



CLARION CHAMBER CHRONICLE

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STAFF

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Larry K. Bussard
Festival/Events Director

Desirae C. Sayers
Administrative Assistant

Paula Cupples
*Festival/Events
Administrative Assistant*

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“Three Strikes-Your Out!” No Toll on I-80

“Three strikes – You’re Out” was heard throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after hearing the U.S. Department of Transportation’s decision to reject the application that would have allowed the PA Turnpike Commission to place tolls on I-80 in PA on Tuesday, April 6.

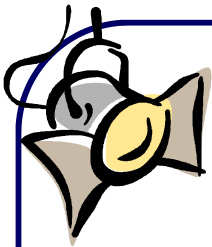
The tolling of I-80 would have had a huge negative impact on our area and throughout Pennsylvania. Tolling of I-80 would go against the very spirit of why the Eisenhower Highway was originally built. Rural Pennsylvania’s economy has expanded over the years by having access to the toll free highway, as was the plan to build the highway for economic and defense purposes.

A study compiled and presented by Dr. Tracy Miller of Grove City College entitled “The Economic Impact of Tolling I-80” shows how tolls would negatively affect the many businesses and workers residing in the I-80 corridor. Approximately 75,000 people work for an employer that depends on I-80 for their source of products and resources. Many of our citizens realize that the economic impact could be devastating to jobs in our region alone. It is not just about paying individual tolls, it’s about how the impact affects the economy in general. Tolling would have had imposed a large burden on businesses while encouraging alternative routes that are less safe and efficient.

Tracy Becker, Executive Director for the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry and Brad Ehrhart, Executive Director of the Clarion County Economic Development Corporation would like to thank you, the community, for your support throughout these past 28 months -- it has been greatly appreciated. We would also like to say thank you to Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson, former Congressman John Peterson, Senator Mary Jo White, Representative Donna Oberlander, and former Representative Fred McIlhattan for their continued fight at the legislative level. Thank you to “The Coalition to Keep I-80 Toll Free – A Coalition of local Chambers, Businesses, Associations and Neighbors” for leading the fight to stop Act 44. We also want to thank our County Commissioners – Donna Hartle, Dave Cyphert & Tim Reddinger. Thank you to Eric Funk, John Stroup, Emily Gill, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, PA Farm Bureau, Commodore Homes, Colony Homes, Pennwest Homes, Zacherl Motor Truck Sales, Car Mate, Garden Scape, Allegheny Clarion Valley Development Corporation, Zion Church and Holiday Inn for your outstanding support. Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Tracy Miller and Dr. Bob Nulph for their involvement.

The rejection of the application is great news for businesses and communities throughout Pennsylvania, but, we have to remember that Act 44 is still law. The next step is having our legislators repeal Act 44 and work together with the Transportation Committee on finding alternative and viable funding for transportation funding. We need to look at other alternatives which may include the 2006 Transportation Funding & Reform Commission Report. On a local level, we need to circulate petitions to “Repeal Act 44”. You can stop by the Chamber and EDC’s joint office to sign a petition or go to our websites (clarionpa.com or callclarionpa.com) to download a petition today. We need to repeal Act 44 once and for all and move forward to bringing more businesses to Pennsylvania, especially Clarion County.





Business Spotlights: *Shedding light on what you do...*

Cook Forest Top Hill Cabins

Cook Forest Top Hill Cabins offers the perfect forest retreat for your family vacation or spontaneous getaway. They have been in operation for 9 years. They offer 8 different cabins accommodating anywhere from 1-8 depending on the cabin. The cabins are located adjacent to family restaurants, horseback riding, hiking and biking trails.

Each cabin is named after a tree and is in a wooded setting. Each cabin includes a television and DVD player. Depending on the cabin, you will either have a wood burning or a gas fire-place. Other amenities include a picnic area with a fire pit and charcoal grill. Each cabin has a porch with porch furniture, and three cabins have gazebos with porch swings. Cabins are equipped with bedding, full kitchen, full bath with shower, and central heating. You will need to bring towels, paper supplies, garbage bags, and a battery operated flashlight.



If you have any questions contact Larry or Lois Mcfadden at 814-927-6922 or fax at 814-927-6959.

Golden Living Center

Golden Living Center is a rehabilitation, assisted living, and dementia care center. Amenities offered at the center include spiritual services, recreation and social activities, private telephone lines, and computer access.



Skilled services include licensed nursing, physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, stroke rehabilitation, and many other skilled services. Additional special services offered are short term care, long term care, Dementia and Alzheimer's care, along with discharge planning. Golden Living Center also offers services that are coordinated with community providers such as massage therapy, dental, and eye care.

Their goal is: "to provide compassionate nursing care in a clean, comfortable setting where you will feel at home. Our certified nursing assistants are trained to provide round-the-clock care, and our professional nursing staff meets with you regularly to discuss ongoing needs. And it's important that you stay active and healthy, so our recreation and nutrition staff can provide regular, wholesome meals and a variety of individual and group activities."

If you have any questions contact Jessica Copenhaver at 814-226-6380 or fax at 814-226-5177. You can also visit their website at <http://www.goldenlivingcenters.com/locations-staff/find-care-location/location/golden-livingcenter-clarion-pa.aspx>.

Liberty Street Church of God



Liberty Street Church of God, located in Clarion PA, has been in business since 1934 and will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Liberty Street Church of God is affiliated with the Church of God of Anderson, Indiana. They hold services every Sunday morning along with other events through out the week.

Liberty Street Church of God offers individual, couple, and family therapy through their church-linked facility. "The purpose of the Liberty Street Church of God is to impact people for Christ!"

For more information contact Rev. Bruce Wilson at 814-226-8672 or fax at 814-226-5329. If you would like to see a list of events that the church offers visit <http://www.libertystreetchog.org>.

MEMBER TO MEMBER NEWS

The Clarion Chamber of Business & Industry is anxious to hear about the success of your business. We want to feature updates on our area businesses for members...about members! This FREE Member Benefit is an easy way to keep up with other local business success and to be recognized for your own accomplishments. Please feel free to send information to announce awards, promotions, personnel changes, new merchandise or other news. Email your updates of 50-250 words to info@clarionpa.com by the 30th of each month.

Veolia Environmental Service Opens Clarion Facility

Veolia Environmental Services is located just off I-80 at the Shipperville exit at 18380 Paint Boulevard. The Clarion County facility is our latest addition to the Veolia family of companies in Pennsylvania where we proudly continue to provide services which have been here for over 100 years. Veolia ES Solid Waste of PA, Inc., a Pennsylvania Corporation, employs over 250 people in Western Pennsylvania with almost 30 people right here in Clarion.

Veolia takes great pride in the fact that we are not only a strong Pennsylvania employer but we developed many strong relationships with vendors in the Clarion and Jefferson County Areas providing us with goods and services.

Veolia provides world class waste collection and recycling services locally. Our services include residential, commercial, industrial, hazardous, and infectious waste collection and disposal along with a full compliment of recycling services.

Call us today at 800-338-8971.

Find people for jobs, internships and services via Clarion University

The career services department at Clarion University is not only a resource for students, but to employers as well. If your business has any part-time, summer, seasonal, internship, or full-time opportunities, you can post them online, free of charge at www.collegecentral.com/clarion. To set up an account just follow these easy instructions.

Create an Online Employer Account at www.collegecentral.com/clarion

Go to www.collegecentral.com/clarion and click on *Employers*, then *Register Now*. An Employer Registration form will appear and once you complete that, it will ask you to record you *Access ID* for future reference. They will then determine the level of access that you need and assign you a *Password*. You will receive an e-mail with the *Password* and at any time, you can enter your account and access *Online Services*.

How to Update or Review Your Employer Account Information

Go to the website and click on *Employers*, once you click on employers you will need to click on *Online Services*. After making any changes you will need to make sure you *Update Company Information*.

How to Post a New Job

To post a job, follow the previous steps by clicking on *Employers* then *Online Services*. Once you are at *Online Services*, select *Job Board: Post a new job for candidates to view*. Complete job information and click on *Save Job Posting*. If you are posting positions for Campus Offices or Departments it is best to type the name of the campus office or department. For the Organization name type *Clarion University [name of office/department]*. Type of job would be *Student Employment*. For job location select *On Campus*. If a part-time position is available select *Part-Time* under Type of Job and *Pennsylvania* as the Job Location.

How to Edit, Repost or Expire Job Postings

Go into *Online Services* and select *Job Board: Edit, Repost or Expire Job Postings*.

How to Search Resumes (if approved)

Go into *Online Services* and select **Job Candidates: Search Student Alumni Resumes**. Complete search criteria and click *Begin Search*. As with any database search, the more criteria you choose, the more limited your results will be.

How to Report Offers/Hires

Once in *Online Services*, select *Hiring Information: Report Offers/Hires*. Select the candidates name, report information, and click *Submit*.

Clarion Onized Federal Credit Union becomes Clarion Federal Credit Union

Beginning March 19, 2010 Clarion Onized Federal Credit Union became known as Clarion Federal Credit Union. The change was made to better reflect the credit union's commitment to community-wide service. With over seventy vastly different employee groups served, the credit union has expanded far beyond its original membership base.



The credit union was organized in 1940 by a group of Owens-Illinois employees, hence the term 'Onized' in the original name. Since 1973 the list of persons eligible to join the credit union has expanded as new employee groups have been added. In 2007 the credit union continued to accept new employee groups, but also opened membership to others. Anyone who lives, works, regularly conduct business in, worship, attends school in, and businesses and other legal entities located in Clarion Borough can now become a member. The name change reflects the credit union's future as a community-wide service provider; the new logo pays tribute to the history of the local community. A Clarion, by definition, is a medieval trumpet that produces clear shrill tones. The Clarion area was named as such when a group of surveyors in the late 1800s compared the sound of the river to a far-off clarion. The new credit union logo features the letter 'C' extended throughout the word 'Clarion' giving it a horn-like appearance; the tag line, "Hearing your call since 1940", is fitting.

CEO, Mark Lauer, states that, "We were motivated to undergo this change because a key part of our overall strategy is expanding our market area. We want to make the credit union's services increasingly convenient for our current customers, and we want maximum exposure to potential customers." He also explains that the credit union will continue to offer a full line of deposit products including savings, checking, IRA, and certificate accounts, as well as loan products that include commercial, mortgage, vehicle and personal accounts, but it is the hope of management that the new name will emphasize that the institution is here to serve the persons and businesses who patronize the local area.

In addition to the new name, the credit union is currently constructing a new main office. In July, operations will be moved to the new two-story 8,000 square foot office located across from Pizza Hut on Holiday Inn Road in Clarion. The new location is another part of the credit union's continuing strategy to increase its presence in the community.

Clarion Federal Credit Union is currently located on Wood Street in Clarion, and also operates a branch office in Marienville, Forest County. The credit union has assets of over \$48 million, and is guided by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Directors are Deborah Boyles, Nancy Kadunce, Ronald Perry, Sherry Kahle, Robert Ciancio, William Clark, Todd MacBeth, Michael Meals, and Betsy Stewart.

Be a Part of "Top 100" Businesses in Pennsylvania

Would you and your business like to be part of something special in Pennsylvania? Pennsylvania is a great place to live and work and joining the *Best Places to Work* in PA program celebrates all the wonderful businesses in Pennsylvania. Through this program, they are looking for employers that provide enjoyable, safe, and educational workforces for employees to thrive. By joining this program, your business or organization will benefit immensely.

There are many benefits that your business or organization would receive. One benefit is receiving "The Best Companies Group Employee Feedback Report" which details the company's specific survey. You will also have a chance to make "The List" of 100 Best Places to Work in PA. The top 50 medium-sized companies and top 50 large-sized companies are ranked and honored at an awards dinner and highlighted in a special publication. The publication is then distributed statewide and used in most recruitment centers and college career services offices. Finally, you will receive long-term benefits including better retention and easy recruitment.

To be eligible, your business must be a for-profit or not-for profit business, be a publicly or privately held business, have a facility in PA, have at least 25 employees in PA, be in good standing with all Commonwealth agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction, and register to participate by the deadline of Friday May 28, 2010.

Best Places to Work in PA is a joint effort of Team Pennsylvania Foundation, the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development and the *Central Penn Business Journal*. For more information visit www.bestplacestoworkinpa.com. If you have any questions contact Megan Burns at 717-909-1570 or meganb@bestcompaniesgroup.com.



“Haunted Walk”

Have you experienced any odd, unexplainable or paranormal activity? Do you currently reside in an older or historical building or home? If so, the Pennsylvania Paranormal Society would like to perform free investigations for anyone in the Clarion Area and feature them during the next Ghost Experience.

The Clarion University History Club has been hosting the Clarion University Ghost Experience for the past six years. This year, the Pennsylvania Paranormal Society would like to see the event spread into the downtown Clarion area.

The event will last three days in Hart Chapel. In previous years, Hart Chapel was packed with students and the public. If there is enough evidence and stories to tell, they hope to create a “Haunted Walk” to follow the presentations at Hart Chapel.



The history club wants to make this an annual event that would in turn help out the local economy. If you would like to partner with the Clarion University History Club or have any questions, contact Dr. Todd Pfannestiel at tpfannestiel@clarion.edu.

Thank You to our Renewing Chamber Members!

As of 4/07/10

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ZACHERL MOTOR TRUCK SALES INC
ZEM ZEM CLARION COUNTY SHRINE CLUB

Clarion Area and Redbank Valley Bi-Chamber Casino Night

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry would like to remind you that tickets are still available for Casino Night. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at both chambers along with other locations. For the list of other locations and more information visit the Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry website.

The Chamber and its mission...

Your Chamber of Business & Industry is a voluntary partnership of business and professional people working together to build a healthy economy and to improve the Quality of Life in our community.

How to save money on your electricity

You won't want to be left in the dark on this information!

In 2010, after fourteen years of electricity rates remaining the same, the electric cap has been lifted. This deregulation of electricity will inevitably cause consumers' bills to increase. Rates will lift to where they would have been if average incremental increases had occurred all along. Businesses need to start planning for ways they can save money. The following programs are available to provide assistance in the payment of these new energy costs.

The PEDA- PA Energy Development Authority Grant Program (DEP)

All legal business entities, non-profits, colleges/universities, municipalities, authorities, and school districts are eligible to participate in this program. Products that are eligible for this grant are alternative energy projects, EE projects, new biofuel facilities, manufacturing equipment for alternative energy production, and building construction and renovation for alternative energy manufacturing. The maximum amount awarded is \$1.5 million and there is a match requirement. The application is due by mid-June.

The PA Sunshine (DEP)

Eligible products for this grant are residential PV 1kW-10kW, small business PV 3kW-200kW, and solar hot water. The maximum amount awarded is 35% for PV and \$2,000 for solar hot water. There is no close date for this program.

The Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account (PPAA) Loan Program (DEP).

EE and P2 projects are eligible for this assistance. The maximum loan amount awarded is up to \$100,000. The match requirement is 25%. There is no close date for this pro-loan program. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection offers many grants and programs to offset the cost of energy. You can visit their website to view the list.

http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants_loans_tax_credits/10395

The Rural Energy for America Program

This program is available to agricultural producers, rural small businesses, and U.S. citizens. (It is also available if an entity of 51% is owned by U.S. Citizens.) Applicants must be located in an eligible rural area, which is any area other than a city or town with more than 50,000 inhabitants as well as its contiguous urbanized area. The population information is based on the latest decennial census. Any renewable energy systems which provide energy from wind, solar, renewable biomass, small hydro-power, and geothermal is also eligible.

Applicants can qualify for a grant of up to 25% of the total eligible project cost or a guaranteed loan up to 75% of the total eligible project cost. They also offer a combination of a grant and a loan up to 75% of the total eligible project cost. For more information about these offers, visit their website.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/bprogs/htm>.



Finally! Stimulus Funds Available for Local Industries



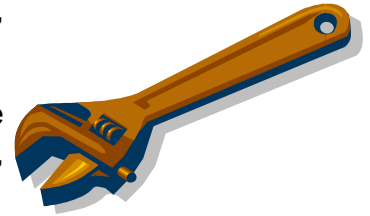
Community Action, Inc. announced funds are available for eligible industries in Clarion and Jefferson Counties who have been negatively affected by the economic downturn.

The Business Employment Stability & Training (BESAT) Project provides financial assistance to offset the wages and benefits associated with employing additional or previously laid off employees, or to offset wages and benefits for an employee to receive training that enables them to receive a higher wage. Specifically, the project will reimburse the employer 50% of an employee's wages and benefits for up to 90 days.

The BESAT Project is made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the collaboration of Community Action, Inc., the Careerlinks of Clarion and Jefferson Counties, Punxsutawney Area Chamber of Commerce, Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry, Clarion County Economic Development Corporation, and the Jefferson County Department of Development.

Funding is limited, so interested businesses should contact Community Action, Inc. quickly!

For more information or to apply online, please visit www.jccap.org. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Sands, Project Manager, at 814-938-3302, ext. 250 or via email at gsands@jccap.org



Business Roundtable

The Spring 2010 Business Roundtable will be held on April 16 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Clarion Holiday Inn. The roundtable will be hosted by State Representative Donna Oberlander, representatives from the Pennsylvania National Federation of Independent Business, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and the Manufacturer & Business Association.

Other business organizations that will be hosting this event are the Clarion Chamber of Business and Industry, Clarion County Economic Development Corporation, Clarion University Small Business Development Center, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, and the Redbank Valley Chamber.

"The purpose of this roundtable is to provide a forum for owners and leaders from local businesses and employers to set their 2010 policy agenda by informing us about the specific issues that are impacting their ability to prosper and create family-sustaining jobs," said Oberlander. "This will also be an excellent opportunity for our region's job creators to candidly discuss legislative measures that need to be taken up in Harrisburg to ensure their continued success in our communities."

Additionally, the roundtable will review business-related issues in Gov. Ed Rendell's 2010-11 budget proposal, update attendees on pending business legislation, and hold a question-and-answer session.

Anyone interested in attending this Business Roundtable is encouraged to call Oberlander's Clarion district office at (814) 226-9000 to make reservations. Coffee and light breakfast refreshments will be served.



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Keep watching for additional sponsors in next month's newsletter.

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**The Clarion Area Chamber encourages Chamber members
to do business with other Chamber members!**