



NEWSLETTER – February 28, 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, March 2nd** 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.

SMETHPORT TO BE REPRESENTED AT NATURAL GAS EXPO

The Natural Gas Expo will be held March 17th and 18th in Coudersport. The Smethport Area Chamber of Commerce will share a booth with 6 other agencies from McKean County.

The booth will be staffed by Anne Porter, Rose Bishop, Ross Porter and Nathan Muller, who will represent the Chamber. Our purpose is to acquaint representatives of the natural gas industry with the advantages of leasing or buying buildings and offices in Smethport, as well as buying or renting homes.

The Chamber has purchased a quarter page of space in the Expo catalog that will display the following advertisement:

McKean County
Smethport, Pennsylvania

Housing
Office Space
Buildings
Commercial Lots

Purchase • Rent • Lease

- 20 minutes to Bradford Regional Airport
- Business friendly local government
- Quality schools, health care, civic groups
- Scenic beauty and recreational assets

Smethport Area Chamber of Commerce
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Smethport, PA 16749
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smethportchamber.com
smethportpa.org

All of this activity is related to the development of the Marcellus Shale natural gas reserve, which is expected to create more than 98,000 jobs and pump over \$14 billion into the state's economy in 2010, according to a recent report released by the Pennsylvania State University College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

For unbiased economic and environmental information related to Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania, visit <http://naturalgas.extension.psu.edu/>.

FIRST ANNUAL NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY CONFERENCE – MAY 12th

The First Annual North Central Community Conference will be held on May 12, 2010 at University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (UPB) from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The keynote speaker will be Dave Kahley from the Progress Fund. This conference will provide an excellent opportunity for local officials and community groups to meet with federal and state agencies and learn about new programs.

There will be informative concurrent workshops designed to meet the needs of local communities. The workshops are organized into four tracks:

- Community Development
- Energy
- Transportation
- GIS Training

Topics include Marcellus Shale and Community Impact, Main Street Success, Marcellus Shale Effects on Roads and Bridges, Electric Rate Caps, Finding Funding in Tough Times, and many more.

The cost for this event is \$5 if registered before April 30 or \$10 after April 30. Registration and agenda are available online at www.ncentral.com. If you cannot register online, or have any questions, call Matt Marusiak, Community Development Coordinator, at 814-773-3162, extension 3042.

SPREAD THE WORD: MANSION DISTRICT TOUR – OCTOBER 2nd

The Smethport Garden Club will sponsor a tour of select Mansion District Homes on October 2, 2010. Times: 1:00-4:30 pm. Price: \$10.00.

The last time the Tour of Homes was held, October 10, 2008, it was attended by over 200 people, breaking the record. People came from several towns in the region and from out of state. Tickets ran out quickly.

This has become quite a big event for Smethport and if the autumn weather is as nice as last time, we could be in for another record-breaking turnout.

FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT – March 10th

PA Wilds Ombudsman Ta Brant will present a program on building an effective tourism website.

You will learn how to build an effective web site and get an explanation of search engine optimization. Ms. Brant will show examples of tourism businesses and how share the results of their online marketing efforts.

The program will be held at Frame-Westerberg Commons, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford on Wednesday, March 10th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

To register please call 800-872-1787 or e-mail: tbrant@pawilds.com.

This should be a fun, informative program for anyone with a business that relies on tourism!

ENTREPRENUERS CLUB SEMINAR – THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR BUSINESS STOREFRONT

On Thursday, May 13th, Rick Viglione, the Western regional coordinator for the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, will hold an open discussion about the importance and vitality of business storefronts. Participants will leave this event with examples of how to engage their window space, draw customers into their establishments, and encourage customer growth through their displays and onsite advertisements.

This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the United Methodist Church located at 307 Main Street in Port Allegany, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There is no cost to attend. To register, contact the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Outreach Services Office at 814-362-5078 or send an email to reach@pitt.edu.

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

MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

As of February 28th, the Chamber has 48 individuals, businesses and other organizations as members. Members highlighted in yellow have joined since the last newsletter:

ADP Rentals
Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau - ANFVB
Ascent Solutions
Barbara Bowman
Bill Lake Real Estate
Buchanan Bros. Pharmacy
Casella Waste Systems
Chef Specialties
Colonial Radio Group
Corner Restaurant & Bar (Annin Enterprises Inc.)
Diane Covert
Dr. D.L. Rumsey
Enchanted Mountain Advertising

Edward Jones FA Keith Delacour
Ferman's Auto
Forcon Inc.
Garden Club
George and Deborah Tufts
Hamlin Bank & Trust Company
Hancock Forestry
Heritage Suites (Bradford)
James B. Kane, Jr. DMD
James P. Miller, Attorney at Law
Jennifer Messinger
Keppel Stone Works
Kwik Fill
Lakeview Living & Rehabilitation
Les Jordan, Jr.
Lindgren's Variety Store
McKean County Fair
McKean County Historical Society
Northwest Savings Bank
Olsen & Tenglund Inc.
Phillis Barnhart
Radio Shack
Ronald Tanner
Ross and Jovanna Porter
Rt. 6 Diner
Senior Center
St. Elizabeth of Hungary R.C. Church
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Smethport Area School District
Smethport Drive-In
The Country Porch
United Refining Company of Pennsylvania (Warren)
United Way
Veterans of Foreign Wars – V.F.W.
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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Nathan Muller, President; Rose Bishop, V. President;
Diana Covert, Secretary; Lu Vandermark, Treasurer; Jeff Keppel; Jackie Taylor; Scott
Christie

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!