

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

December

2008

...the business connection...



1259 Liberty Street

Franklin, PA 16323

(814)432-5823

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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.

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Shop Locally this Holiday Season!

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce would like to wish all of our members, their families and loved ones a safe and happy holiday season. The Chamber has participated, along with other downtown businesses, in sprucing up window fronts with lights and holiday décor to make the season especially bright for downtown shoppers. As always, the Chamber would like to encourage everyone to



shop locally for all of their holiday gifts and needs. Keep an eye out for special events, sales and promotions that could help you get great deals at member businesses everywhere from Cranberry to Wyattville. Franklin Retail and Business Association gift certificates are available year-round at the Chamber and can be used at more than 30 local businesses. Gift Certificates are a great way to make sure everyone on your list gets exactly what they want this year, make your shopping simple, and keep your dollars in the local community. With so much variety and selection right here in Venango County, there's never a need to travel too far for great gifts!

Membership Showcase

Xtreme Audio



YWCA of Oil City

Articles on Pages 6 & 7

New Member Spotlight



The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed two new members in November. Please welcome the following businesses to our community.

Welcome to the Chamber

Waddell & Reed

Waddell & Reed is one of the oldest mutual fund complexes in the U.S. and currently manages nearly \$65 billion in total assets. Waddell & Reed offers comprehensive financial planning to its clients to manage and achieve their goals and objectives in our ever changing economic world.

Contact: Tom Myers
5473 Village Common Drive, Suite 205
Erie, PA 16506
Phone: (814) 671-0202 Fax: (814)868-7539
Web: www.waddell.com
Email: tmyers@wradvisors.com

Atmosphere Restaurant

Atmosphere on Allegheny Blvd. offers ethnic cuisine from France, Mexico, Greece, Italy, and China in a classy setting that brings elements of each of the countries together with some American favorites. Their menu is available for eat in, carry out or delivery in certain areas. Try something new today!

Contact: Mary Ross
723 Allegheny Blvd.
Franklin, PA 16323
Phone: (814) 437-7992
Web: www.atmospheredining.com (Coming Soon)
Email: atmosphere_dining@verizon.net

Member Briefs

Diamond Giveaway

Feldman Jewelers is giving away a 1/2 carat loose diamond to one lucky lady who buys her wedding gown from Annie's Bridal shop.

Anyone who buys a wedding dress through end of December is eligible to win the stone. Also, check out Feldman's and Annie's online on their new web sites: www.anniesbridalshop.com and www.feldmanjeweler.com

Library Needs Support

The Franklin Public Library still needs \$15,000 before the end of 2008 in order to reach its budget goal. In difficult financial times, the library is especially needed by those in the community. Donations are tax-deductible and make fabulous Christmas presents for the avid readers on your shopping list. To find out how you can support the library's programs, call 432-5062.

Extended Hours

Dr. Curtis Cooke of Franklin Pediatric Associates on 13th Street in Franklin has started offering evening appointments to allow more flexibility for parents when scheduling their children's medical appointments. Evening appointments are available on Wednesdays. The extended hours are by appointment only and can be made by calling 437-1541.

Noteworthy Items

After Hours Schedule

The 2009 Business After Hours schedule is filling up fast. Mixers are a great way to showcase your facilities and to celebrate milestones. Call (814)432-5823 today to pick your date before it's taken!

2009 Marketing

You should have received information regarding new marketing opportunities through the Chamber. Newsletter and email advertising, and our new Member to Member discount program are just a few ways the Chamber can help you grow.

Member Showcase

Our Member Showcase articles are an easy, free and effective way of getting the word out about your business. Call the Chamber today at 432-5823 to schedule your chance to show our members what you have to offer.

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.

First National Bank of PA (49 Years)	Northwest Eye Associates, PC (18 Years)	Wal-Mart #2597 (10 Years)
Gardinier Funeral Home, Inc. (48 Years)	Cranberry Township (17 Years)	Thomas F. Findlan, IV, DMD (10 Years)
J & A Tool Company (38 Years)	Seneca Medical Center (14 Years)	Karns Produce (10 Years)
Hy-Tone Cleaners (38 Years)	Barr's Staup Insurance (14 Years)	Patricia A. Maxwell (3 Years)
Galaxy Federal Credit Union (25 Years)	Bakers Transportation Service, Inc. (14 Years)	Restoration Herbs (3 Years)
Slippery Rock University of PA (22 Years)	First Baptist Church (13 Years)	Patterson Presentations (2 Years)
Venango Real Estate (19 Years)	First United Methodist Church (13 Years)	
	Wilson Electric, Inc. (12 Years)	

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

Happy Holidays!



The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce staff would like to wish all of our members and their families a safe and happy holiday season!

Newsletter Insert Deadlines 2009

January 19
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21

* Deadlines are the third Monday of every month for the next month's mailing.

* 575 copies are needed.

Member News

Christmas Cash Contest in Full Swing

The Franklin Retail Association and the City of Franklin are once again sponsoring a Christmas Cash giveaway. For every \$25 spent at the 30+ participating businesses through Dec. 18, you can enter to win one of six prizes of "Christmas Cash" redeemable at the following businesses:

AmaZing Foods Catering Co., Anderson's Furniture, Annie's Bridal Shop, Barrow-Civic Theatre, Bear's Furniture, Bella Cucina, The Bricks, Callaghan's Pharmacy, Celebration Station, Cheri Schiffer Salon, The Corner Cupboard & Deli, Daffin's Franklin, Feldman Jewelers, Fezell's Shop 'n Save, Fox's Pizza/Rochelle's Family Restaurant, Franklin Press, Franklin YMCA, Frenchcreek Café, Gardner Optical, C&S Hilltop Hardware, Kindred Spirits Yarn Studio, Lamberton House B&B, Leonardo's, Liberty Street Antiques, Oskie's Restaurant & Pub, Hager's Peach Basket B&B, Phillips Flowers - Distinctive Designs Florist, Spanky's Tobacco World, Something Clever, Sports-world, Victorian City Art & Frame, Wiegel on the Water.

Grand Prize - \$400

2nd prize - \$200

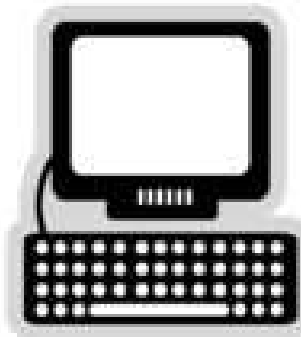
3rd prize - \$125

4th prize - \$100

5th prize - \$75

6th prize - \$50

FICDA completes computer lab upgrades



The Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority has completed renovations of its state-of-the-art computer lab on the second floor of the Howard Street Emerging Technologies Center. Highlights include Vista Operating Systems, Windows XP for Microsoft Office 2003, Wireless Internet, Customization to fit your training needs, and training in MS '07 Excel levels I, II & III, MS '03 Excel Introductory & Intermediate, Quickbooks 2007, MX '07 Word levels I, II, & III, and MS '03 Word Introductory & Intermediate. Be sure to check out FICDA for scheduling your employee training classes and seminars in 2009, and watch www.ficda.org for classes offered by FICDA. Call Sally at 432-4476 or email sally@ficda.org for more information.

Educational Opportunities

Lean Manufacturing & Six Sigma

A half-day Understanding Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing seminar is set for 8 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Wm. Douglas Conference Center, Bessemer Commerce Park, 764 Bessemer St., Meadville. Registration is \$25 and must be made by calling Jean at 456-6299 or by emailing jmiller@nwirc.org. Sponsored by NW IRC, PA Careerlink, and the Oil Region Alliance.

Quickbooks 2007

Quickbooks 2007 classes are set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, and Monday, Dec. 22, at FICDA's 2nd floor computer lab, 191 Howard St. in Franklin. Classes are ideal for those setting up new businesses in 2009 or looking to clean up and tweak existing Quickbooks files. Registration is \$199 and includes a \$40 take-home guide. Call 432-4476 ext. 100 to register.

Safe Sitter Course

UPMC Northwest is offering a two-day Safe Sitter Course for girls and boys ages 11 to 13. Classes are designed for students with no babysitting experience. The classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, and Tuesday, Dec. 30, at Seneca Place, 3163 State Route 257 in Seneca. The cost is \$25 per student. For more information or to register, call 677-1463.

Search for classes that suit your needs online at www.trainingpa.com.

On the Agenda

The Venango County Historical Society will sponsor a

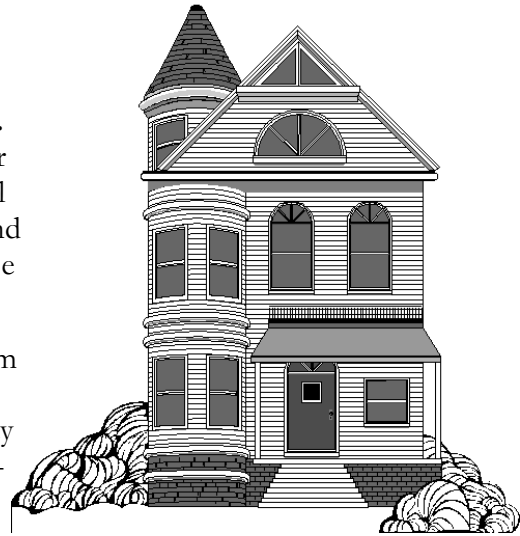
Christmas House Tour

from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5

and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Dec. 6 & 7.

Five Franklin homes will be open with special holiday décor for the tours. Tickets will be available on tour days at the Historical Society, 301 S. Park St., Franklin. Refreshments will be served and soup and sandwiches will be sold. Christmas quilted items will be on display and there will be a book sale at the society.

*Starting in January, the Historical Society will be open only from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The society will reopen for its regular hours—10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday; Genealogical library open Wednesday and Thursday—May 1.



What Happened at the Business After Hours



Another Successful Business After Hours mixer!

Well over 200 members turned out for the annual holiday kick-off Business After Hours mixer in November, hosted by the Franklin Retail & Business Association, Gent, Gent & Snyder, and the Quality Inn & Conference Center. Members of the retail association set up tables to display unique gift items to give attendees some holiday shopping ideas, and remind customers what great items can be found close to home.



Upcoming Mixers

- **Wednesday, December 3,** 5 to 7 p.m., Cross Creek Resort. Joint holiday mixer with the Meadville, Titusville and Venango Area Chambers.
- **Wednesday, December 10,** 5 to 7 p.m., First National Bank, Annual Christmas mixer.
- **Thursday, January 22,** 5 to 7 p.m., Lifelong Learning Programs: Skills for Success (formerly the Literacy Council). Joint mixer with Venango Area Chamber.

Member Entertainment

FoxTales

Saturdays from 9 p.m.-Midnight.

December 6 - Fred Glatz

December 13 - The Mark Beery Duo

December 20 - Rob & Suzi

December 27 - Doug Phillips

DJ Trivia every Thursday

www.foxtalespub.com

The Bricks of Franklin

Wednesdays, Open Mic Night

Fridays, 9 p.m.-Midnight, Live DJ

Saturdays, 7:30-Midnight, Karaoke

www.thebricksfranklin.com

Xtreme Audio & Accessories

The holiday season can often leave you wondering what to get for that special someone on your list who has everything. Xtreme Audio & Accessories, “The toy store for your car,” on 13th Street in Franklin can help you with that. They have a variety of gift items that can be used to personalize any vehicle, and gift certificates are always available. Products range from the simple and inexpensive like window decals, to more elaborate and pricier items like rims, wheels and window tinting. Navigational GPS systems like Garmin or Magellan and remote starters are some of the most popular gift items, said owner John Amoroso. All items are sold at the same prices as big box stores, with a major advantage of having certified employees on hand to install them for you. Products include stereo and speakers systems, satellite radio, alarms, cruise controls, and performance parts. Xtreme Audio stays on top of all the latest technology for cars including Blue Tooth accessories, hard drives, and hands-free devices that are very popular in states that ban cell phones while driving. And if they don’t have a product in the store that you want, they can get it the next day, Amoroso said.



John and Michael Amoroso of Xtreme Audio.



Xtreme Audio first opened five years ago in Grove City before relocating to Oil City and eventually Franklin. Amoroso opened the shop for his son, Michael, whose passion has always been vehicles. John said the business was very successful in Grove City, particularly with college students, and many clients followed the business when it moved, but Amoroso plans to open a second location in Grove City in the future.

Clients come from all ages and backgrounds and from as far away as Erie with a variety of requests. Xtreme also does a great deal of customizing for local automotive dealers. Amoroso owns the building where Xtreme Audio is located and plans to do some major remodeling and renovations in the near future. It is difficult to decide exactly when though, because there isn’t a slow season for the business. Once the commotion from remote starters winds down, the big vacation items like navigational units and DVD players will pick up. One thing is sure, Xtreme Audio is the place to go for great car-related gifts this year. For more information on Xtreme Audio’s products and services, stop by the store, call 432-3737, or check out the Web site (coming soon) www.extremeaudioonline.com.

Local Moose members visit MOOSEHEART

Several members of Moose Lodge #83 toured the campus of MOOSEHEART, a “Child City and School,” outside Chicago recently. Dedicated in July 1913 by the Moose fraternal organization, MOOSEHEART cares for youth whose families are unable, for a wide variety of reasons, to care for them. Some have lost one or both parents; others are living in environments that are simply not conducive to healthy growth and de-

velopment. Whatever the reason, the men and women of the Moose furnish the resources necessary to care for children in need. The Moose fraternity provides children with a wholesome home-like environment and the best possible training and education. Doran Gilhousen (pictured right) of the Franklin Moose Lodge took Franklin pins to some local children who are living at MOOSEHEART to remind them of home.



YWCA of Oil City

The time for New Year's Resolutions is drawing near, and for many women, that means one thing: Weight loss. Getting in shape is one of the most popular resolutions made, but it is hard for many people to stick with a routine without help or support. The YWCA of Oil City's fitness center at 109 Central Avenue offers personal training, health and wellness classes, a body gym, a cardio and weight training gym, a variety of group exercise classes and more. Women ages 12 and up are eligible for the program, which organizers say is helpful for women who may be more self-conscious while trying to exercise when men are using the same gym. Many women take advantage of the clean, supportive environment for working out, but the YWCA is much more than a fitness center. The YWCA schedules classes for adults based on needs they see in the community, or by requests from members. A yearly roster could include topics ranging from smoking cessation, growing your own herbs, AARP Driver's safety, to fibromyalgia and arthritis self-help. Classes are open to members and non-members. Another key element of the YWCA's success

is its youth programming, which features educational programming and offers Y-ette/Y-teen clubs for girls in grades six through 12 to relax in a safe environment after school. Their teen dances draw about 300 students from Oil City, Franklin, Titusville and Cranberry. Classes for younger children are also offered monthly that involve structured activities like holiday cooking or crafting. And a playground program is held in the summers. The YWCA is one of 17 member agencies funded by the United Way. Its mission is simple and clear: **EMPOWERING WOMEN and ELIMINATING RACISM**. The YWCA's two big fundraisers are coming up. First is the Sweet Treats (which is always held on the first Saturday in December) on Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It features homemade Christmas cookies (all made by YWCA members and supporters) and holiday gift items and accessories for sale. The annual Antique Show (always held on the first Saturday in March) will bring together 25-plus vendors from all over PA and Ohio to the YWCA from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 7. Lunch is served starting at 11 a.m. during both events. To find out more about the YWCA's programs, call 676-6528, or email jennifer@ocywca.org.



Director Jennifer Friedhaber (top) and the YWCA's fitness center (bottom).



C&S Hilltop Hardware introduces self storage

C&S Hilltop Hardware, a division of Landscaping Connections, has completed construction on climate controlled storage units on 15th Street Hill. Units are available in 22x10 or 5x10 sizes and can be custom built. Owners Chris and Speedy Ewing said they had wanted to build storage units to cater to pharmaceutical reps, food suppliers, and those looking for long-term file storage for a while, but have been waiting for the right time. Because

the moisture and temperature are controlled in the new storage units, there is no concern about mildew, mold, heat or cold damage to your possessions. "Everything is as good the day you take it out as it was the day you put it in," Speedy said. In addition to full storage units, C&S is offering a special on motorcycle storage for the winter. Call Chris or Speedy at 432-0961 or stop by the store for rental rates and more information.



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1250 Liberty Street
Franklin, Pennsylvania 16323

www.franklin-pa.org

Members supporting Members

PRSR STD
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Franklin, PA

27th Annual Applefest®
October 2, 3, & 4, 2009

*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



DECEMBER

Dec. 1...Ladies Day at Feldman Jewelers and Something Clever, discounts, giveaways, snacks, gift-wrapping; a great way to kick off your holiday shopping. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dec. 3...Business After Hours, 5-7 p.m., Cross Creek.

Dec. 4...Welcome reception for John Miller, Barrow Theatre general manager, 5-7 p.m. at the theatre.

Dec. 5...Jane Austen Regency Ball hosted by the Franklin Public Library at the Belles Lettres Club. Call for details 432-5062.

Dec. 5-7...Venango County Historical Society Christmas House Tours; 5-8 p.m. Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 437-2275 for reservations.

Dec. 6...2B40, an acoustic duo with Eddie St. Clair, 7 p.m., Barrow Little Theatre.

Dec. 6..."The Darjeeling Limited" 7:30 p.m., Clarion University-Venango Campus' Independent Film Series.

Dec. 6...YWCA Sweet Treats, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the YWCA in Oil City, homemade Christmas cookies, holiday gift items and accessories for sale. Lunch served at 11.

Dec. 6...Clarion University Madrigal Dinner at the Arlington Hotel. Call 678-3017 for ticket information.

Dec. 6 & 7...Santa Express at Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. Train leaves Perry Station at 1 p.m.

Dec. 7...Venango Chorus to perform it's Christmas Con-

cert at St. John's Episcopal Church, 7 p.m.

Dec. 10...Business After Hours 5-7 p.m., First National Bank., hosted by First National and Fezell's Shop 'n Save.

Dec. 11, 12, 13 & 14...The Wizard of Oz, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre.

Dec. 16..."Three Irish Tenors", Barrow-Civic.

Dec. 19 & 20...Studio 22 presents "The Hard Nut", 7 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre.

Dec. 19...Franklin Public Library holiday party for children ages 12 and under. Children are asked to bring a snack to share. Registrations a must. 432-5062.

Dec. 20...Drop & Shop at the Franklin Public Library, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., parents may finish up holiday errands while their children spend the day at the library. Registrations a must by calling 432-5062.

Dec. 25...MERRY CHRISTMAS! The Chamber office will close at noon, Dec. 24 and reopen at 9 a.m. Dec. 29.

JANUARY

Jan. 1...HAPPY NEW YEAR! The Chamber office will close at noon on Dec. 31 and will be closed Jan. 1.

Jan. 18...DeBence Antique Music World, 1:30 p.m., Dick Eshelman and Ed Frye will present a musical program on piccolo & flute, clarinet & saxophone.

Jan. 23...The Venango County Historical Society National Pie Day sale. Order by calling 437-2275.