



CLARION CHAMBER CHRONICLE

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

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Your Business & Marcellus Shale

Is your business poised to profit from gas boom activity?

Join local businesses for a four-part seminar series hosted by Clarion University of Pennsylvania's Small Business Development Center and presented by Penn State Cooperative Extension. Get valuable insights that will help you understand, explore, and take advantage of business opportunities arising from the Marcellus Shale.



Topics to be Discussed:

January 27

Local Business Success Stories and Lessons Learned I

February 3

Working with the Industry: Natural Gas Company Perspectives

February 10

Local Business Success Stories and Lessons Learned II

February 17

Partnering Industry and Local Business Panel

Time: 7:30 am to 9:30 am

Location: Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Small Business Development Center, 330 North Point Drive, Suite 100, Clarion PA 16214

Cost: \$60 four-part series or \$20 per class (Includes Breakfast)

How to Register:

Register Online: <http://web.clarion.edu/SBDC/training/businessws.asp>
Or Call Continuing Education at (814) 393-2227 or Toll Free (800) 672-7171
Please direct questions to: sbdc@clarion.edu



Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Small Business Development Center
<http://www.clarion.edu/sbdc>

Save The Date . . .

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry's Annual Awards Dinner is Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Gemmell Student Complex.

This is our premiere event when we announce the Businesses of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Who will it be?

Throughout the evening there are Chinese and Silent Auctions. Board Member, Stevette Rosen, is calling upon our members to donate items. A list of businesses who donated (as of January 9) are listed in this newsletter. We are still accepting items. For more information, please feel free to contact the Chamber office.



We are pleased to have Chartwells cater again this year. The menu will be:

Salad - Micro Greens with garlic parmesan croutons, fresh mozzarella, pancetta and sundried tomatoes with red wine caramelized shallot vinaigrette

Entrée - Grilled Chicken Breast marinated in olive oil with sundried tomatoes & basil and Slow Roast Pork Loin with Raspberry Thyme Sauce

Potato - Bleu Cheese and Roasted Garlic Whipped Potatoes

Vegetable - Green Beans with Bacon, Shallots and White Wine

Dessert - Mixed Mousse Napoleon with Strawberry, Chocolate and Vanilla Mousse layered between sheets of puff pastry with fresh berry compote and fruit coulis

Invitations are forthcoming. Hope to see you at the Awards Dinner!

Act 129

Act 129 of 2008 provides Pennsylvania businesses opportunities to take energy efficiency and conservation to the next level. The General Assembly enacted Act 129 to require Pennsylvania's seven largest electric distribution companies (EDCs) to develop energy efficiency and conservation plans (EE & C) and adopt other methods of reducing the amount of electricity consumed by customers.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is implementing Act 129 and guiding businesses toward achieving the legislation's overall goals of reducing energy consumption and peak demand. Businesses will receive specific information from the (EDC) on the money-saving (EE & C) programs available to them because of Act 129. These programs are designed to help consumers use electricity efficiently, curb consumption and reduce overall demand for electricity. Many of these programs include subsidies from the (EDC) to encourage the use and employment of the energy efficiency measures. Businesses are encouraged to contact their energy supplier for more information.

(Contributed by PUC Spokeswoman, Jennifer Kocher in the Manufacturer & Business Association, Business Magazine, January 2010 issue)

Member to Member News...

The Clarion Area 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 "Membership 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.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

You can help give the children of Clarion County a better start in life. **Highland Oaks** personal care community in Shippenville is holding a children's book drive during the month of January in honor of National Book Blitz Month. Donations of new and gently used children's books can be dropped off at **Highland Oaks** at 101 Maple Drive, Shippenville through January 31. The books will be given to Jefferson-Clarion Headstart for distribution to children in Clarion County. If a local organization, church, club or company would like to collect books for the drive at their own location, **Highland Oaks** will gladly arrange to pick up the books. Just call Robin Knight at **Highland Oaks** at 814-782-3203. **Highland Oaks** will also gladly pick up books from any individuals who would like to donate but are unable to drop the books off. **Highland Oaks** is a personal care community of **WRC Senior Services**, which has been caring for seniors in the area since 1890.

ITS GIRL SCOUT COOKIE TIME!

Girl Scout Cookies are an icon of American culture. They're also the backbone of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the leading entrepreneurial program for girls. Nearly 80 percent of all women business owners were once Girl Scouts; and many successful business women today say they got their start by selling Girl Scout Cookies. Through their participation in this program, girls practice useful skills like planning, decision-making and customer service. During cookie activities, girls are members of a team working toward a common goal, with each girl striving to do her best. Every local troop/group is encouraged to set realistic goals, such as planning field trips and community service projects to accomplish during the year. The money earned from cookie activities helps the troop/group to achieve its goals. So when your local Girl Scouts come calling with this year's best selling cookies, remember, you are saying hello to tomorrow's business leaders! The Girl Scout Cookie Sale is currently going on now. For more information, visit www.gswpa.org and follow the cookie icon to learn more about the program aspects, the benefits that girls receive and how you can support local girls in their effort to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

LET'S DO LUNCH!

The **Clarion Hospital** is hosting their annual health education series, "Let's Do Lunch", for 2010. The theme for 2010 is Learning to Live Life to the Fullest.

February 10	Relating to Your Children & Teens	Dr. Hesham Kamel, Pediatrician
April 7	How to Live a Healthy Life	Dr. Angela Rhoades, Internal Medicine Specialist
June 2	How to Have Financial Freedom	Ray Peltcs and Barbara Stroup
August 4	Finding Your Purpose	Rev. John Phillips, Clarion Hospital Chaplain
October 6	Enjoying Life	Rosemarie Perla, Psychologist & Personal Life Coach
December 8	Being Happy with Who You Are	Karen Griffith, Social Worker

All programs are held at the Holiday Inn of Clarion at 12 noon. For more information or to register, call **Clarion Hospital** at 814.226.1362.

Upcoming Meetings, Events & Activities

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event/Activity</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>
Jan. 18	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Chamber Office Will Be Closed	
Jan. 19	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Jan. 21	Free Yoga Class	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Curves (Main St. Clarion)
Jan. 22	I-80 Symposium	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	DuBois Country Club
Jan. 26	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Jan. 26	Junior Achievement B.O.D. Meeting	12 Noon	Holiday Inn
Jan. 27	Bi-Chamber Casino Night Meeting	8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	New Bethlehem
Jan. 27	Public Relations/Website/Media Committee Meeting	10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	CACBI
Jan. 28	Yin Yoga	7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Curves (Main St. Clarion)
Feb. 2	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Feb. 2	Finance Committee Meeting	12 Noon	CACBI
Feb. 3	Clarion Organizations Meeting	8:00 a.m.	Michelle's Café
Feb. 3	Executive Committee Meeting	8:30 a.m.	CACBI
Feb. 3	Membership Committee Meeting	1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	CACBI
Feb. 4	Senior Wellness Council Meeting	12 Noon to 1:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn
Feb. 5	Deadline—2010 ALF Logo Contest	entries due by 5:00 p.m.	
Feb. 8	Autorama Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	CACBI
Feb. 9	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Feb. 10	Clarion Hospital's "Let's Do Lunch" <i>Topic - Relating to Your Children & Teens</i> <i>Presenter - Dr. Hesham Kamel, Pediatrician</i>	12 Noon	Holiday Inn
Feb. 11	Board of Directors Meeting	12 Noon	CACBI
Feb. 12	President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday		
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day		
Feb. 15	President's Day	Chamber Office Will Be Closed	
Feb. 16	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Feb. 22	University's Experience Expo	10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Gemmell Student Center
Feb. 23	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.	CACBI
Mar. 2	Weekly Staff Meeting	9:00 p.m.	CACBI
Mar. 2	Finance Committee Meeting	12 Noon	CACBI

*CACBI denotes Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry

Expect a Bumpy Road to Recovery

January 12, 2010--Indicators released this week remind us that the road to recovery will be bumpy, as the labor market continues to deliver sour news and pending home sales nosedived after nine consecutive months of growth.

Employment Situation

A loss of 85,000 jobs in December serves as a reminder that the labor market remains volatile. Winter weather caused construction firms to cut 53,000 workers, but manufacturers also cut back, as did the service industry. The financial services industry, however, also reported additional employees for the first time since 2007. Moreover, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy added 4,000 jobs in November, upwardly revised from the 11,000 job loss originally reported and the first gain reported since December 2007. October's figures, though, were downwardly revised to show a loss of 127,000 jobs. The December unemployment rate remained at 10.0%. Weekly hours worked remained steady at 33.2 hours. Average hourly earnings increased 0.1%. A broader measure of unemployment, which includes discouraged workers and those settling for part-time work instead of a full-time position, rose 0.1% to 17.3% in December. Since the start of the recession, 7.2 million people have lost their jobs--4.2 million in 2009. Employment will continue to deteriorate going forward, as workers that left the labor market may begin to reenter it. Not until a recovery is well underway will most employers gain enough confidence to add to their staffs.

Pending Home Sales

Pending home sales in November plummeted 16.0%, or 18.3 points, to 96.0, after rising 4.3 points in October. November's downturn coincides with the original expiration of the first time homebuyer tax credit, which stipulated that purchasers close on their homes by December 1, 2009. The sales decline in November was the first in nine months. However, the index is 15.5% above its November 2008 level. Growth will resume in the housing sector, due to an extension of the first time homebuyer tax credit and low home prices. However, a sour labor market and restricted credit continue to discourage some prospective buyers from entering the market.

Factory Orders

New orders for manufactured goods rose 1.0% in November, the third consecutive month of increases, after increasing 1.5% in October. Orders for durable goods were up 1.8% for the month, while orders for nondurable goods grew 0.2%. Unfilled orders declined 0.7%. As federal stimulus spending dries up, factory orders will moderate until the economy is on firmer ground.

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Quotes of the Month:

- "The chief danger in life is that you may take too many precautions."* - Alfred Adler
- "If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else."* - Yogi Berra
- "When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost."* - Billy Graham
- "Pain is temporary, quitting lasts forever."* - Lance Armstrong
- "If you do what you have always done, you will get what you have always gotten."* - Tony Robbins

Third “I-80 Symposium”

On Friday, January 22, 2010 a Third “I-80 Symposium” will be held. It is entitled “Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow”. This symposium is at the DuBois Country Club located at 10 Lakeside Avenue. Take I-80 to Exit 97 to Route 219 (left) toward DuBois. Turn left (North) onto First Street, go 0.3 miles and turn right onto Lakeside Avenue.

The purpose of this symposium is to provide a balanced platform for open communication, cordial discussion and an opportunity to educate leaders on both sides proposed tolling of I-80 issue.

The symposium focuses on three areas:

Yesterday

- 2005 PennDOT Study
- 2006 State Transportation Study
- Alternatives to Funding I-80
- 2009 Economic Impact Study

Today

- Federal Law versus Act 44
- Financing - The Bond Debt
- Economic Impact

Tomorrow

- Call to Action
- Letters
- Turnpike



Presenters are allotted a maximum of 10 minutes to present before the public, elected officials, media and invited guests. We will allow plenty of time for Q & A at the end of the day.

We have also formally invited gubernatorial candidates to participate in this symposium.

To register for the symposium, please contact our office at 814.226.9161 or by emailing Desirae at info@clarionpa.com with Subject: January 22, I-80 Symposium.

This event is brought to you by the Coalition to Keep I-80 Toll Free and the Clarion County EDC. Members of the Coalition to Keep I-80 Toll Free (A Coalition of local Chambers, Businesses, Associations and Neighbors) are:

Berwick Area Chamber of Commerce
Central PA Chamber of Commerce
Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
Clinton County Economic Partnership
Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce
Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce
Milton Area Industrial Development Association
Venango Area Chamber of Commerce
Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce

President: Maria A. Culp, with the Central PA Chamber of Commerce & Milton Area IDA
Vice President: Susan Williams, with the Venango Chamber of Commerce
Secretary/Treasurer: Tracy Becker (Coalition Founder)

Letter Writing Campaign - We Need You . . .

The Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry (CACBI) and the Clarion County Economic Development Corporation (CCEDC) are encouraging all residents of Pennsylvania to participate in a letter writing campaign in opposition to I-80 Proposed Tolling.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission submitted their application for the third time to seek federal approval for tolls to be added to Interstate 80. We urge you to write to Federal Secretary Transportation Chair, Ray LaHood and to Federal Highway Administrator, Victor Mendez to ask them to reject the PTC application. Their addresses are available through our website www.clarionpa.com.

Also on the website is additional information and letters including "The Facts", "Download Petition to Repeal Act 44", and "Take Action". Under the "Take Action" tab, you will find the names and addresses of the **Key Contacts** for Pennsylvania and Federal level to whom you send your letters. Sample letters are also available for you to use.

The tolling of I-80 will have a huge negative impact on our area and throughout Pennsylvania. Tolling of I-80 goes 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 when the highway was built for economic and defense purposes.

Recently, Dr. Tracy Miller of Grove City College presented a study entitled "The Economic Impact of Tolling I-80" which shows how tolls will negatively affect the many businesses and workers residing in the I-80 corridor. A complete copy of this study is available at www.clarionpa.com by clicking on the I-80 symbol.

Tracy Becker, Executive Director for the CACBI and Brad Ehrhart, Executive Director for the CCEDC have spent a great deal of time talking with businesses of all sizes, community leaders and colleagues. We have heard time and time again that tolls along I-80 would be a large detriment to our businesses, our community and overall "Quality of Life".

We truly believe that tolling of I-80 will have a negative impact throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We urge you to check out the website and find out how you can help defeat Act 44.

The CACBI and the CCEDC continue efforts to inform our state government about the negative impact to future development in our region, the economic & financial impact on manufacturers that use the road on a consistent basis as a means to transport their products, the resultant increased commercial traffic on local roadways as vehicles attempt to avoid the tolls, and the fact that the proceeds from the tolls would be utilized to fund mass transit with no provision made to maintain I-80 or to compensate local government for the increased wear on local roadways.

Please feel free to contact Tracy Becker, CACBI Executive Director at (814) 226-9161, email: tracy@clarionpa.com or Brad Ehrhart, CCEDC Executive Director at (814) 226-9045, email: brad@callclarionpa.com or stop in at 21 North 6th Avenue for more information on what you can do to help with "No Tolling of I-80 and the Repeal of Act 44".

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.

2010 SPONSORS

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Topaz Sponsor

Wolfs Camping Resort

Sapphire Sponsor

Clarion County Community Bank

***Your Business
Could Be Listed
Here!!***

Confirmed sponsors as of 1-8-10

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

PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE BUSINESSES!

Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry
21 North 6th Avenue
Clarion, PA 16214

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