

THE Communicator



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Newsletter of the Penridge Chamber of Commerce



The Penridge Community - A Great Place for the Holidays



The holiday season is upon us once again, and with our local Penridge Community offering so many different businesses that can meet the needs of the season, why go anywhere else? Each Chamber member is a vital link to the vitality of the Chamber business community. Many small retail businesses count on increased holiday sales to help their bottom line and to continue to keep their business alive.

Take time to search the membership directory, located on the Chamber website, to discover many unique gift shops and retail stores. Many of our members offer gift certificates, memberships, and subscriptions. If you are hosting a party this year, be sure to search for our restaurants, caterers, bakeries, florists, markets, photographers, entertainers, and musicians. If you are having out of town guests, check out the accommodations available through Chamber members. Companies needing promotional items or personalized items for gifts can find many members able to help them out. And, if you are planning a trip, be sure to check out the travel category.

We hope that you will purposefully plan to do your shopping in the Penridge community. The Chamber is an organization that takes pride in its members and its fraternal qualities. We need to support each other in a community spirit in order to continue to prosper. We encourage you to visit fellow members' websites for ideas and for online shopping. If you need additional assistance, please feel free to call the Chamber office at 215-257-5390. We will be happy to help you with information and referrals.

Exciting events are taking place right here. Here are some highlights of the community events taking place for the holiday season.

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PCC Annual Awards Dinner


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FYI


*BAH - GVH
Outpatient Center*

 **December 1** - Sellersville's Sixth Annual Winterfest will be held on Tuesday, December 1 from 6:45-9 p.m. The tree lighting ceremony begins at the Sellersville Fire House at 6:45 p.m. Santa will be at the firehouse and refreshments will be available. Trolley rides begin at 7 p.m. The Sellersville Museum will be open from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Local businesses will be open with goodies.

 **December 5** - Upper Bucks County Technical School students will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa from 8:00 -11:00 a.m. at the school located at 3115 Ridge Road, Perkasie. Cost is adults \$6.00, children 3-12 \$3.50. Santa will arrive at 8:30 a.m. For more information call 215-795-2911.

 **December 5** - Perkasie Olde Towne Association invites you to the 100th Anniversary of America's Oldest Community Tree Lighting. Festivities including old-fashioned horse and carriage rides, and special holiday performances by the Penridge High School Brass Ensemble and Chamber Choir, the Sellersville Elementary

School Chorus, the First Baptist Church Choirs, and the Shannon Carney Dance Academy will begin at 5:30 p.m. Special Holiday Fireworks will be shot off at 6 p.m., followed by the arrival of Santa who will light the tree at 7:00 p.m. The Perkasie Carrousel will also be open for free rides from 12-5 p.m. A model train display beginning at noon will run until 8 p.m. Pictures with Santa will also be available. Bring a non-perishable food item for Penridge FISH and you'll be entered in a drawing to help flip the switch to light the Christmas tree! For more information call 215-257-4989.

 **December 12** - Penridge Airport invites you and your children to meet Santa at Penridge Airport. Bring a wrapped gift to the airport by Wednesday, December 9. Make sure your child's first and last name is written on the outside of the gift. Santa will have all of the gifts loaded on his plane so he can deliver them to your children on December 12 at 11 a.m. at the Penridge Airport. Unwrapped new toys, wrapping material and new clothing accessories (mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc.) will be accepted on the day of the event to give to Penridge F.I.S.H.

Annual Dinner and Awards Celebration

Four awards were presented to outstanding people and businesses from the Pennridge Community on Friday, November 20 at this year's Annual Dinner held at Revivals Restaurant & Banquets in Perkasio.



The **Pennridge Arts Award** was awarded to the 2009 Pennridge Gallery of the Arts Committee. This committee, chaired by Meg Bardar, was nominated by Moyer Indoor/Outdoor. A centerpiece celebration of the arts in the Pennridge region, this annual event includes more than 50 artists and 30 crafters displaying their work accompanied by music, food, and tours of the Sellersville Historic District. The hard work and dedication of this committee has given the Pennridge Community a celebration of the arts that brings recognition to local artists and the Pennridge area.

The **James Hackett Memorial Good Neighbor Award** was presented to Pennridge F.I.S.H. (Fellowship In Serving Humanity) under the direction of Ted Von Mechow. F.I.S.H. is a 100% volunteer, Christian non-profit corporation providing services to the needy in the Pennridge School District since 1972. The organization maintains a food pantry and clothing outlet and offers limited financial assistance. F.I.S.H. also offers Christmas help with food, toys and gifts to those in need. Ted Von Mechow, who has been with F.I.S.H. since the 1970s, works countless hours each week to ensure that the organization runs smoothly.



This year's recipient of the **Business Achievement Award**, given to a business for their contribution to the economic health of the Pennridge area, is Prodesco, Inc. /Secant Medical. Founded in 1943, Prodesco is a company that thinks globally and acts locally. Prodesco firmly believes in giving back to the community and in being model citizens. They have been a key contributor to the success of our local economy as well as a business that has fostered positive community involvement and has worked steadfastly to support local merchants as business partners.

The **Frank R. Kulp Memorial Award** recipient was Dave Nyman who has served and continues to serve the community in many ways. Dave has served on the board of supervisors since 1991 for East Rockhill Twp. and works as an interim Township Borough Manager when called upon by a municipality. Dave is a member of the Bucks County Planning Commission and is extremely active in the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee (PACC). Dave was an elementary teacher with the Pennridge School District and also coached all levels of youth sports

Other highlights of the evening included a presentation by Betty Graver to Lisa Bogan, assistant at the Pennridge Chamber for all of her hard work through a tough year. The Grand Prize, a two-night stay at the Atlantic House Bed & Breakfast in Ocean City, Maryland, was won by Bill Rickett, TMA Bucks. Many people went home with raffle prizes donated by local businesses. Chris Fickes emceed the event and did a fantastic job presenting all of the awards to the recipients. Close to 100 people attended this annual event.



Left—The 2009 Pennridge Gallery of the Arts committee joins Meg Bardar in celebrating their award.



Right—Father, Ted Von Mechow and daughter Meg Bardar share a special moment together.



Kelly Fraga, from Prodesco/Secant Medical won two great raffle prizes, a gorgeous basket from the Bernard Suss Funeral Home, and a snowman donated by Betty and Ron Graver.



Jean Curry, Pennridge Airport, received some travel tips from Sara and Jim Kelly, Destinations By Sara. Award winner Ted Von Mechow enlightened all of us about the number of families that are being helped by Pennridge FISH.



Keith Smith, Vice President of the Chamber Board of Directors welcomed everyone and led the elections for the 2010 Board.





Michael and Peggy Engard from Perkasio Olde Towne Association enjoyed meeting many new people.




Sam and Lisa Bogan made their way around the room selling raffle tickets. Board member Dave Beck and our grand prize winner, Bill Rickett, were among the many who bought tickets and later won prizes.

Continued from page 1

 **December 12** - Discover Dublin, Inc. is once again hosting their annual Holiday Gathering from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Dublin Fire House. Santa will be arriving at 7:15 p.m. and will light the holiday tree. Bring your camera to take pictures with Santa, enjoy free refreshments, carriage rides, and crafts for children, a live nativity, petting zoo, and a model train display. Live music by local musicians and choirs will be performed during the evening. Bring an unwrapped gift or non-perishable food item to help the less fortunate. For more information on the event, call 215-249-1133 or visit www.dublinborough.org.

 **December 12 and 13** – Visit the Annual Winter Forest at the Sellersville Museum from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Over 30 trees decorated by area businesses and organizations will be on display. Visitors can vote for their favorite trees by donating coins to place their vote. All proceeds will go to Penridge F.I.S.H. Santa, live music and refreshments will add to the festivities. Free admission.

 **December 15** - Bring the whole family to Pearl S. Buck International's first Holiday Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. This exciting evening will feature gingerbread cookie decorating, arts and crafts, storytelling, and a special visit from Santa Claus! Complimentary candlelight tours of the Pearl S. Buck House will also be available for all to view the 31st Annual Festival of Trees Display.

 **Through December 31** - The 31st Annual Festival of Trees runs through Dec. 31 at Pearl S. Buck House & Historic Site, 520 Dublin Road, Hilltown. A Bucks County holiday tradition the Festival of Trees Display features over a dozen beautifully-decorated trees around the House, along with other holiday decorations adorning each room. Candlelight Tours will also be offered at 7:00 p.m. on the evenings of December 4, 11, and 18. Fees and further information can be found on the web at www.pearlsbuck.org or by calling 215-249-0100.

Always Buy Chamber!

Our Holiday Wish to You

During this past difficult year, in the rush of events, we tend to overlook the valuable business relationships that we hold so highly. During this special time of the year it is important to reflect on our relationships with those whose friendship and goodwill we value so highly.

In this spirit it is our pleasure to say "Thank You" and to extend our sincere appreciation for the very gratifying association we enjoy with you.

May you find joy in the simple pleasures of the Holiday Season and may a hope-filled and prosperous New Year bring happiness to you and your coworkers, friends, and family.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Chamber Staff - Betty, Lisa, Brenda and Mary



Board of Directors and Staff - 2009

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Doylestown Hospital is pleased to welcome the following physicians and professional personnel: **Michael Aquino, M.D.** has joined the Department of

Medicine/Internal Medicine in association with Doylestown Hospitalists; **Gerald O'Malley, D.O.** has joined the Department of Emergency Medicine; **Aalpen Patel, M.D.** has joined the Department of Radiology in association with Doylestown Radiology; **Deborah Wright, M.D.** has joined the Department of Family Medicine in association with Central Bucks Family Practice.

PA Career Link® Bucks County Appoints New Director



The Bucks County Workforce Investment Board, Inc. and the PA CareerLink® Bucks County welcome **Mr. Norman Brewer** as the newly appointed Director of the CareerLink. Brewer, a native of Eastern North Carolina, relocated to Bristol Township, after retiring from 20+ years of service in the United States Air Force, where he attained the rank of *Chief Master Sergeant*, the highest enlisted rank. His duty stations were throughout the United States and Iceland and included deployment to the Middle East and Iraq.

The PA CareerLink® Bucks County is the employment resource center for job seekers and employers throughout the county and region to be effectively matched and receive workforce development services.

Brewer's demonstrated management and leadership skills will be especially critical and relied upon now when the unemployment rate in Bucks County is 7.6%. No-cost services designed to provide stability to the incumbent workforce, grow the economy by creating a skilled, trained, and competent workforce, and effectively match hiring employers with unemployed individuals may be accessed by contacting Norman Brewer and his staff at the PA CareerLink® at 215-781-1073 or www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us.

The Communicator is produced by the staff of the
Penridge Chamber of Commerce.
Editor: Brenda Price Contributing Editor: Betty Graver
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BUSINESS NEWS

The long-held vision to provide comprehensive cancer services on the **Doylestown Hospital** campus took a giant step towards reality on October 28. With a ceremonial groundbreaking, the hospital and the Penn Cancer Network start a new chapter in cancer care that will introduce radiation oncology to the services patients can access close to home. Construction of the new facility will begin within the month and is expected to be completed by Fall 2010. The finished three-story building, adjacent to The Pavilion, will allow for expansion of The Cancer Institute of Doylestown Hospital, the addition of community physician offices, and a first-floor occupied by Penn Medicine's Department of Radiation Oncology.

KUDOS

Univest Corporation demonstrated its ongoing support to the communities it serves by continuing to provide financial support totaling over \$113,000 to 73 nonprofit organizations during the third quarter of 2009. In addition to its contributions, Univest celebrated its nationally renowned 12th annual Univest Grand Prix race. Uniting 18 local communities through the Univest Grand Prix each year allows Univest to continue giving back while providing a weekend of fun for spectators of all ages. Univest's financial support focused on nonprofit organizations serving individuals and families throughout Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Lehigh counties in areas of arts, culture, education, youth athletics and senior citizen programs, while employees volunteered hundreds of hours to community events.



The **Bankers' Baseball Bash Committee** presented two local individuals and a local nonprofit organization with \$8,700. The money represented the proceeds from a charity softball

tournament in which seven area financial institutions competed. This year's recipients included two local individuals suffering financial hardship due to various medical conditions, along with the Eastern Upper Bucks Senior Center, this year's non-profit organization beneficiary. Participating financial institutions in 2009 included: **First Savings Bank of Perkasie**, **Fulton Bank**, **Harleysville National Bank**, **Harleysville Savings Bank**, **Merck Credit Union**, **QNB Bank**, and **Univest National Bank**. The Bankers' Baseball Bash Committee has raised more than \$160,000 for charities over the past twenty years. Shown in the photo are: Jonathan Hoke – **Fulton Bank**, Keith Donnelly – **Bash Beneficiary**, Courtney Covelens - **QNB Bank**, Nick Lozorak - **Harleysville National Bank (Tournament Champions)**, Domenic DiPillo – **Merck Credit Union**, Janet Vincent – **Univest**, Dean Shollenberger – **Harleysville Savings Bank**.

"Going green" isn't just a slogan at **Doylestown Hospital**. It's become a part of the hospital's way of doing things, positively impacting the environment and encouraging the workforce to make a difference. In recognition of its environmental leadership, **Doylestown Hospital** has received a Trailblazer Award from the EPA. The EPA's Trailblazer Award recognizes hospitals in the Philadelphia area and Delaware that have served as models for other hospitals and shown leadership in a particular area of sustainability. These hospitals are helping to pave the way to move all area hospitals forward by reducing their environmental footprint. **Doylestown Hospital** is also among the top 10% in the nation for cardiac care for the second consecutive year according to a comprehensive annual study released by HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization, and has again received HealthGrades Specialty Excellence Awards™ for Cardiac Care and Coronary Interventions. Additionally, Doylestown Hospital's lower patient mortality rates were recognized with HealthGrades highest rating – 5-stars - for coronary bypass surgery, valve replacement surgery, coronary interventional procedures and treatment of heart attacks.



As part of the "Money Management" course taught by Kimberly Roberts at Penridge High School, participating students received a teaching aid entitled "Your Checking Account". The kit is funded

through **First Savings Banking-Insurance-Investments** and has been provided to the students for a number of years at no cost to them or the school district. In addition to providing the kits, staff members from the Perkasie Fifth Street Branch of First Savings recently spoke to a number of the Money Management classes on a wide variety of financial subjects. Shown in the photo is class member Emily Weichel holding a "Your Checking Account" with Instructor Kimberly Roberts, left and First Savings representatives Dawn Kauffman and Laurie Heuckeroth right.

In its continued commitment to supporting green space throughout the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys, **Harleysville National Bank (HNB)** and **East Penn Bank (EPB)** are proud to present more than \$25,000 to parks and recreation departments as part their plant-a-tree fund. The donation comes as part of the bank's recent green banking campaign which encouraged customers to participate in paperless banking. The bank is contributing \$1 on behalf of customers who participated by signing up for and selecting green products and services linked with the campaign. The bank is delivering on its promise to support green initiatives, with its plant-a-tree fund, throughout the communities it serves.

COMING EVENTS



Please check out the community holiday events listed on the front pages of the newsletter.

As the holidays are approaching, the **Upper County Campus of Bucks County Community College** is going to create a "Garland of Giving" Tree. The college is asking the faculty, staff, and students as well as the community at large to donate nonperishable food items and paper products which will be given to *Quakertown Food Pantry*, a nonprofit organization which provides assistance to families in the Upper Bucks County Area, by December 11. When you donate your product, you will be invited to a Holiday Gathering at the college the following week. For more information, please call 215-258-7700.

Be sure to visit **The Sellersville Theater 1894** web site at www.st94.com to check out all of the holiday shows in their line up. Twelve Twenty-Four Holiday Concert, Holiday Magic with The Balsters, A Jazz Holiday with the Eric Mintel Quartet, and The Moscow Boys Choir will all be performing throughout the month of December. Make plans ahead to spend New Year's Eve at the theater partying to the sounds of Dr. K's Motown Revue.



QNB is pleased to announce the publication of its 2010 Collector Calendar. Calendars are available for no charge at all eight QNB branches. The 2010 calendar marks the 13th anniversary of QNB's Collector Calendar, featuring the work of area student artists. This year's calendar contains the award-winning pen and ink drawings of fourteen area high school students who submitted art on the theme "The 21st Century—The First Ten Years." For more information call the QNB Marketing Department at 215-538-5600, ext. 5758 or email cedge@QNB.com.

THE TMA SCOOP – The Weekly e-Newsletter of:



PennDOT LAUNCHES 511 SYSTEM

PennDOT officially launched its 511 system – 511PA. 511PA provides free, 24-hour information services including traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, regional tourism information, and links to transit agencies and major airports. The service is available by calling 511 from cellular phones and landlines or through the Internet by visiting 511PA.com. Users are also able to register through the Web site to receive personalized traveler alerts, provided through e-mail and text messaging. The 511PA roadway network includes all 1,759 miles of interstate including the Pennsylvania Turnpike, as well as other major roadways in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Traffic information for the majority of this network includes incident reports such as crashes, construction activities and, starting in November, winter road conditions. Additionally, average traffic speeds are available for several interstates and other major roadways in urban areas. To provide the most reliable information, 511PA will be updated as PennDOT verifies that an incident is occurring either through its network of more than 440 traffic cameras or through confirmed reports from state and local police. PennDOT encourages motorists to not call 511PA while driving. Callers should safely pull off the road to call the system, or check for travel delays before heading out. PennDOT will continue to enhance 511PA and travelers are encouraged to provide feedback on the system by visiting www.511PA.com.

This article was reprinted with permission from THE TMA SCOOP, weekly e-newsletter of TMA BUCKS, September 4, 2009 edition.

Business After Hours – Grand View Hospital Outpatient Center November 11, 2009



Dominick Merlo, a branch manager of Harleysville Savings Bank, played catch up with Jean Curry, from the Pennridge Airport. Both were former employees of Bucks County Bank.



A guest from the Indian Valley Chamber met SCORE Counselor Dick Reller and Sue McManus, who recently started her own event planning business.

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“Building Local Business Stronger”



In the changing times of today, think of some businesses you would miss if they went away. Now go and visit them, say hello, and buy something from that business. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

Buying from our local businesses would help keep the economy healthy. Every \$100 spent in an independently owned local business returns \$68 dollars back through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. When you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays in the community.

It takes you to remember our Pennridge Community and shop here!



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Return Service Requested

Progress Through Community Service



Penridge
Chamber
of Commerce

Coming Events

December 1	Board of Directors Meeting, Chamber 7:30 a.m.
December 7	Pennridge F.I.S.H. Toy Drive Ends
December 8	Leadership Bucks . . . Upper County Session, Upper Bucks VTS 8:00 a.m-3:30 p.m.
December 9	Joint Business After Hours, Pearl S. Buck International, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Holiday—Chamber Closed
December 25	Merry Christmas—Chamber Closed
January 1	Happy New Year
January 5	Board of Directors Meeting, Chamber 7:30 a.m.
January 15	Government Affairs Breakfast, Revivals Restaurant, 7:30 a.m.

Quote of the Month

"In the presence of Hope, faith is born; in the presence of Faith, love becomes a possibility;
in the presence of Love, miracles happen!"

Rev. Robert Schuller

SCORE Counselor available every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:30 am or 11:00 am at the Chamber office.
Check out their web site at <http://www.score.org> seven days a week.

Remember your ABC's: **ALWAYS BUY CHAMBER**

Please patronize the businesses who advertise in our newsletter.