club make great gifts! Each card holder can buy one meal and get 1/2 off at great local restaurants such as the Allegheny Grille, Cross Creek, Fezell's Shop n' Save, Benjamin's, Rochelle's Family Restaurant and more. Available at the Chamber office.

Membership Showcase

Deer Creek Winery

It was 27 years ago that Denis and Rhonda Brooks visited the Finger Lakes wine region on their honeymoon. Although they both liked wine, they never imagined that four children and almost three decades later, it would become their family business. But in September of 2009, the doors opened at Deer Creek Winery, a winery and gift shop located off Route 322 in Shippenville. Tucked away among state game lands on Soap Fat Road, the winery is situated on property that has been in Rhonda's family for three generations.

The Brooks had been camping on the grounds where the winery stands for years, and even as they reclaimed the land four years ago to plant raspberries as a seasonal source of income, they didn't see a winery in their future. Their home grown raspberries sold easily at grocery stores and to pick-your-own customers, but berries only have a two or three day shelf life and in every crop there are berries that aren't quite pretty enough to sell commercially. Those

berries lend themselves perfectly to juices, and the winemaking just developed as the next natural step, Denis said. The berries are picked at the peak of freshness and frozen to be used in the wine



making process. Denis found

that he enjoyed the intricacies of the process from the get-go, and hired a wine making consultant with 30 years of experience to help him hone his new craft when he took the plunge and began making wine as a full-time career.

Now Deer Creek has eight varieties including Deer Creek Raspberry which is made out of their own raspberries, as well as an apple and a few grape varieties that are made at Deer Creek with juices from other parts of PA. A second raspberry variety is set

to be sold within the next couple weeks.

The community has embraced Deer Creek. Proof positive was in the winery's open house, held in October.

Despite their remote location and the unseasonable three inches of snow on the ground, hundreds of people poured through the Brooks' doors to celebrate the business.

The winery is open from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday through Thursday and from noon to 8 p.m. Fridays. Wine tasting is free and the gift shop is full of fabulous gifts for the holidays or any occasion. Deer Creek also prints special labels for weddings and corporate gifts, and offers gift baskets and wrapping. They are also available to do wine tasting at events or for hosting your own event at the winery. Be on the lookout for more announcements from this great family business soon!

Deer Creek Winery

Phone: (814)354-7392

Web: www.deercreekwine.com

Email: denis@deercreekwine.com

Mail: 3333 Soap Fat Road, Shippenville, PA

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce

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1-800-377-3539.

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Member Showcase

Metalife Industries, Inc.

For decades, Franklin has had a global leader in chrome plating right in our back yard, and for the most part, the company has kept a low profile. A family operation, Metalife Industries, Inc. was founded in 1964, and is one of the leading chrome plating shops in the world. Its flagship product is its Thin Dense Chrome (TDC), which only a handful of shops the world over can provide, according to owner and president Bobby Kockler. The company was originally operated by engineers William Beatty and Robert Kockler, Sr. under a different name. It is believed that the original application was a thin dense chromium process developed by the Naval research laboratory during WWII and used mostly in corrosive applications. Because he was from the Franklin area, Robert Kockler started the business in Franklin in order to be closer to family. His son, Bobby Kockler, has worked at Metalife since the beginning, and his son, Andy, is the Vice President and likely future owner of the company, Bobby said. The Kocklers have al-

ways had a strong commitment to community projects and support, shown in their participation in local sports and event sponsorships.



companies in 30 states and China. Products they work on run the gamut from coal mining and gas drilling equipment to plastic molds, and powdered metal tools and parts. Really, any tool or part where there is a problem with wear and tear and corrosion can benefit from chrome plating. While Bobby keeps the plating processes in line, Andy keeps an eye on the future of technology and how to use the Internet to drive business. Metalife's first Web site went live about eight years ago and is continu-

ally updated and improved. The web has brought Metalife customers from all over the world, but to keep business coming back, Metalife offers unbeatable customer service. Metalife's TDC is done with a proprietary process that other shops cannot imitate, and a slight difference in the product itself. TDC doesn't flake or come off like conventional chrome does, keeping wear and tear costs at a minimum. They also provide MLP - which combines their TDC with a proprietary polymer compound to add built-in lubrication to parts and TDC_{flash} that competes with flash chrome plating. Bobby said Metalife strives to provide excellent customer service with a fast turnaround and unparalleled products. The average tenure of an employee at Metalife is 25 years and the combination of know-how and the right products makes it a leader in the industry, and one we're proud to have at home.

Metalife Industries, Inc.
 Phone: (814) 676-5661 Fax: 676-5662
 Web: www.metalifeind.com
 Email: akockler@metalifeind.com
 Mail: P.O. Box 53, Reno, PA 16343

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28th Annual Applefest®

October 1-3, 2010

www.franklinapplefest.com

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as a service to our members for
information purposes only and should not
be considered an endorsement of the
Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
or the Board of Directors.*

**Make a commitment this year:
Buy from a Chamber Member!!!
Member to Member Business**

Calendar of Events

December

December 2...BAH Mixer, Cross Creek Resort, 5-7 p.m., Franklin, Meadville, Titusville & Venango Area Chambers

December 3...Humane Society Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. 6-8 p.m. Oil City Moose Club.

December 4 & 5...A Christmas Carol, Barrow-Civic Theatre, 8 p.m. www.barrowtheatre.com, 437-3447.

December 4, 5 & 6...Venango County Historical Society's Christmas House Tour. See Page 4 for details.

December 5...Sweet Treats annual craft and bake sale at Oil City YWCA, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 5 & 12...OC&T Santa Express, 1 p.m., Call 676-1733 or log on to www.octrr.org for reservations

December 5...Breakfast with Santa at the Commons. Call (814) 437-7771 for details.

December 5...Small Business Christmas Party at the Commons. Call the Chamber for details (814) 432-5823.

December 9...BAH Mixer, First National Bank & Shop n' Save, 5-7 p.m. at First National Bank

December 11, 12 & 13...A Christmas Carol, Barrow-Civic Theatre, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday.

December 12...Former American Idol Stars Holiday Concert at Slippery Rock University, call (724)738-2018.

December 14...Ozark Jubilee: Branson Country Christmas, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

December 17...Annual Men's Night sales event at Feldman Jewelers begins at 5 p.m. Men also get extra savings at Something Clever and Franklin Press on that day!

December 18...The Messiah, Barrow-Civic Theatre, 8 p.m.

December 19...Last day to enjoy the Christmas Tree Extravaganza at the Barrow-Civic Theatre.

December 25...Merry Christmas! *Chamber office closed December 24 & 25*

December 31...New Year's Eve *Chamber office will close at noon - Check our online calendar for New Year's Parties, www.franklinareachamber.org*

January

January 1...Happy New Year! *Chamber office closed today.*

January 1...Venango County Historical Society winter hours in effect. Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays only.

January 21...Neil McElwee will present a program on the Future of Historic Preservation at 7:30 p.m. at the Franklin Public Library. Sponsored by the Historic Franklin Preservation Association.

January 22, 23, 29 & 30...Liberty Cabaret dinner theatre at Barrow-Civic Little Theatre, 6 p.m. cash bar, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. show.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

