

Superheroes Launch Membership Drive



The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce has kicked off the 2010 Membership Drive, with the help of more than a dozen Chamber Ambassadors and member volunteers. The competition is on.

The Drive began the evening of March 2nd with a special get-together at the Chamber office. New Executive Director, Kellie Goodman and the Chamber Staff met with the volunteers, who have signed up to become Chamber “Superheroes”, as group leaders or group members. The Groups will compete for prizes as well

as Chamber bragging rights, to see which team of Superheroes will secure the most new members. The tally is on display at the Chamber office.

In addition to reaching out to friends and business associates, the Superheroes have participated part in a Membership Phone Blitz Tuesday, March 9th at the Chamber Office.

Verizon Wireless generously donated five cell phones to be used for the Blitz. The team members spent much of the day calling Bedford County businesses and organizations, encouraging community leaders to learn more about Chamber Membership.



Membership Advantages include: Visibility as part of the Chamber Directory and Website, as well as other publications, including this E-Newsletter and the E-Connection, weekly e-mail blasts. Visibility also comes at Chamber Events, like the annual Home & Garden Show, Business to Business Expo, Ribbon Cutting Celebrations, and much more.

Networking opportunities are available through Business After Hours, the Annual Awards Dinner, the Chamber Golf Outing, Taste of Bedford County, and numerous volunteer and social activities.

These are just a few of the selling-points our Chamber Superheroes will be pitching to potential new members through March 31st.

For more information, or to volunteer to be a Chamber Superhero, Call 623-2233 or Visit: www.BedfordCountyChamber.org

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“THIS IS THE WORST TIME TO CUT BACK ON YOUR MARKETING INVESTMENT.”

— Lynn Corbett-Winn
Chamber President

President’s Message — Lynn Corbett-Winn

HERE COMES MARCH (MEMBERSHIP) MADNESS!

Finally, something I can write about easily... Madness! So I was thinking about a corny analogy between March Madness and Chamber membership... **think I can’t do it? Watch me make this dunk...** For those sports minded people out there (like our new director Kellie Goodman... Welcome!), you know that March Madness is about college basketball and each round of playoffs brings the remaining teams closer and closer to the ultimate goal – the Heisman Trophy! **And that... er,** what? **Oh, that’s football?** Okay, so it brings them closer to whatever they win for being the best college basketball team. My point is that throughout the month, excitement builds and the remaining teams and their fans get more and more focused on the goal. By the final game, all craziness breaks loose! Jerseys and ball caps flying off the shelves. Giant foam fingers sporting #1! Grown men crying! Fans dancing in the streets! Dogs and cats having lunch together! Cheerleaders! Confetti!

It’s just like membership in the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce.

What? **You don’t believe me? Follow the bouncing ball...** In March, **we’re kicking off an annual membership drive because** – now, this might sound like madness - there are actually some businesses and organizations in our region who are not yet members of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce. Maybe they were at one time and just **didn’t see the sport of it.** Perhaps the recent economy had some businesses cutting back on vital marketing and promotion spending. Yet experts say this is the worst time to cut back on your marketing investment. Your marketing and promotion investment today pays off



exponentially over the next 6 months to a year, as the excitement builds and you focus on your goal. The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce is one of the best investments to get your businesses known! Face to face networking at monthly after hours and business resource sessions! Remember the commercial: if you tell two friends, and they tell two friends, and so on and so on? **That’s it! That’s one of the greatest benefits of your membership.** Invest your time and you will see your network, revenues and excitement grow! **But it doesn’t end there (and sorry, neither does this column...).** With the numerous other benefits offered by the Chamber... the madness explodes! Networking! Business resources! Sponsorship opportunities! Cheerleaders! (Just checking to see if you were still there.) Fun and effective events to showcase your business like Expo, Home & Garden, golf tournaments and more! Awards and recognition! Leadership Bedford County! Youth Leadership Bedford County! Website marketing! Buy the Alleghenies regional business directory! Group rates on insurance, energy and other business resources!

So here’s the deal. If you are not a member of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, please reconsider being part of this successful team. Join the madness! Pick up the phone when our dedicated volunteers from member businesses donate their time to the membership drive. Or pick up the phone now and voluntarily join the fun. Invest your time in a few of the networking opportunities and experience the difference Chamber membership makes. **And Chamber members, don’t think you have to miss out on the fun! Join the drive today and help this team go all the way! Let’s all create excitement and momentum together, building a stronger, more vital business community so that when the season rolls around next year, we’ll all be champions!**

I’ll bring the dogs. You bring the cats. We’ll have lunch.



Leadership Bedford County Group Spends Time in Court, Jail

The Leadership Bedford County Class of 2010 recently enjoyed a February session learning about the county's judicial and protective services. The day began at the Bedford County Jail with a tour of the jail and a panel with prisoners, followed by lunch.



"Defendant" Jesse Topper

The class then traveled to the Bedford County Courthouse for a lesson in the judicial process. On-the-job training in trial procedures was the order of the day with the class divided into prosecution, defense and jury for a mock DUI trial. The Honorable Judge Thomas S. Ling presided over the "trial", with Jesse Topper, a Leadership class member, acting as the fictitious defendant. District Attorney William Higgins was among the attorneys who helped the class prepare for the mock trial, and shared some of his trial experiences with the members. Following the "not guilty" verdict, the class adjourned to the Commissioner's office with D.A. Higgins for an overview of the judicial system and protective services.



Mock DUI Trial

The Leadership Bedford County Class of 2010 will participate in a regional session in April at the Sheetz Distribution Center in Claysburg; the class will then "graduate" in May, with a new class beginning the program in August. A Youth Leadership Program is also available for Bedford County students entering 10th grade in the 2010-2011 school year. For more information, contact Keisha Lazor at the Chamber Office.

Steps to Success Program Planned



BASICS Bedford County (Businesses & Schools Investing in Cooperative Solutions) is planning what is sure to be another outstanding "Steps to Success" program, Wednesday March 24th at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort. This is the 9th year for the event, which is chaired by Melissa Jacobs of the Jean Bonnet Tavern and supported by many local businesses.

More than ninety students (ages 16-18) from Bedford County high schools are expected to take part in the program, which includes a series of important Steps to Success: Step 1: Getting the Job—Interviewing to Succeed; Step 2: Keeping the Job—Being an Excellent Employee; Step 3: Facing & Meeting Job Challenges; and Step 4: Going Beyond Good. The day includes presentations, lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts class of the Bedford County Technical Center, door prizes and giveaways.



2009 Steps: Educational Skit

Businesses and organizations who will led their expertise to the students include: Gateway Travel Plaza, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Kennametal, Bedford Business & Professional Women, Reed Wertz & Roadman, Jean Bonnet Tavern, Knisely & Sons and the Bedford Area School District.

Exhibitor spaces are still available for just \$50! If you would like to be part of this important event for future entry-level job seekers, please call Keisha Lazor at the Chamber Office: 623-2233, e-mail: KeishaL@BedfordCountyChamber.org or visit: www.BedfordCountyChamber.org

MAKE A NOTE:

BASICS:
Steps to Success

Wed. March 24th
Omni Bedford Springs

Exhibitor Fee: \$50
(Includes 2 Lunches)

For more Information, Contact
Keisha Lazor at the Chamber Office:

Phone: 623-2233

Email :
KeishaL@BedfordCountyChamber.org

Website:
www.BedfordCountyChamber.org

Pro Care Hosts February After Hours

Pro Care Health & Therapy, Bedford, recently hosted the Chamber's February After Hours event. In addition to the business promotion and networking the After Hours also helped to feed the hungry, capping a 24-hour treadmill walk.

A weight lifting challenge was also held for charity, with a goal to bench press a combined 100-tons in just 1 hour. The power lifters did that and much more pushing up over 377,000 pounds.

Jim Foreman, President of ProCare, said giving back to the community is one way that businesses can help during these tough economic times: "In every community we have needs so we have to look beyond the balance sheet and the profit and loss statements and look to the left and to the right and reach out to people in need."

ProCare plans to match the donations made at the event and hopes to present a check to the food bank for over \$1,000.00. To learn more about Pro Care facilities in Bedford County, visit: [www. ProCareFitness.com](http://www.ProCareFitness.com)



ProCare Treadmill Challenge

March Business After Hours Features "Downtown" Landmark

Downtown Bedford, Inc. has partnered with RE/MAX Old Towne Realty and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates to host the March Business After Hours. The event will be held Thursday, March 25th at the newly renovated "Old Graystone Hotel" on the corner of Richard and Pitt Streets. The building houses the offices of both RE/MAX and Stiffler, McGraw & Associates.

Downtown Bedford, Inc.

Downtown Bedford, Inc. was established in 2002. Since then, DBI has been a PA Main Street program, and in 2009 was accredited as a National Main Street program for its many successful efforts. Downtown Bedford, Inc. is a constant promoter of special events, business recruitment & retention, and historic preservation. DBI's façade program has distributed over \$150,000 to local businesses towards upgrading the fronts of their buildings, which has made an overwhelming difference in the appearance of downtown. DBI's newest project is a streetscape to be under construction this summer. This will provide new coordinating sidewalks & pedestrian lighting for parts of Juliana, Pitt and Richard Streets. The engraved brick sales are a way for the community to exude their pride in downtown, which it turn enhances tourism as well.



March 'After Hours' at Graystone

RE/MAX Olde Town Realty

The constant renovations that Todd Eichelberger has done to his numerous buildings in downtown Bedford coincides with DBI's mission. Todd is also the broker/owner of RE/MAX, Olde Towne Realty, which boasts friendly and knowledgeable realtors, who can assist you with your real estate needs. Besides the buying and selling of all types of real estate throughout the County and surrounding areas, their office has an inventory of residential and commercial properties for lease, including office space available for rent within the RE/MAX building. The national recognition of RE/MAX, along with its hometown appeal are sure to make your real estate experience a successful one....outstanding agents, outstanding results.

Stiffler McGraw Engineers

Stiffler McGraw Engineers, Surveyors & Architects are a full service civil engineering, surveying & architectural firm which has served local municipal governments, authorities and the private sector since 1989. With the firm's main office located in Hollidaysburg, Stiffler McGraw wanted to further commit themselves to their Bedford County clients. So, in May 2006 they purchased the land surveying business of Norman S. Van Why in Bedford. In September 2008, the firm moved its Bedford County office location to the Graystone Building in downtown Bedford. Stiffler McGraw takes pride in their quest of protecting & preserving a large portion of the County's land history by possessing the personal survey records and plats of five Bedford Co. Surveyors.

So, please plan to attend the March after hours. The partnerships of the above three businesses are what the networking of After Hours is all about. Come and see what they all have to offer! Cost is \$6 for members and \$16 for not-yet members.

For more information, or to make your reservation, call 623-2233.



Plans Underway for Annual Home Show & More...

Mark your calendar for the 2010 Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show!

Home. It means so much more than the cozy spaces between the walls of your house. Home is your family. Your backyard. Your community. Your life-style. That's why this year's Home & Garden Show has been expanded to a HOME, GARDEN & LIFESTYLE SHOW. From Home Improvements to landscaping and gardening to recreation and outdoor living, you'll find many ways to enhance your enjoyment of the spaces that you call HOME.

This year will mark the 21st Annual Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Home & Garden Show. The dates are May 15 & 16, 2010 at the *Bedford County Fairgrounds*. For those businesses in the Home Improvement line – it's not too late to showcase your products or services at the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Show to be held at the Bedford Fair-ground's *Jordan Hall* over the two-day weekend of May 15th and 16th. The Chamber is offering this exceptional chance for you to expose your business to more customers in two days than you can imagine. Why spend all those advertising dollars to market your business when you can personally talk to interested consumers? Download the application, terms & conditions and waiver from our website; fill them out and fax them back to our office as soon as possible to try to get your preferred booth space!

Fun for the whole family is in the works for this year's event, including a Saturday *Cruise-In*. For the price of admission into the fairgrounds, you can showcase your car! Live music is being planned for both days of the show, plus a Children's Corner and more. For more information, or to download your vendor registration forms, visit:

www.BedfordCountyChamber.org



2009 Home & Garden Show

Bedford County 2020: Young Professionals Group Forming

What will Bedford County Business look like in 2020? What does the next generation of business leaders envision for our region in the next ten years? These are just a couple of the

MAKE A NOTE:

Bedford County
2020

Young Professionals

Organizational
meeting & Lunch

Thursday,
March 18th

Noon

Chamber Office

RSVP to Kellie
Goodman

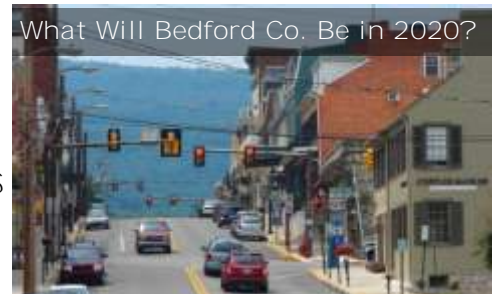
623-2233

Or Email : kelli@
bedfordcounty
chamber.org

questions we'll be addressing as the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce forms a new group of young professionals: Bedford County 2020.

This exciting new committee already has two excited co-chairs: Matthew Raptosh, Assistant Vice president of Business and Professional Banking for M&T Bank, and Branden Diehl, owner of Earth Wise Consulting. They are inviting all interested 20-something or 30-something professionals to join them for an organizational meeting and lunch, Thursday, March 18th at noon at the Chamber Office. Lunch will be sponsored by M&T Bank.

Bedford County 2020 will be working to plan networking opportunities, business development events, a speakers series, and much more. For more information, or to RSVP to the organizational lunch, please contact Kellie Goodman at the chamber office at 623-2233.



Cornerstone Vocational Resource Center Looking for Yards to Mow

Bedford-
Somerset MH/MR
& Cornerstone
Community
Services

BEDFORD OFFICE
1243 Shed Road
Bedford, PA
15522
(814) 623-5166
(877) 814-5166

**SOMERSET
OFFICE**
245 Race Street
Somerset, PA
15501
(814) 443-4891
(877) 814-4891

Are you or your business looking for some good help in your yard this spring? Cornerstone Vocational Resources Center may be just what you need.

The Center's consumers, under staff supervision, are accepting new lawn mowing jobs. Cost of the service varies by job; supervisor, James Willey would be happy to make an appointment with you to discuss the services.



Cornerstone Lawn Mowing Crew

Cornerstone Vocational Resources Center is operated by the Bedford-Somerset Mental Health and Mental Retardation program, and is dedicated to ensuring that services are easily accessible and affordable to residents of Bedford and Somerset counties.

The non-profit organization is dedicated to secure work for their consumers, ranging in age from 20-75. For more information, or to receive a quote for yard mowing services, call James Willey at 623-9026 or e-mail: jim@besmhmr.dst.pa.us

Habitat for Humanity Plans Fundraiser



Habitat for Humanity of Bedford County is planning its 15th Annual Live/Silent Auction, Dinner and Dance, Saturday March 20th at 5:30pm at Heartland Hall. Join in the fun with entertainment by "Zillion Dollar Combo". Tickets are \$18 per person.

Habitat for Humanity Mission Statement:

What the poor need is not charity but capital, not caseworkers but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable and just way of divesting themselves of their overabundance. The Fund for Humanity will meet both of these needs. Money for the fund will come from shared gifts by those who feel they have more than they need and from non-interest bearing loans from those who cannot afford to make a gift but who do want to provide working capital for the disinherited . . . The fund will give away no money. It is not a handout.

For more information, call 624-3443 or e-mail:

MAKE A NOTE:

HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY

LIVE/SILENT
AUCTION

DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY,

MARCH 20th

5:30pm

HEARTLAND HALL



Coming Attractions - Coming to a Chamber Near You!

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new member benefit: Coming Attractions Events, beginning in April 2010.



These monthly, informal lunch-time meetings will be held at the Chamber office to introduce new members to all of the Chamber programs and events, as well as to help current members make the most of their member benefits.

Executive Director, Kellie Goodman will conduct the informational sessions, and is excited for the opportunity to meet face-to-face with Chamber members.

“Our new members *are* our ‘Coming Attractions’, and this is our first chance to show them all the ways to be involved and make a difference through the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce,” she said. “I also look forward to meeting our current members who want to review their member benefits and make sure they are aware of all we have to offer.”

The Coming Attractions events will be first be open to members who have joined the chamber since January 2009, and then the invitation will be extended to the entire Chamber community.

The sessions will include an overview of Chamber programs and events, as well as a brief introduction to the list of committees on which new members may choose to serve. There will also be opportunities for questions, networking, and of course, a tasty lunch.

Chamber Launches New E-Newsletter & News Release Service

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce is excited to debut this new member benefit: our E-Newsletter! This publication will be available monthly to more than 1,000 member contacts and media professionals. The Newsletter will be posted on the Chamber website with the link sent to our members via e-mail. Feel free to forward the link to all of your colleagues, employees and contacts, and spread the word about what’s going on with the Chamber and our members.

Future E-Newsletters will offer special features, including *Taste of Bedford County*, a look at some of the special eateries in the region, plus a Member Mailbag, Members Making Headlines articles, Foundation Focus, and much more.

To make this publication a success, we need your help! Let us know what’s happening with your business: special awards, new employees, products and services, upcoming fundraisers, etc. (See insert box for contact information.)



News Release Service: The Chamber is pleased to now offer a News Release Service to members only. The Chamber will distribute your news releases to local media, and even follow-up with a phone call to our local media outlets. Or, if you’d like help developing, writing and distributing news releases, our staff is happy to offer those services as well. Contact the Chamber office for more information.

MAKE A NOTE:

E-newsletter
Submission Deadline:
25th of Each Month
Members May Submit
entire articles, story
suggestions, notes,
photos, etc.

We will make every
effort to include as
many member stories
as possible.

Share Your News with
us for the April
Edition by
march 25th!

Contact:

Kellie Goodman
Phone: (814) 623-2233
Fax: (814) 623-6089
Email :
kellie@BedfordCounty
Chamber.org



Bedford County Chamber of Commerce

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.™

137 East Pitt Street
Bedford, PA 15522
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info@BedfordCountyChamber.org
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Executive Committee:

Lynn Corbett-Winn, Pres.
Michelle Speck, 1st VP
Scott Stuckey, 2nd VP
Nancy Pyle, Secretary
Beth Latterner, Treas.
Mark Szanca, Past Pres.

Board of Directors

Joseph Beagle
James Bittner
Don Brown
Yvonne Butts-Mitchell
Jay Cessna
Melinda Feaster
Garry Goss
Eric Huttenlocher
Todd Roadman
Allen Selig
Brian Selig
Debbie Shuster
Helene Sickler
Diane Stuart
Rusty Styer
Sharon Turkovich
Jeremy Weber
Jeff Welsh
David Whysong
Eric Zembower

Ex-Officio Members:

Julie Dull
Bette Slayton
Dennis Tice
Larry Williams

Chamber Staff

Executive Director
Kellie S. Goodman

Executive Assistant
Linda Steele

Project Coordinators
Keisha Lazor
Jami Leavelle

Did You Know... Chamber Membership Benefits Include...

Bulk Mailing Permit

“Bedford Area Ambulance sends mass mailings throughout the year for our membership renewals. The money we save using the Chamber’s bulk mailing permit more than pays for our yearly membership. All of the other services we receive throughout the year are bonuses!”

— Justin M. Keel, BS, EMT-B
Community Service, Training & Grant Coordinator
Bedford Area Ambulance Service



Bedford Area Ambulance

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Buckland Farm Bed & Breakfast

www.BucklandFarmcsa.com

High Lonesome Acres
Christmas Tree Farm & Nursery



www.HighLonesomeAcres.com



Johnstown Construction
SERVICES, L.L.C.

www.JohnstownConstruction.com

NEW MEMBER REFERRALS

Is there a business or organization you would like to see join the Bedford County Chamber?

Refer them to us and we'll contact them about membership benefits.

Call Kellie at 623-2233