

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

April

...the business connection...

2008



1259 Liberty Street

Franklin, PA 16323

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Lynn Cochran - Executive Director

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide leadership for the business community by providing economic, educational and legislative information and assistance which can be used by members to achieve profit, progress and prosperity.

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Man and Woman of the Year



Doug and Niki Volmrich were named Franklin's 2008 Man and Woman of the Year during the Chamber's 95th annual dinner Thursday, March 13, for all of their hard work and dedication to the community. More on **Page 7**.

The Current State of Affairs

A Legislative Breakfast featuring Congressman John Peterson, State Sen. Mary Jo White, and State Rep. Scott Hutchinson, is scheduled for April 18 at the Franklin Elks Club.

More on **Page 5**.





New Member Spotlight

We are delighted that March brought in seven new members. Please welcome the following business owners and associates to the Franklin Area Chamber.

Welcome to the Chamber

Action Auto Service, Inc.

Action Auto Service, Inc. is an auto repair shop, towing service and tire dealer located at the former Stephen's Auto Body on Route 257 in Seneca. Owner Bill Kapp has been in the automotive service industry for 13 years. Action Auto is prepared to handle inspections, maintenance, tune-ups, and any vehicle repairs, and is also an authorized UHaul dealer.

Contact: Bill Kapp
3778 St. Rt. 257, Seneca, PA 16346
(814)678-7700 fax:(814)678-0083
actionautoservice@comcast.net
www.actionautoservice.com

Brown's Pure Maple Products

Brown's family owned and operated company produces maple products including syrup, sugar, candy, mustard, jelly, and maple coated nuts. James Brown has been harvesting Maple syrup for fun since his childhood, and commercially for the past three years. Their products can be found at Applefest® and local grocery stores, and their delicious maple mustard is featured at Frenchcreek Café.

Contact: James L. Brown
855 Polk Cutoff, Polk, PA 16342
(814)437-9414
dbrown1@pa.rr.com

Edward J. Bergin

Ed Bergin has been volunteering in the community since his retirement and is a key organizer of the Grant Resource Center at the Franklin Public Library.

William E. Brandon

Bill Brandon is also retired, but active in the community, particularly as president of the Kiwanis Club.

Both men have chosen to become associate members to give their support to the Chamber's program of work and stay involved with Chamber events.

Ross-Graham Investigations, LLC

Ross-Graham Investigations is one of only two private detective agencies located in Venango County. They operate out of their home office and have a location in downtown Franklin. The husband and wife proprietors assist criminal defense lawyers, locate missing persons, do criminal profiling, and credit fraud and identity theft investigations.

Contact: Richard Graham
One Maria Lane, Franklin, PA 16323
(814)758-4978
rich@ross-graham.com
www.ross-graham.com

Cheri's Fudge & Candy

Cheri's Fudge & Candy has built a reputation for delicious indulgences in the region over the years. Their products include gourmet caramel apples, gift baskets, and fudge, and offer sugar or sucrose free versions of many of their most popular items. They can be found at their location in Titusville (Taco Bell), Online, or at Applefest®.

Contact: Cheri Repasky
106 N. Kerr St., Titusville, PA 16354
(814) 827-9832
jrrepasky@aol.com
www.cherisfudgefactory.com

AIG American General Life and Accident

American General has been providing financial solutions for over 100 years. They are committed to their clients by providing annual analyses of needs regarding life insurance, disability, long term care, as well as retirement. Call today to find out how they are changing the way Americans think about, purchase and use life insurance. Open by appointment.

Contact: Patrick Bungo
307 - 13th St. Franklin, PA 16354
(814) 437-5951 fax:(814)437-5958
clariongolfr8@aol.com

Thank You, Renewing Members

We would like to thank the following businesses and associates who have renewed their Chamber membership. Without our members, the community wouldn't be what it is today. Thank you again! We appreciate all that you do.

• Northwest Savings Bank (49 Years)	• National City Bank (19 Years)	• Gahr's Hamloaf (6 Years)
• Anderson Furniture Company (48 Years)	• NW Physicians Associates (18 Years)	• Culligan Water Conditioning (6 Years)
• Joy Mining Machinery (48 Years)	• Franklin Concrete Products (18 Years)	• Al Freeman Contracting (6 Years)
• Derrick Publishing Co. (46 Years)	• The Lamberton House Bed & Breakfast (18 Years)	• Franklin Foursquare Church (6 Years)
• Feldman Jewelers (44 Years)	• Wiegel Bros. Marine (15 Years)	• Deep Harbour Properties (5 Years)
• Callaghan Pharmacy (37 Years)	• Seneca Lanes (14 Years)	• Open Flow Energy (5 Years)
• Primo Distributors (35 Years)	• Franklin Giant Eagle (14 Years)	• Sheetz (5 Years)
• Valley Grove School District (33 Years)	• McCoy Equipment Sales (14 Years)	• Venango Community Concert Association (4 Years)
• Gates & Burns Realty (32 Years)	• Franklin Industries (13 years)	• Graham Machine (3 Years)
• Ligo Architects (26 Years)	• Kerry A. Irons, Builder (11 Years)	• ComDoc, Inc. (3 Years)
• UPMC Northwest (25 Years)	• American Cancer Society (9 Years)	• The Kirtland Cancer Foundation (3 Years)
• Phillips Flowers & Balloon Express (24 Years)	• Keystone Community Education Council (8 Years)	• Grace Learning Center (3 Years)
• Wilson Real Estate (24 Years)	• Community Services of Venango County (8 Years)	• Three Rivers Concessions (2 Years)
• Kenzior Orthodontics (24 Years)	• T4 Rentals, LTD. (7 Years)	• Way Copy Solutions, Inc. (2 Years)
• Titusville Fabricators, Inc. (23 Years)	• Knights of Columbus #1020 (6 Years)	• Family Care For Children and Youth (2 Years)
• Shear Expressions (20 Years)		

*Your company will be recognized for renewing your membership after your anniversary month.

Business News

Five Stars

Congratulations! Galaxy Federal Credit Union has once again achieved a 5-star rating from Bauer Financial, the country's leading independent credit union rating and research firm. This quarter marks the 49th consecutive 5-Star rating for Galaxy, giving it the added distinction of being an "Exceptional Performance Credit Union," for attaining the highest possible rating for 10 years or more.

No Call List

In March, all cellular telephone numbers were released to telemarketing companies. Those who do not want to receive sales calls on their cell phones should call **1-888-382-1222** to block your number from the list. It takes less than a minute to register your cell for the National Do Not Call list and will keep your number off the telemarketers' dials for five years.

Home Improvement

The Historic Franklin Preservation Association will begin another home facelift this month. They will be scraping at 1208 Railroad St., at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 26, and are looking for volunteers and donations to help with this community service project. Anyone interested in contributing should call Betty McElhattan at (814)432-3331. The group has already completed two similar projects.

Business News

Franklin came one step closer to achieving its goal of having zero empty storefronts in March with the opening of the Corner Cupboard and Deli. The uniquely shaped building at the corner of 12th and Buffalo streets was formerly a service station, but has been empty for many years. Co-owner Lauren Wigton and her husband Chris have spent months creating a charming atmosphere where you can find deli meats and cheeses, milk, bulk foods, spices, candles and many other items. We wish her the best of luck and welcome her to the Franklin business community.



The Corner Cupboard & Deli

Noteworthy Items

Casino Night

The United Way of Venango County's first annual Casino Night was a terrific success, raising over \$5,000. Organizers are already planning a second affair for Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, so mark your calendars now.

Address Change

Open Flow Energy's office has moved to 445 Halyday Run Road, Oil City, PA 16301. The phone number will be: (814) 676-2604
Fax: (814)676-2704
email: psay@sjindustries.com

Farewell, Chris

The Chamber would like to thank Chris Beichner for his service on our board of directors, and wish him the best of luck with his new community development position in Mt. Washington!

What Happened At The Business After Hours

More than 100 members turned out for our mixer at **The Bricks Franklin** March 5. Guests enjoyed a sampling of the Bricks famous burgers, wings, fries and other treats, played pool and darts, and had a chance to win several door prizes at the new restaurant on N. 13th Street in Franklin. Owners Bill and Karen Carey completely re-vamped the interior of the former video store, creating the perfect place for kicking back and relaxing while enjoying good food and company. Don't miss the exciting lineup of mixers slated for the rest of the year. They are a great way for host companies to showcase their facilities, and a Chamber Network Advantage.



The Bricks Franklin

On the Agenda

“The Current State of Affairs”

Don't miss the **legislative breakfast Friday, April 18, 7:30 a.m. at the Franklin Elks Club.**

U.S. Rep. John Peterson, State Sen. Mary Jo White and State Rep. Scott Hutchinson
will address legislative and economic activity in PA.

Reservations for the breakfast are open to all Franklin Chamber members and their guests, and must be made by April 7 by calling the Chamber at (814)432-5823. The cost is \$9 per person.



*The breakfast is sponsored by Joy Mining Machinery, a global leader in mining technologies and one of the area's largest employers.

Grant Resource Center Kickoff

There is still time to reserve your seat at the Grant Resource Center Kickoff. The Chamber is hosting the event to help familiarize non-profits with the new tools at the Franklin Public Library that could help them compete for grants and bring more funding into the region's vital community programs.



9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 4

Barrow-Civic Theatre



Check-in is at 8:30. The seminar is **free** to participants. Reservations can be made by calling (814)432-5823.

The grant resource center is open to all non-profit agencies throughout the region. It will include a catalogue of successful grant applications among many other Foundation Center advantages.

Cheers! Schedule Set at Bella Cucina

Enjoy fine dining for a good cause every Tuesday in April.

April 1 – City of Franklin Downtown Development Fund

April 8 – Community Services of Venango County

April 15 – Venango County Humane Society

April 22 – Kirtland Cancer Foundation

April 29 – Franklin Fine Arts Council

Each evening, a portion of the proceeds from every meal served will be donated to that day's charity. Cheers! was created to help bring more people into the downtown during typically slow times, while giving back to the community.

Upcoming Mixers

■ Joint mixer - Thursday, April 10th, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Oil City **YWCA** hosted by **Hagan Business Machines**.

■ Thursday, April 23rd, 5 to 7 p.m. at **C&S Hilltop Hardware - Landscaping Connections**, 15th St.. Hill. (Formerly Big Value Builders)

Foxtales Entertainment

Saturdays 9 p.m. - Midnight

April 5th - Matt G.

April 12th - Joe J. Duo

April 19th - Fred Glatz

April 26th - Mark B. Duo

Women's Network

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce introduced its new Women's Network with a kick in March. The Women's Network has been created to address the needs of women in the workplace and at home. The inaugural sessions of the network were Women's Self Defense Classes, taught by Tai Kwon Do Grand Master Don Porta at the FICDA ETC building on Howard Street. The classes were so popular registrations were full weeks before the classes began, and plans are already in the works to of-



fer self-defense later in the year. Future sessions will revolve around topics as broad as résumé preparation to communication in the workplace. The Network is open to any woman interested in connecting and networking with other professional women and learning more about techniques and strategies that could improve their home, working and social lives. It is not limited to Chamber members. Anyone interested in joining the network or receiving more information should contact the Chamber at (814)432-5823.

Franklin Moving Forward

Plans are moving on the downtown Franklin retail incubator to be located at 1255 Liberty Street in the former Outlet Max storefront next to the Chamber office. Architectural drawings are in the works to determine what the interior and façade of the building will actually look like, thanks to matching grant funding

available through the Oil Region Alliance. The City of Franklin has assigned \$45,000 from its Federal Community Development Block to help bring the space up to code by installing handicap accessible restroom facilities and wider doorways for the front and back of the building. An additional \$71,000 will be-

come available through the block grant program in the fall to complete façade improvements on the building. Franklin Moving Forward is a collaborative effort of the Franklin Industrial and Commercial Development Authority and the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the city.

I-80 Update

The I-80 coalition has formalized and collected under a new name: Chambers and Partners Against I-80 Tolling. The new name was chosen to reflect the inclusion of other entities, such as economic development agencies and trade associations to become part of the coalition. The group has also defined its mission as supporting a fair and equita-

ble alternative to keep Interstate 80 toll free and to preserve our economic prosperity and opportunity across Pennsylvania. The coalition is currently seeking contributions from anyone interested in helping to fight against the tolling of I-80. The cost of waging an effective campaign has been quoted at over \$300,000 for lobbying efforts, ad-

vertising, professional fees, Web site development, and an economic study to help support the case against I-80 tolling. Quantum Communications has been selected to handle the publicity. Any group interested in contributing to or joining the coalition should contact the Chamber to learn more. A petition is available in the Chamber office.

95th Annual Dinner

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce honored husband and wife **Doug and Niki Volmrich** as the 2008 Man and Woman of the Year during the Annual Dinner March 13. Niki has a rare distinction of being a second-generation award recipient - Her father the late Nicholas "Nick" Cummings was named man of the year in 1992. As she accepted her award, Niki tearfully recalled what her father said while standing in the same spot 16 years ago. "You shouldn't have to be rewarded for doing something that you love." And it is obvious how much Niki loves the Franklin community by her involvement in so many initiatives that help keep the city, particularly the downtown, vibrant. The Franklin native gives countless hours to community projects and programs, serving as the Chamber's V.P. of Retail and Small Business, as an officer on the Downtown Retail and Business Association, and on the Downtown Partnership formed to help carry out the initiatives of the HyettPalma Downtown Blueprint. Doug moved to Franklin just over a decade ago, but has adopted the city as his home and has become one of the city's most energetic volunteers and fundraisers. Doug and Niki both serve on the Applefest Core Committee, the Barrow Foundation board of directors, co-chair the Taste of Franklin festival, are key players in downtown Christmas decorating and are never far away when extra support is needed for a community project. In addition to being some of downtown Franklin's most involved champions, The Volmrichs own two of the downtown's showpiece stores - Feldman Jewelers and Something Clever. Any community would be blessed to have the Volmrichs call it home, and we are delighted to have them here and salute them with the Chamber's highest honor. *The Man and Woman are chosen by nominations from the community.

Other highlights of the dinner included the Overview of the Chamber's 2007 events by Immediate Past Chairman Mary Nicklin, presentation of the 2008 Plan of Work by Chairman Rob Woods, Music by Candlelight Trio, and presentation of the Gold Shovel Awards by Chamber director Lynn Cochran.



Niki Volmrich is congratulated by State Rep. Scott Hutchinson.



Emcee Jack Ferring and Doug Volmrich celebrate after the dinner.

***Cover photo by Jerry Sowden - The Derrick Publishing Company**

These companies were recognized by the Chamber for contributing toward the profit, progress and prosperity of the region by opening a new business, expanding or renovating their buildings, or introducing new programs and services. Gold Shovel Awards are also given to commemorate important anniversaries.

Action Auto Service, Inc.	Corner Cupboard & Deli	Joy Mining Machinery	St. Patrick Church
Allegheny Valley Trails Association	Dana's HomeStyle Catering	K.B. Pizza	SenecaSalem-WS Packaging
American General Insurance - AIG	Deep Harbour Properties	Kentucky Fried Chicken	Sperian Protection
AIM Recycling & Demolition	Edward Jones Investments	Liberty Electronics	The Bricks Franklin
AT&T	Family Table Restaurant	Moxie Media	The Movies at Cranberry
Black Hill Enterprises	Franklin Public Library	Northwest Savings Bank	Tranformations
Celebration Rentals	Franklin YMCA	OMG Americas	Clarion University - Venango Campus
Child Development Centers, Inc.	Froggy, Majic, Wuzz, WFRA/WOYL	Oil Valley Chapter - PA Council of the Blind	Venango County Courthouse
Christian Signs & Such	Galaxy Federal Credit Union	One to Many Computer & Training Solutions	VFW - Jesse Greer Post
Community Ambulance Service, Inc.	Historic Franklin Preservation Association	Rochelle's Family Restaurant & Fox's Pizza Den	Woods Computer Consulting
	Holiday Inn Express	Rotary Club of Franklin	Working Communities
			Xtreme Audio & Accessories

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
1250 Liberty Street
Franklin, Pennsylvania 16323

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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

APRIL

- April 3-5...Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" 8 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre, presented by the Franklin Civic Operetta Association
- April 6..."And Then There Were None," 2 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre
- April 10...2008 Oil Heritage Region Historic Preservation Awards. 7 p.m., Barrow-Civic Little Theatre
- April 11...8 p.m., Tamburitans rescheduled at the Barrow-Civic
- April 13...HOLeY Jeans in concert, 3 p.m., Barrow-Civic
- April 18...Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Franklin Elks Club *Sponsored by Joy Mining Machinery
- April 19...Frank Feroz Band, 8 p.m. Barrow-Civic Theatre
- April 20...Player pianos at DeBence Antique Music World, 1:30 p.m.
- April 20...2 p.m., Big Purple Undies, Barrow-Civic
- April 25...8 p.m., Annual Medical Music Revue to benefit the American Cancer Society, Barrow-Civic
- April 27...Venango Chamber Orchestra, 3 p.m., Barrow-Civic

MAY

- May 2-4...Second Annual Oil Region Birding Festival Bird Walks, Field Trips, Tours, call (814)483-6264 ext. 110 for details
- May 3-4...May Garden Mart, Fountain Park, Downtown Franklin
- May 9-10...FCOA presents "1940's Radio Show - The Musical," 8 p.m., Barrow-Civic
- May 11..."1940's Radio Show - The Musical," 2 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre
- May 16-17...Studio 22 Dance Academy, 7 p.m., Barrow-Civic
- May 18...Analog Music Storage from Edison to Eight Tracks, 1:30 p.m., DeBence Antique Music World
- May 23...Ronnie McDowell in concert to benefit the Barrow-Civic Theatre mortgage fund, 8 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre *Sponsored by Franklin Elks #110
- May 29-August 28...Thursday night concerts, every Thursday in Bandstand Park

