

A NEW Bedford County Holiday Tradition

Eight Nights of Holiday Lights

Bedford County Chamber Foundation

Community-Based Drive-Thru Light Display Opens December 13th at the Fairgrounds

The response to last month's announcement about *Eight Nights of Lights* has been remarkable! More than 70 businesses, organizations, school and church groups, clubs and families are participating in this inaugural event at the Bedford County Fairgrounds.

The drive-thru holiday light display opens Friday, December 13th.

"We could never have predicted the level of participation we have experienced for this project," said Chamber President-CEO Kellie Goodman Shaffer. "It is so exciting to see so many facets of our community represented in this new celebration of the season. We hope this becomes a wonderful tradition - we can't wait to light it up!"

The biggest, brightest and most creative displays in multiple categories will be recognized with award certificates.

The drive-thru event will open on Friday, December 13th and continue on the following dates: Saturday & Sunday, December 14-15 and Thursday thru Monday, December 19-23. *(Continued, page 2)*



West Central Equipment Arrives
to Set Up for 8 Nights of Lights

Chamber Newsletter Delivery Changes in 2020

The Bedford County Chamber of Commerce is reinforcing our commitment to enhance our community and preserve the environment through a *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* effort.

To this end, the Chamber is changing the way we deliver this newsletter to our members and friends in 2020.

This printed newsletter/monthly direct mail publication will be sent to your mailbox QUARTERLY (Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall Editions.)

You will still receive a MONTHLY newsletter, which will be provided to you as a pdf document to read online; then you can decide which, if any, portions you wish to print.

The pdf of the monthly *Connection* newsletter will be sent to member contacts via email; it will also be posted on the Chamber website, with links additional provided via social media and the *E-Connection weekly email blast*.

"We are glad to be able to move in a digital direction with our member communications," said Kellie Goodman Shaffer, Chamber President-CEO. "By providing the newsletter electronically, we will save thousands of sheets of paper each year."

Members who wish to include their own fliers/advertisements in the Chamber newsletter will also reap savings from the changes; your inserts will still be included in the newsletter, but you will simply provide the flier via email for inclusion; the distribution will be increased from approximately 640 copies each month to more than 3,000.

Those who wish to include print fliers in the quarterly publication should note the 2020 deadlines: January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.

For more information about sponsoring our newsletter, call Kellie at 623-2233.

Those driving through the light display will enter through Gate 4/5 (off Fairgrounds Road then Tiny Town Road) and may tune your radio to Cessna Broadcasting's 1600 AM to enjoy holiday music and event messages.

Admission will be \$10 per carload with proceeds benefitting the educational programs of the Bedford County Chamber Foundation, including Youth Leadership Bedford County, Community Reading Day and BASICS Steps to Success, as well as career fairs and field days for students in Pre-K through twelfth grades. A donation will also be made to the Bedford County Fair Office Construction Fund.

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors: Hometown Bank, Interstate Emergency Services, UPMC Bedford and Barber National Institute, as well as our event partners, the Bedford County Fair and Bedford Speedway. Media partners include: Cessna Broadcasting, WSKE, Bedford Gazette, and Fox 8/ABC 23/This-TV/Antenna TV.

Additional sponsorships are available by calling the Chamber office at 814.623.2233.

Youth Leadership Bedford County to Host Children During a Night of Lights

The Youth Leadership Bedford County Class of 2020 will use their community service project to celebrate the season.

The students will host a children's experience at the Bedford County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Chamber Foundation's ***Eight Nights of Lights*** Saturday, December 14th, 6-9pm. The tenth graders are planning children's crafts, music, Christmas movie characters and refreshments. The activities are free with admission to the drive-thru light display; the students will collect free-will donations to benefit Special Olympics of Bedford County.

Sponsorships are being accepted to support the students' project. Call Amy Barkman for more info: 623-2233.



Santa is Coming to Town for Breakfast



WWW.BEDFORDCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM

The Chamber's Special Events Committee is delighted to be planning one of its volunteers' favorite events of the year: **Breakfast with Santa**, presented by Structural Fiberglass Inc., scheduled for Saturday, December 14th at Homewood at Spring House Estates.

The annual event, which the committee has planned for more than a decade, features a hot breakfast buffet with eggs, sausage, waffles, fruit, juice and coffee. Children are treated to Santa visits and photos (parents may take their own pictures), and each child goes home with a special gift (bag of goodies for children 3 and up; children 2 and under receive toddler/infant gifts.)

Families may RSVP to arrive at 8am, 9am or 10am. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 2-12; children under 2 are admitted at no charge.

Businesses may sponsor Breakfast with Santa (please see the flier inside this newsletter); you may also make a contribution of items for the kids' gift bags (Please provide items in quantities of 100.) For more information, to RSVP or to sponsor, please call Sarah Ferrari at 814.623.2233 or visit online: **BedfordCountyChamber.com**.

Members & Volunteers Create Holiday Magic at the Russell House

Stop by the historic Russell House during the holiday season, and you'll see beautiful decorations fashioned by Chamber members, volunteers and community partners. Trees in the two public conference rooms are designed by KJ Shea and The Old Log House; additional interior decorations are provided by Everett Flower Shop and Loving Touch Flower and Gift Shop.

Trees on the veranda are provided by Ross Cook tree farm; outdoor swags are designed by LBC Facilitator Rick Smith using greenery from Countryside Gardens. Mortimer Electric provides assistance hanging 2nd floor greens.

All of the holiday decorations will be on display during the Chamber's third annual Holiday Business After Hours and Open House: Thursday, December 12th, 5-8pm. Guests will enjoy delectable catering by Chef Terry at the US Hotel Tavern; spirited beverages will be followed by desserts and coffee, hosted



on the second floor by Headline Marketing & Communications.

There is no charge to attend for all who register by December 5th.

The Chamber is pleased to once again give back to our community by collecting donations to help those in need during the holidays through Bedford County CYS and Love INC, including new, unwrapped



toys and winter clothing, non-perishable food items for the food bank and cash donations for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive and Red Cross Disaster Relief.

Please note: those who register between December 6 and 11 will pay \$10; those who are not registered will pay \$20 admission at the door.

RSVP online or by calling 623-2233.



Bedford County
Chamber of Commerce

Leading Businesses. Leading Communities.™

Holiday Business After Hours & Open House

At the historic Russell House

Thursday, December 12th, 5-8pm

No Registration Fee for Those
Who Pre-Register by December 5th

\$10 for RSVP's after Dec. 5th

Or \$20 at the Door with no RSVP.

Giving Back to Our Community

Once again accepting donations for those in need.
(Cash donations for Red Cross Disaster Services
And/Or Salvation Army Kettle Drive)

Or Bring:

New, Unwrapped Toys, Hats, Mittens & Coats
for Bedford Co. CYS & Love INC
Canned Goods for Bedford Co. Food Pantry

*Ask us how you can partner with us to present this
Annual Holiday Event.*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Memories from the Annual Dinner and Awards Celebration

Special Thanks to All Who Helped Make This Event a Tremendous Success!



Business Celebrations

Call Amy Barkman to schedule your next celebration: 814-623-2233

#bedfordcountyproud



Congratulations to Somerset Trust, which celebrated a ribbon cutting and grand opening of their new Schellsburg branch on Rt. 30 November 15th.



Overstock Market celebrated Ribbon Cuttings for Closet Envy and Home Inspirations Departments on their 3rd Anniversary. Congratulations to Jamie Konicky & team!



Love INC celebrated 25 years of service to our county during an Open House Nov. 9



The Bedford County Historical Society Opened their Heinz WWII Exhibit Nov. 26.



Congratulations to Ty Black, Corey Black and Brian Clites on the Nov. 3 Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration of EVOKE Bistro & Bakery in Bedford.



Heinz Exhibit

Stay in Touch – In Person... Online... On the Go...

December 5th First Thursday Breakfast to Include Cyber Security Education

Guests attending the Chamber's December 5th *First Thursday Networking Breakfast*, presented by First Peoples Community Federal Credit Union will enjoy an added bonus: a valuable presentation on Cyber Security.

Clyde Zimmerman, Senior VP of United Datacom Networks Inc. will discuss first-hand experiences, identify cyber-security threats and technology national standards, and provide tools and resources to help you minimize risks for your business.

Compliments of UDNI, this breakfast is FREE for Chamber members to attend. We do ask that all wishing to join us please register by calling 623-2233 or by using the online registration platform through the Chamber calendar at BedfordCountyChamber.com

First Thursday Networking Breakfasts

Dec. 5th - Cyber Security Program

FREE
RSVP Required
814-623-2233



Available on
iTunes

Bedford County...

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Bedford County
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#chamberfoundationeducates

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 5 **First Thursday Networking Breakfast
& UDNI Cyber Security Education**
7:45am Homewood at Spring House Estates
- Dec. 5 **Ribbon Cutting Celebration**
1pm Bluebird Treasures Thrift Shop
 (6613 Lincoln Hwy Bedford)
- Dec. 12 **Business After Hours & Holiday Open House**
5-8pm Magpie's Accents & Embellishments
 (125 S. Juliana Street Bedford, Formerly Gigi's)
- Dec. 12 **Business After Hours & Holiday Open House**
5-8pm Russell House
- Dec. 13-15 **EIGHT NIGHTS OF LIGHTS (6-9pm)**
& 19-23 Bedford County Fairgrounds
- Dec. 14 **Breakfast With Santa**
8, 9, 10am Homewood at Spring House Estates
- Dec. 14 **Breakfast With Santa**
8, 9, 10am Homewood at Spring House Estates
- Dec. 20 & 27 **Operation Thank You**
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Day (Chamber Office Closed)**
- Jan. 1 **New Year's Day (Chamber Office Closed)**

SAVE THE DATES

January 16th—Business After Hours—(Lifestyle) Next Door

MEETING DATES TO NOTE

Government Affairs

Tue. Dec. 3—10am—Russell House
(Please Note: No Jan. GA Meeting)

Executive Committee

Mon. Dec. 9—8am—Russell House

Special Events (Stuffing Santa Bags)

Tue. Dec. 10—8am—Russell House

LBC Advisory

Fri. Dec. 13—8am—Russell House

Chamber Board of Directors

Wed. Dec. 11—7:45am—Russell House

YLBC Planning

Mon. Dec. 16 —8am—BCTC

Foundation Board

Tue. Dec. 17—7:30am—Russell House

BASICS

Tue. Dec. 17—8:15am—Russell House

NO DECEMBER MEETING

Ambassadors Appreciation & Training
Save the Date: Fri. Jan. 17th 12-2pm

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*For more information on becoming  
involved with a committee, or to register  
for Chamber events, call: 814-623-2233  
or visit **BedfordCountyChamber.com***

*Special Thanks to Our  
Founder's Circle Members:*



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM**



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