

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

June

...the business connection...

2008



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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.

In this issue:

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Conair Expansion Announced

The Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce was proud to contribute to The Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority's and the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism's efforts to help facilitate Conair's expansion in Franklin.



Supporting the local business climate is an essential function of the Chamber, and one we are happy to be able to support.

More on **Page 6**.

Appley Ever After



The response has been outstanding so far for our Appley Ever After Applefest® 2009 promotion that will give one lucky couple an all expense paid wedding ceremony!

See **Page 7** for a list of sponsors so far, and to find out more.

Toll Opposition Continues

The Chamber is still working with the Chambers & Partners Coalition to put a stop to a proposal that would toll Interstate 80, placing an undue strain on Pennsylvania businesses, particularly along the I-80 corridor. The Chamber will continue to keep our members informed of anti-tolling efforts, and what you can do to help.

You can find the latest news inside on **Page 7**.



New Member Spotlight

In April, we had four new members join the Chamber. Please welcome the following business owners to the Franklin Area Chamber.

Welcome to the Chamber

Celebration Station

Celebration Station is set to open this month. The party supply store carries a large variety of party favors and decorations for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, retirements, and many other special occasions. There will be a rewards program for larger purchases, and stations set up where customers can make their own party favors, and leave the mess and stress behind. Evening appointments and refreshments are available.

Contact: Janet Murdoch
1252 Liberty St. Franklin, PA 16323
janetmurdoch@zoominternet.net

Growing Hope Educational Services

Growing Hope offers strategies to help people become more successful socially and academically, by using methods for developing the spirit, mind and body. Owner Linda Grace holds a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's degree in education. She is a lifelong learner and a believer in helping children to reach their full potential, and is now taking on students for summer vacation tutoring.

Contact: Linda Grace
777 Pone Lane, Franklin, PA 16323
(814)516-7666
lindagrace@csonline.net

Stitch 'n to Go

Stitch 'n to Go is a retail and service business offering custom embroidery work and limited alteration and sewing services. Owner JoAnn Straub strives to provide an embroidered logo that reflects you and your business in a positive, professional manner.

“We make you look good.”

Contact: JoAnn Straub
2525 Patchel Run Road, Franklin, PA 16323
(814)374-5092 fax: (814)374-5092

Observant Solutions, LLC

Observant Solutions provides software solutions for clients who want their technological ideas realized but are tired of being bamboozled by “nerd speak.” Services include Web design, software cost analysis, and software solutions. Observant will ask the right questions, learn about the company, devise a solution, and implement the solution at the client's pace and comfort level.

Contact Reice Altomare
333 West Mt. Vernon St., Titusville, PA 16354
(814)657-4836
reice@observantsolutionsllc.com

Noteworthy Items

Family Time Tuesday

Bring your kids to Cranberry Mall from 6 to 8 p.m. June 17, July 15, and August 19 for family fun. Walk a mile together (two laps around the mall) for a chance to win free movie passes, pizza, drinks, pretzels and more.

Oskie's Entertains

Oskie's Patio Series featuring live entertainment under the stars will kick off June 6 with a performance by Max Schang & Friends, and continue every Friday evening through August.

Dive In!

The Miller-Sibley Pool will open Monday, June 9, for the season. The pool will be open seven days a week. Call the Franklin YMCA at (814)432-2138 for details on season passes and pool rentals.

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.

- Franklin Rotary Club (28 Years)
 - Franklin Retail & Business Association (25 Years)
 - Sherwin-Williams (18 Years)
 - Engles Trucking Services (16 Years)
 - Michael Deligiannis Investments (14 Years)
 - Eat'n Park Restaurants (13 Years)
 - State Farm Insurance (13 Years)
 - Wyattville Country Store (12 Years)
 - Child Care Information Services of Venango County (11 Years)
 - PA Careerlink - Oil Region (9 Years)
 - Dahl Real Estate (7 Years)
 - Venango County Draft Horse Association (6 Years)
 - Alturnamats (4 Years)
 - Phil Close DJ Service (2 Years)
 - Kelly Donaldson (2 Years)
- *Your company will be recognized for renewing your membership after your anniversary month.



* * * * *

* Despite chilly weather, the Franklin Gardeners' Association was busy in May. After hosting a very successful Garden Mart, volunteers went about beautifying the city by planting flowers throughout the downtown, including Gateway Garden and in the baskets on the city light posts. In the photo on the left, volunteers Stacey and Hannah Young and Cindy Ruditis (from left) plant flowers in the basket outside the Chamber office.

* Thanks, Gardeners, and keep up the good work!

* * * * *

Updates

Insert Deadlines

Just a reminder ... The deadline for newsletter inserts is the third Monday of each month, for the next month's newsletter, i.e. Monday June 16, for the July issue. You must provide 575 copies of your flyer, or they can be printed in the Chamber office for \$55. The price to include flyers in the newsletter is \$55 for for-profit businesses and \$25 for non-profit organizations. Newsletter insert advertising is a great way to reach our 500-plus membership directly.

Applefest® Sponsorships

There is still time to be included on the Applefest® 2008 placemats. Applefest® is the primary fundraiser of the Chamber, and a fantastic advertising opportunity for Chamber members. The festival draws more than 100,000 people into downtown each year and gives a tremendous boost to local shops, restaurants, hotels, and non-profits. If you are planning on taking part in placemat advertising or festival sponsorship, please let us know asap to reserve your space.

HRG Honored

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., has been named one of the top 500 design firms in the United States by *Engineering News-Record* magazine. The list is compiled annually based on the revenue earned by engineering and architectural firms from design services performed in the preceding year. Founded in 1962 to serve Central Pennsylvania, HRG has grown into a full-service firm that offers a comprehensive package of engineering and related services.

Business News

Sportsworld “Extreme Makeover” In The Works

Sportsworld is doing an Extreme Makeover! Sportsworld has been located at 1276 Liberty Street in downtown Franklin since 1977 and its about time we do a facelift. We here at Sportsworld are going to tailor our business to what we do best, providing gifts and apparel to local businesses, teams, clubs and organizations. Customizing and personalizing everything from promotional items to uniforms including the following:

- Over 20,000 promotional items to choose from including: Pens, Lanyards, Post-It Notes, Drink Bottles & Coffee Mugs, Key Chains to Desk & Brief Case Organizers, and many more Corporate/Professional gift items.
- We will continue to provide engraving on trophies and awards as well as many new Gift Items. A lot has changed in the trophies and award business and you should come and see the new available items in our many new catalogues.
- As always, Sportsworld offers embroidery, screen printing, or heat-applied vinyl on everything from clothing to you name it! If we can hoop it or get it to sit still long enough, we will slap a logo on it.
- Of course we will continue to carry the hard to find items that we keep in stock, such as ball pants and ball socks for spring, summer and fall ball leagues, and the year round swimwear and accessories for the swim teams and folks involved in the swim and exercise programs at the local YMCAs.
- We will be increasing our Spirit Wear Department to cover many more items and apparel for all the local schools in the Franklin, Rocky Grove, Oil City, Cranberry, Venango Catholic, East & West Forest, Titusville, and many other school districts in the surrounding counties.

We are going to have a store wide clearance to reduce stock as much as possible during our remodeling, so keep your eye and ear out for our massive sales throughout June & July. We will remain open during our remodeling this summer, but ask that you bear with us while we jockey around our new changes in the store.

*Article provided by Sportsworld.

What Happened

At The Business After Hours

Members gathered inside DeBence Antique Music World at 1261 Liberty Street in May for a mixer hosted by DeBence, the Venango County Historical Society, and The Historic Franklin Preservation Association. Guests feasted their eyes on hundreds of unique antique items, their ears on the cheery sounds of DeBence’s self-playing musical instruments, and their taste buds on delicious, homemade appetizers provided by HFPA and Historical Society volunteers. After Hours Mixers are a great way for host companies to showcase their facilities, and a great networking opportunity. Be sure to join us for the two scheduled mixers in June at the Northwest Commission in Oil City and Action Auto Service in Seneca.



Franklin mayor Bob Heller (right) talks with City Code Enforcement Officer Chuck Gibbons.

On the Agenda

Fourth of July Week Festivities

The City of Franklin has an exciting list of events slated for this year's Fourth of July Week. The celebration will kick off Thursday, June 26 with senior appreciation day, Friday brings the ever-popular Children's Penny Carnival, Saturday will feature the LibertyFest parade "Through the Eyes of a Child," Monday will be marked with a Pet Show, evening concerts are planned for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and finally, the week will be capped off by "Thunder Over Franklin" fireworks in Riverfront Park. There is live entertainment scheduled throughout the week, as well as great food, fun and sales throughout the downtown.

As gas prices continue to soar, the City has scheduled a number of other activities for the summer that will keep you entertained close to home: Concerts in Bandstand Park every Thursday evening; the Brown Baggin' lunch series on Thursdays at the Fountain Park gazebo; the Farmer's Market and Open Air Market on Saturdays; and more. Be sure to join in on the fun!

For a full schedule, visit www.franklinpa.gov.



Upcoming Mixers

- **Tuesday, June 10**, 4 p.m.-7 p.m., at the Northwest Commission in Oil City, joint mixer with Venango and Titusville chambers
- **Thursday, June 26**, 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Action Auto Service in Seneca. Joint mixer with Venango Area Chamber.

Friday Night Dance Party

Majic, Phil Close DJ Service, Cranberry Mall and others have teamed up to offer teen dances at the mall (near the food court) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Friday for the rest of the summer. The dances are designed to provide a safe, drug free environment for teens under 21. The dances will feature giveaways, a VIP area, and the latest Text 2 Screen technology.

Foxtales Entertainment

- Saturdays 9 p.m. - Midnight
- June 7th - Joe J. Duo
- June 14th - Fred Glatz
- June 21th - Uncharted Course
- June 28th - Doug Phillips

Attention Managers!

Keystone Community Education Council and PA Careerlink present:

“Effectively Dealing with Employment & Compensation Issues”

Tuesday, June 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cross Creek Resort

The seminar will cover methods for disciplining employees, managing workers' compensation claims, and unemployment compensation claims. There will also be a brief overview of PA Careerlink services. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch

If you deal with these issues, you can't afford to miss this seminar!

For more information call the Keystone CEC (814)677-4427.

FICDA Computer Classes Slated

The Franklin Industrial and Commercial Development Authority has several classes scheduled in June to help bring employees up to speed on software. All MS '03 Classes run from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the ETC Building's 2nd story computer lab on Howard Street in Franklin, and cost \$35.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, June 4 - Word I | Friday, June 6 - Word II |
| Wednesday, June 11 - Excel I | Thursday, June 12 - Excel II |
| Wednesday, June 18 - Access I | Friday, June 20 - Access II |
| Wednesday, June 25 - Power Point | |

Check out the newsletter inserts for a full list of 2008 classes. For more information or to register, call 432-4476 ext. 100 or email sally@ficda.org.

Conair Expansion Announced

Conair announced in May that a major expansion was on the horizon for the Franklin location. The expansion involves closing a Rapid Granulator plant in Rockford, Ill., and bringing those jobs, and potentially many more, to the Franklin area.

The Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism and the Franklin Industrial & Commercial Development Authority and the Franklin Chamber have come up with funds

to help facilitate the estimated \$750,000 consolidation. The Alliance & FICDA are each contributing \$95,000, and the Franklin Chamber has offered



\$10,000 toward the cause. All three groups understand the importance of creating and keeping jobs in the area.

Conair in Franklin, founded in 1956, will be renamed IPEG and will manufacture Conair and Rapid products. IPEG, International Plastics Equipment Group, of Sweden is the parent company of both Conair and Rapid Granulator.

Conair is an international leader in the plastics industry and one of Venango County's largest employers. The plant is located in the Franklin Area on Allegheny Boulevard/Route 8 North.

Ground Broken at UPMC

In other local economic development news, Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in May for UPMC's new Transitional Care Unit/Rehabilitation Center. The ceremony marked the beginning of a \$8 million building project in Cranberry Township.

The new unit will allow direct on-site access to the emergency and imaging departments, operating room, and other diagnostic and treatment services that currently require transporting patients from the existing TCU/Rehab unit in Oil City to the hospital in Seneca. It also will result in better physician coverage and food service for patients, according to an announcement from UPMC Northwest.

Karen DeWoody, V.P. of skilled nursing and rehabilitative services, said the TCU/Rehabilitation unit will improve the environment of care for patients in the same way that UPMC Northwest's hospital created much better facilities when it opened in 2004.



Top: Officials take part in groundbreaking ceremony for the new Transitional Care Unit/Rehabilitation Center. Bottom: Artist's rendering of the new building



Appley Ever After

By now, you should all have received your letters inviting you to join in the fun and take advantage of a special advertising opportunity, by getting involved with the Appley Ever After wedding celebration scheduled for Applefest® 2009.

A group of downtown business owners came up with the idea of putting on an all expense paid wedding ceremony in front of thousands of onlookers during Applefest® a la *Today Show* as a new way to promote the sponsoring businesses and organizations.

In the first week, the Chamber office has received sponsorship offers from several companies and individuals, and we look forward to seeing what else our members come up with!

Here's a look at what some of our members have offered so far:

Bride and bridesmaid dresses, tuxedos, wedding rings, flowers, reception favors, bubbles or mints, banners, digital photography, a \$500 savings bond, 1/2 of a prenuptial agreement, a bronze address plaque for the couple's home, wedding ceremony insurance, and DJ services, to start!

We have also already had inquiries from couples interested in tying the knot during Applefest®. The Web site with applications for couples will be launched this fall during Applefest® 2008, and will include a full list of sponsors and links to sponsor Web sites.



Appley Ever After

I-80 Update

- PA Senate President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati introduced a funding proposal in May that would shift \$510 million for the State Police out of the Motor License Fund, in order to free up that money for road and bridge repairs. Scarnati's plan would nix the plan to toll Interstate 80, proposed by Gov. Ed Rendell. Scarnati, a Jefferson County Republican, is calling his plan a "fiscally responsible" alternative to Rendell's I-80 tolling plan and his proposal to lease the turn-



pike to private investors. The plan upholds other components of Act 44 of 2007, such as requiring the Turnpike Commission to contribute to mass transit funding and increasing the required local share on transit operating costs. Democrats criticized the

plan, arguing that it would not generate the same amount of funding as tolling I-80.

- On May 19, Rendell announced that Barcelona-based Abertis Infraestructuras and partner Criteria CaixaCorp of Spain and Citi Infrastructure Investors offered \$12.8 billion to run the turnpike. This is not a done deal, as it must be approved by legislature. Rendell predicted the deal would generate \$1.1 billion per year for the first 10 years for roads, bridges and mass transit.

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

www.franklin-pa.org

Members supporting Members

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**26th Annual
Applefest® 2008
October 3rd-5th**

*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.*

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



Calendar of Events

JUNE

- June 1...**Farmers' Market-Open Air Market 8a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through August
- June 1...**Two and a half hour round trips on the OC&T Railroad begin. Call 676-1733 for details.
- June 1...**Sunday races every weekend at Tri-City Speedway. Call 437-4038 for details.
- June 10...**Guided Sibley Mansion Tours, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Call the Venango Historical Society for details 676-2007.
- June 15...**OC&T Railroad Father's Day Train Ride 1 p.m.
- June 15...**Player Pianos, 1:30 p.m., DeBence Antique Music World.
- June 19-21...**"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" 8 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre.
- June 22...**Matinee 2 p.m. Call 437-3440 for details.
- June 17-21...(Date Change)** Rocky Grove Fireman's Fair
- June 25-27...**\$100,000 shoot out, Lucky Hills Golf Course
- June 29...**Grande Romanza, 2 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre
- June 26-July 4...**Fourth of July Week festivities
- June 27...**Colgate Talent Search, Barrow-Civic Theatre
- June 28...**House & Garden Tour, noon to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Franklin Gardeners' Association.

JULY

- July & August...**Two and a half hour round trips aboard the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad. 1 p.m. from Perry Station every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday.
- July & August...**Thursday evening concerts in the park. Bandstand Park 7:30 p.m.
- July 1...**Neil McElwee to present "Early Oil Men of Franklin" 7 p.m., Barrow-Civic Theatre.
- July 2..."Sputzy"** Rock n' Roll, 7:30 p.m., Bandstand Park
- July 4..Independence Day** "Thunder Over Franklin" fireworks. Dusk, Riverfront Park.
- July 6-11...**Youth Theatre Camp at the Barrow-Civic Theatre.
- July 7...**U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors. 7 p.m., Bandstand Park.
- July 10..."DIG IT"** Youth Theatre performance. Barrow-Civic Theatre. Call 437-3440 for details.
- July 13..."Popular Music from the 1920s,"** DeBence Antique Music World series of Mini Events.

