



NEWSLETTER – August 31, 2010

MEETING REMINDER

The general meeting of the Chamber is held on the first Tuesday of the month. **The next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 7th** at the Route 6 Diner. If you haven't attended a Chamber meeting in a while, join us for dinner or a snack so we can get reacquainted.

SEPTEMBER 18: 'WHEEL AROUND THE HUB' BICYCLE RACE

This year's 'Wheel Around The Hub' bicycle race will be held on Saturday, September 18. The 53-mile, seven-lap race starts at noon on Main Street in front of the McKean County Courthouse.

For the 53-mile race, male and female winners in various age categories will receive gold watches, cash and medallions. Lap premiums will also be paid. The 15-mile, two-circuit Family Fun Race will start approximately ten minutes after the main race. Prizes will be non-monetary awards.

The Smethport Chamber is supporting this race by pledging \$500, which is earmarked for prize money. Smethport businesses and individuals are urged to participate with sponsorships and donations as follows:

- Donor - \$25
- Bronze Sponsor - \$50
- Silver Sponsor - \$100
- Gold Sponsor - \$250
- Platinum Sponsor - \$500
- Title Sponsor - \$1,000
- Platinum Title Sponsor - \$2,500

Chamber members – let's combine our efforts to make this event the best ever! You can donate via credit card by visiting the [Borough website](#) or bring a check to the Borough office. Proceeds will benefit the Smethport Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Police – one of the hardest working groups in service to our community.

CAREER VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

The Smethport Chamber is offering free DVDs to local residents interested in pursuing careers in Oil & Gas, Forestry, and Healthcare. If you or someone you know is interested in obtaining one of these DVDs to learn more about job requirements in these fields, please contact Nathan Muller at njmuller@comcast.net.

FORMER CHAMBER PRESIDENT WAYNE PEARSON FEATURED IN 'RURAL TELECOM' MAGAZINE

In the July-August 2010 issue of Rural Telecom magazine, former Smethport Chamber president Wayne Pearson shared his insights on the question of, "Can Broadband Save Rural America?"

According to the magazine's cover story, written by NTCA economist Rick Schadelbauer, proponents of rural America have long cited the numerous advantages to living in less populous areas: lower housing costs, lower crime rates, less traffic, better air quality and an overall lower cost of living.

"Our community has great schools, an airport 10 minutes away, and low housing costs," said Wayne Pearson, former president of the Smethport, Pa. Chamber of Commerce. "You can buy a four-bedroom house in Smethport for \$70,000."

"We're promoting Smethport as a place to run an Internet business and, eventually, retire," said Pearson. "Telecommuting is the future of the workplace. As the next generation of managers takes control, the concept of 'face time' will not be nearly as important as it has been in the past. If you can do your job from anywhere, why not choose small-town America?" [Read more »](#)

SMETHPORT RESIDENT MELANIE CLABAUGH NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KANE CHAMBER

Melanie Clabaugh, a recent arrival to Smethport with her husband Phil, has been named executive director of the Kane Area Development Center. Her duties span the Chamber of Commerce, Kane Area Industrial Development Corp., and the Kane Area Revitalization Enterprise.

Melanie has a BA and M.Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland. She was the marketing and outreach coordinator for the Oakland Business Improvement District responsible for planning, developing and implementing promotions and events designed to steer commerce to Oakland's business district.

Before coming to Smethport, Melanie had been employed by Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland — America's second oldest Catholic University.

As a volunteer for the Woolly Willy Wonderdaze festival, Melanie handled media relations and button sales.

Smethport resident Jeff Andrulonis, president and CEO of Colonial Radio Group, and president of the Kane Chamber of Commerce, said Melanie brings energy and excitement to the organizations representing the Kane business community.

Melanie's husband Phil is the county's newest assistant District Attorney and works out of the McKean County Courthouse in Smethport.

PA LEADERS APPROVE FUNDING FOR HERITAGE AREAS

The value of heritage areas to Pennsylvania's economy was recently recognized by lawmakers during the deliberation and passage of the 2010-2011 state budget. The legislature partially restored the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Heritage Area line item that had been zeroed out in the previous budget year. In addition, under the leadership of House Speaker Keith McCall, an Article attached to the budget legislatively establishes the Heritage Area Program within DCNR and authorizes funding support for eligible grants and investment programs.

"When you consider that tourism is one of the state's biggest economic drivers it just made sense to fund HeritagePA in the budget to support vital programs and help encourage investment at every level while preserving our rich history for future generations," McCall said.

In related news, while Smethport received the first Route 6 Heritage Community designation in 2005, Kane is the latest, having received its designation as a Route 6 Heritage Community earlier this month.

ROUTE 6 PHOTO CONTEST

Pennsylvania Route 6 is holding a photography contest, featuring the theme: "Where & When Do you do Route 6". The due date is October 30.

This is a great way for you to receive "free" promotion, by taking and submitting a digital photo that promotes your business, attraction, or a nearby location to you along Route 6.

Each photo must clearly show a mile marker with a description or suggestion on what to see near that mile marker. Descriptions are limited to 25 words. Your scenic and fun submissions must be submitted through the [PA Route 6](#) website using the official entry form.

MEMBERSHIP 2010-2011

As of June 30th, the following individuals, businesses and other organizations have joined the Chamber or renewed their membership for 2010-2011:

ADP Rental
Ascent Solutions
Barbara Ness
Barbara K. Bowman
Bill Lake Real Estate
Buchanan Brothers Pharmacy, Inc.
Chef Specialties – Backus Company
Colonial Radio Group
Connie's Route 6 Diner
Corner Bar & Tap Room
Costa's Ace Hardware
Costa's Supermarket
Country Porch Cafe
Edward Jones - Keith Delacour, FA
Enchanted Mountain Advertising
Forecon Inc.
Hamlin Bank & Trust Company

Hamlin Memorial Library
Hancock Forest Management
H&S Pet Animal Hospital
Helen Cole
Heritage Suites (Bradford)
James B. Kane, Jr. DMD
James K. Angell, Attorney at Law
James P. Miller, Attorney at Law
Kwik Fill
Lakeview Senior Care and Living Center
Lightwaves Laser Engraving
Mansion District Inn, LLC
McKean County Legion Riders
McKean County Historical Society
Northwest Savings Bank
O'Day Acquisition Consulting
Olson & Tenglund, Inc.
Phillis Barnhart
Senior Center
St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Smethport Area School District
Smethport Country Club
Smethport Drive-In
Smethport Fire Department
Smethport Gulf & Tire
Smethport Rotary
Thomas E. Ball Financial Services
United Refining Company of Pennsylvania (Warren)
Wayne and Mary Lee Pearson
Woods Baker & Ross

* **NOTE:** If you do not see your name / organization on this list, please drop a note to:
njmuller@comcast.net.

CHAMBER WEBSITE: www.smethportchamber.com

FREE ADVERTISING: If your business is located in the Borough, Smethport Web will host an advertising banner at no charge. Send advertising copy, images, and contact information to advertising@smethportpa.org. Don't miss this opportunity to use the power of the Internet to enhance your business. All the design work will even be done for you!

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE: In case you need to refer to a past newsletter, the Chamber website now has an archive at: www.smethportchamber.com/chamber_newsletter.htm