

# Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce

## Newsletter

August

2008

...the business connection...



1259 Liberty Street

Franklin, PA 16323

(814)432-5823

Fax: (814)437-2453

[www.franklin-pa.org](http://www.franklin-pa.org)

Email: [chamber@franklin-pa.org](mailto:chamber@franklin-pa.org)

Lynn Cochran - Executive Director

Leigh Protivnak - Exec. Assistant

Michelle Reck - Office Assistant

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.

### **In this issue:**

Page 2... Welcome New Members, Noteworthy Items

Page 3... Thank You Renewing Members, Education

Page 4... Business News, Business After Hours

Page 5... On the Agenda

Page 6... Business Showcase, Member News

Page 7... Business Showcase, Member News

Page 8... Calendar of Events

## Meet the Candidates

The Franklin, Titusville and Venango Area Chambers of Commerce, along with the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism, will host a legislative affairs breakfast featuring the two candidates for PA's 5th U.S. Congressional District, Republican Glenn Thompson and Democrat Mark B. McCracken, beginning



Mark McCracken



Glenn Thompson

promptly at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12, at Wanango Country Club. The cost is \$15 and includes a breakfast buffet. The forum will provide an opportunity for attendees to get to know the candidates' backgrounds and what issues they plan to focus on if elected. Attendees will also have a chance to speak to the candidates about issues that concern our region. Make your reservation by calling (814)432-5823 by Sept. 8.

## Applefest® 2008

Applefest® is fast approaching. Brochures and placemats will be ready the first week of August. [www.franklinapplefest.com](http://www.franklinapplefest.com)

## Membership Showcase

### Phillips Flowers



Articles on Pages 6 and 7



### Rochelle's Family Restaurant



## New Member Spotlight

*Two new businesses joined the Chamber in July. Please welcome the following business owners to the Franklin Area Chamber.*

### Welcome to the Chamber

#### Never Enough October Carriage Rides

When you use Never Enough October Carriage Rides, you are guaranteed an experienced driver and a well trained carriage team working together in harmony to provide you with the most relaxing and memorable experience possible. The farm located outside of Cranberry has several carriage styles pulled by Clydesdales.

Contact: Cindy Jack  
3131 Rt. 322, Cranberry, PA 16319  
(814)797-0067  
email: [countryfarm1974@yahoo.com](mailto:countryfarm1974@yahoo.com)  
[www.neverenoughoctober.com](http://www.neverenoughoctober.com)

#### The Therapeutic Harp

The Therapeutic Harp offers relaxation therapy through the use of harp music for reduction of anxiety and pain. Rebecca Lytle is certified as an Advanced Clinical Musician and a Musical Practitioner and is active in providing therapeutic harp treatment to hospice patients throughout Venango County.

Contact: Rebecca Lytle  
236 Smith Road, Franklin, PA 16323  
(814)437-0790  
[lytle@localnet.com](mailto:lytle@localnet.com)  
[www.therapeuticharp.massagetherapy.com](http://www.therapeuticharp.massagetherapy.com)

### Updates

#### Directory updates

Please update your business directories to reflect these updates:

**Classy Catering** has a new phone number at its Seneca Street storefront; (814)676-5605.

**Merry Berry Patch Embroidery & Screen Printing** has a second Web address for its online store to add to its listing;  
<http://merryberrypatch.logomall.com>.

#### Volunteers Needed

Sugar Creek Station is seeking volunteers to lend a hand with fundraising in the gift shop and other activities. The station is also looking for artists and performers to brighten the residents' days. UPMC Northwest and the VNA are also in need of volunteers. Those interested in helping out should contact Mrs. Dorothy Staub at (814)676-6922.

#### Allegheny Urn Company

The Keystone Marble Company has changed its name to Allegheny Urn Company. No longer focusing on custom made marble sinks, the company now specializes in laser engraved urns, memorial markers, and other custom products. For more information check out their Web site, [www.alleghenyurns.com](http://www.alleghenyurns.com), or call Bill Nichols at (814)437-3208 or 657-7315.

### Noteworthy Items

#### Diners Cards On Sale

The Chamber is selling Diner's Club Cards to benefit the Kiwanis Club of Franklin. The cards are \$25 and give the holder a free meal with the purchase of a first one at 40 restaurants.

#### New Salesman

Larry Horn has joined the sales team at The Sanford Company, located at the FICDA Complex on Howard Street in Franklin. He can be reached at (814)873-2113, (814)437-9699 or by email at [lhorn@sanfordcompany.com](mailto:lhorn@sanfordcompany.com).

#### Fair Passes Available

Venango County Fair passes are available at the Chamber office. \$10 gets you admission into the fair all six days. Stop by and get yours today, and enjoy the Venango County Fair. Great in 2008!



## Business News



Above: The main gallery space at Bear's Furniture under construction.

Right: The remaining display space is packed with furniture, much of it at reduced prices.

### **Bear's Furniture Under Reconstruction**

Bear's Furniture on Route 322 in Franklin is undergoing complete remodeling of the main entry showroom, and is holding a storewide sale to make room for the renovation and to prepare for the new quality home furnishings that will be brought in this fall. Select inventory has been discounted from 10 to

50 percent off, and will be on sale through the end of August when the remodeling is set to be complete. Be sure to stop in and take advantage of these spectacular deals today! And remember, Bear's offers up to one year free financing to qualified buyers.



Nobody cares like Bear's!  
www.bearsfurniture.com

### **O'Polka & Co. Promotes New Senior Accountant**

Angela Trinch has been promoted to Senior Accountant at O'Polka & Company located at 1446 Liberty Street in downtown Franklin. Angela will direct the work of staff accountants and have a lead role in planning, supervising, and completing client account activity.

O'Polka & Company has been serving the business community for 27 years with the very best in personalized accounting, auditing and tax advisory services. The firm is dedicated to optimizing an organization's assets and maximizing opportunities for financial growth and success. Whether you're a small business just starting out or a well-established company, O'Polka & Company has the staff, experience, and resources to guide you as you grow your business and plan for the future.

You can read online articles and tap online resources, such as personal finance assessments and business calculators, which can assist with business planning and bookkeeping at [www.opolkacpa.com](http://www.opolkacpa.com).



### **Sheetz Building Construction Winding Down**

Construction is nearly complete on the new Sheetz convenience store on Liberty and 11th Streets in downtown Franklin. The new building will be open for business September 4th, with expanded menu offerings like French fries, onion rings and pizzas, and a full line of hot and cold gourmet coffees. Pre-made sandwiches and veggie trays will also be for sale, as well as fresh baked goods from the store's new bakery. The current building will be razed and the remaining construction to the parking lot will be underway through the end of October. Some improvements to the parking lot include eight outdoor tables and 33 parking spaces. Manager Kathy Porter said the store will remain open throughout construction and thanked customers for "grinning and bearing" all of the commotion.



### **Oskie's Turns One!**

Congratulations to Oskies Restaurant & Pub for celebrating one year in business at 1211 Liberty Street in downtown Franklin. Here's to many more years!

### **Upcoming Mixers**

- **Wednesday, Aug. 6,** 5 p.m.-7 p.m., at Barr's Insurance in Oil City, *joint mixer with Venango Area Chamber*
- **Wednesday, Aug. 14,** 5 p.m.-7 p.m. West Park Rehab on Pone Lane.

## On the Agenda

### Eventful August

- **A Taste of Franklin - August 3**

The Annual Taste of Franklin festival where attendees can sample cuisine from the area's finest restaurants and caterers, has been expanded this year to include a "musical appetizer" on Friday and Saturday. The main course, however, will take place Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fountain Park.



- **Venango County Fair - August 4-11**

The fair will begin Monday and will run through Saturday offering a variety of 4-H exhibits and competitions, entertainment, great food & more.

- **Organ Grinders Rally - August 8-10**

The "Happiest Music on Earth" will fill the streets of Franklin from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday during the organ grinders rally hosted by DeBence Antique Music World.

- **Oil Country Cruise - August 9**

Another sound filling the air will be the rumble of motorcycles as Bikes and Hotrods will tour the area on the Oil Country Cruise.

- **Rock in River Festival - August 23**

The festival will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Riverfront Park, and includes the PA State Stone Skipping Championship. On the same day, St. Patrick School will be hosting the **Allegheny Outdoor Adventure** on the bike trail, a 10-mile non-competitive bike/hike/paddle along the Allegheny to benefit the school wellness committee, and The Nittany Nomads Volksmarch Club from Penn State will be using the Chamber office as a registration station for their **Victorian Town Walk** through Franklin.



- **Cost of Freedom Tribute - August 27-September 2**

The Traveling Vietnam Wall Display will be escorted into town on Aug. 27, along with an evening ceremony and concert. The wall will be on display Aug. 28-Sept. 2 in Fountain Park. The tribute will include a performance of "Some Gave All" at the Barrow-Civic Theatre Saturday, and a remembrance ride and fireworks display Sunday.

The 9-10 year old Little League PA State Championship Tournament will be held at Franklin's Miller-Sibley complex Aug. 7-11. Franklin Little League is looking for volunteers to help serve out-of-town players and their parents brunch on Friday, Aug. 8, starting at 11 a.m. at the Franklin Elks Club. Anyone willing to help out, please call the Chamber at (814)432-5823.



Franklin Little League

### Summer Fun

#### Thursday Evening Concerts in the Park

7:30 p.m., Bandstand Park

Aug. 7—Silver Cornet Band  
Aug. 14—B&E Combo  
Aug. 21—Silver Cornet Band  
Aug. 28—Mostly Brass

#### Brown Baggin' Fountain Park Gazebo Series

Thursdays at Noon

1st Thursday—Music  
2nd Thursday—Storytelling  
3rd Thursday—Franklin History  
4th Thursday—Barrow-Civic Day

*Don't forget the Farmers'/Open Air  
Markets Saturday mornings downtown!*

[www.franklinpa.gov](http://www.franklinpa.gov)

#### FoxTales

Saturdays from 9 p.m.-Midnight.

Aug 2—Mike & Lauren  
Aug. 9—Doug Phillips  
Aug. 16—Fred Glatz  
Aug. 23—Mark Berry Dui  
Aug. 30—Rob & Suzi

[www.foxtalespub.com](http://www.foxtalespub.com)

#### Oskies Patio Series

Every Friday, 5:30-8:30

Aug. 1—Gayle George  
Aug. 15—Max Schang & Friends  
(Other performers TBA)

#### The Bricks of Franklin

Fridays, 9 p.m.-Midnight, Live DJ  
Saturdays, 7:30-Midnight, Karaoke

[www.thebricksfranklin.com](http://www.thebricksfranklin.com)

*Check out the calendar at  
[www.franklin-pa.org](http://www.franklin-pa.org) for more.*

## Phillips Flowers & Balloon Express

A new store owner is breathing some fresh air into a Franklin landmark. Vernie Hilliard recently took over as owner and manager of Phillips Flowers & Balloon Express at 1237 Liberty Street. Vernie has kept all of Phillips employees and will honor all existing accounts, continue to provide TeleFlora services, and assures that the transition from retired former owner Jean Ann Moffet will be smooth.



Vernie Hilliard in front of the freshly painted gazebo inside Phillips Flowers & Balloon Express

A certified floral designer with 15 years of experience in designing and managing floral shops, Vernie is excited to bring some of the more interesting contemporary design ideas and décor items into Franklin. She has noted that smaller towns tend to get trends about two years after they are picked up in more urban areas. She is always on the lookout for new vendors and attends floral shows whenever possible to make sure she has the most up-to-date styles on hand.

Vernie has fallen in love with the “nostalgic atmosphere” she has discovered in Franklin, and has been delighted with the welcome she has received from the community. Although this is typically a slow time for florists, she said, Vernie has been pleasantly surprised

with the amount of business she has received. One of her first priorities was brightening the look of the interior with a fresh coat of paint on the walls and on the signature gazebo. She is in the process of rearranging her second floor display area. In addition to a major facelift to the interior of the building, Vernie is working to expand the inventory of high end silk florals, bring in more exotic fresh flowers, offer cash

and carry specials, and get some more modern home décor items in stock. Some of the more interesting additions to the offerings at Phillips include floral arrangements on glass candle lids—the recipient has a lovely arrangement at first, then once the flowers are gone, there is still a candle to burn creating a more lasting gift—and wrought iron wreath stands to set by fireplaces. Future additions will include gourmet candies.

Be sure to check in the coming weeks as Vernie will begin to display her fall merchandise. For more information visit [www.phillipsflowersfranklin.com](http://www.phillipsflowersfranklin.com) or call Vernie at (814)432-4519 and welcome her to the Franklin business community.

## Energy Procurement Services Available



With energy costs continually on the rise, and gas companies announcing price increases as high as 50 percent in August, Svetz Energy Services, a division of Svetz Consulting Services offers different ways to help companies cut energy costs.

Svetz Energy Services provides no cost energy savings analysis and free annual savings analysis for commercial and industrial accounts to reduce energy costs for businesses and non-profit organizations through their effective professional procurement services. This is an excellent time, with retail markets increasing and the wholesale markets declining, to purchase independent energy supplies while

still being on the National Fuel Gas transportation system, said owner Gary Svetz. You can contact Gary at (814)336-1305 or Toll Free 877-229-8254, or by email [gsvetz@zoominternet.net](mailto:gsvetz@zoominternet.net). Have a billing account number or recent statement available for review. Svetz's clients include manufacturers, municipalities, industrial parks, school districts, services and non-profit organizations.

## Rochelle's Family Restaurant & Fox's Pizza Den

Another Liberty Street landmark, the former Isaly's, is going through some changes of its own. Rochelle Vroman, who has 20 years of experience in the restaurant industry, purchased the restaurant less than a year ago and is making it her own with a pleasing mix of all the offerings of a pizza shop combined with a classic, home cooking menu.

A Titusville native, Rochelle was approached by Fox's Pizza owner Tom Jones to take over the franchise in Franklin. She began there one day before Applefest® in 2007. One of her primary focuses right now is a complete renovation of the interior, which is slated to begin this month. The dated brown paneling and fox border will be replaced by a sharp new gray wall covering with a red stripe to evoke more of a classic diner atmosphere. Some of the larger pieces of furniture, like the all you can eat buffet (available every Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.), will be rearranged to better blend the sit-down portion of Rochelle's and the takeout/delivery end of Fox's Pizza into one entity. A new element that has already been in place for the past month that will lend to the diner feel is Marcie's Homemade Ice Cream. The ice cream is made locally in Meadville and is available in dishes, shakes and floats.

Rochelle's opens daily at 10:30 and stays open late making deliveries. What sets Rochelle's deliveries apart from typical pizza delivery businesses is the fact that all items on both the Fox's and Rochelle's menus are available for delivery. The kids can have pizza, hot dogs or even grilled cheese, while the parents can enjoy classic, home cooked meals like meatloaf with mashed pota-



Rochelle Vroman inside Rochelle's/Fox's Pizza..

toes or steak tips.

Rochelle's is also offering a new service to help non-profit agencies with fundraisers. Any organization interested in doing a Rochelle's fundraiser just has to sign up for a date and time and 10 percent of all customers' dine-in, carry out or delivery meals who mention the fundraiser will be given to the organization.

Rochelle has been pleased with the customers she has so far, but would like to see more people dining in, particularly at lunch time. Rochelle emails weekly specials to any business or individual interested in getting on the list. For more information call (814)432-2625 or check out Rochelle's menu online at [www.franklinfoxs.com](http://www.franklinfoxs.com).

## Preparing for the Worst

ChamberChoice has provided the following material to help companies be aware of and prepared for a global outbreak of disease otherwise known as a pandemic.

*The CDC believes the following problems will occur when a pandemic hits:*

- Overloaded health care systems
- Inadequate medical supplies
- Economic and social disruption

According to the information from

ChamberChoice, scientists believe it is only a matter of time before the next influenza pandemic and urges companies to be prepared to decrease their risk during an outbreak.

*Business owners and employees should:*

- Develop a preparedness plan
- Participate in and promote public health efforts
- Talk with local public health officials and health care providers to find out the signs and symptoms of

an outbreak

- Implement prevention and control actions recommended by your public health officials and providers
- Anticipate how to function with a significant portion of the work force absent due to illness or caring for ill family members.

These precautions could help mitigate risk and maintain order in case of a pandemic.

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

[www.franklin-pa.org](http://www.franklin-pa.org)

*Members supporting Members*

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Franklin, PA

*The enclosed inserts are provided  
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.*

## Calendar of Events



### AUGUST

- August 1-2...**A "Musical Appetizer" for A Taste of Franklin - featuring Gayle George, and Side by Side on Friday; Rebecca Lytle, Acoustic Swing, Tommy Chris, and Max Schang on Saturday.
- August 3...**A Taste of Franklin. Sample cuisine from the city's restaurants and caterers, plus children's games, a motorcycle cruise-in, CATRO in concert and more.
- August 3...**Live Old Time Radio Show, 2 p.m., Barrow Little Theatre
- August 3...**Wm. R. Karns Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning Detroit Iron Series at Tri-City Speedway.
- August 4-9...**Venango County Fair. Great in 2008! Call the fairgrounds at 437-7716 for details.
- August 5...**The Art & Science of Tincturing, 6-8 p.m., Restoration Herbs, again on **August 16**, at 2 p.m.
- August 6...**Barr's Insurance (Oil City) mixer 5-7 p.m.
- August 8-10...**Organ Grinders Rally, downtown Franklin
- August 8-9, 14-17...**"Noises off," 8 p.m., Barrow-Civic
- August 9...**Oil Region Alliance, Oil Country Cruise, One day motorcycle cruise through Oil Country with stops at Oskies and The Bricks
- August 9...**PPC Violence Free Network, Ninth Annual Golf Scramble
- August 10...**Franklin Retail Association Golf Outing
- August 10...**Barr's Insurance, 5-Star Racing, Tri-City.
- August 11...**UPMC Northwest Foundation Cancer Awareness Golf Scramble, Wanango Country Club.
- August 14...**West Park Rehab mixer 5-7 p.m.
- August 17...**P.C.T.C. & T.S.A.R.C. Club Nights, Tri-City.

- August 23...**Rock in River Festival, PA State Stone Skipping Championship, Riverfront Park.
- August 23...**"Menu Mayhem" Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre/Train Ride, OC&T Railroad 5:15 dinner, train departs at 6:30.
- August 28-September 2...**"Cost of Freedom Tribute" Traveling Vietnam Wall Display, Fountain and Bandstand Park, downtown Franklin
- August 30...**"Some Gave All" 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Barrow-Civic Little Theatre

### SEPTEMBER

- The OC&T Railroad downshifts to rides on Saturdays and Sundays only beginning in September.
- September 4...**Barrow-Civic Theatre Golf Outing
- September 6, 13, 20 & 27...**Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre, Train Ride on the OC&T Railroad.
- September 7...**12th Annual Applefest® 100 for pro stocks at Tri-City, presented by CSOnline, Wm. R. Karns Plumbing & HVAC.
- September 11...**Joint mixer at the Literacy Council of Venango County, 5-7 p.m.
- September 14...**2nd Annual Venango Digital Film Association Filmmaking competition concludes at the Barrow-Civic Theatre.
- September 21...**Wurlitzer Model 157 & Idora Park, presented by Martin Anderson, part of the DeBence Antique Music World mini series of events.
- September 26-28...**"The Sound of Music" at Barrow-Civic Theatre. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Call the box office for details, 437-3440.