



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

### APRIL

- **Wed., April 15 Business-After-Hours at The Flower Cart featuring Dee Dascum of Health and Wellness Massage, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

### MAY

- **Fri., May 1 First Friday Kick Off, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,** various locations throughout downtown North East
- **Wed., May 6 Promotions & Marketing Committee, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.,** above The Cork
- **Fri., May 15 and Sat. May 16 Community Yard Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,** throughout North East. Maps available at the Chamber of Commerce and other locations
- **Wed., May 20 Brochure Exchange Business-After-Hours at South Shore Wine Company, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

### JUNE

- **Wed., June 3 Promotions & Marketing Committee, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.,** above The Cork
- **Fri., June 5 First Friday Cruise-In, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.,** various locations throughout downtown North East
- **Thurs., June 11, 18 & 25, Picnic in the Park, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**
- **Wed., June 17 Business-After-Hours at Lakeview on the Lake Resort, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**



20 East Main Street  
North East, PA 16428  
814.725.4262

[www.nechamber.org](http://www.nechamber.org)

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Spring 2015  
Volume 1, Issue 2

# MEMBER CONNECTION

A quarterly newsletter linking Chamber members in North East, PA

## CHAMBER IS ON THE MOVE!

Onward and upward! Or across the street as the case may be.

Effective May 1, the Chamber offices will be located at 20 East Main St., in the former Fairchild's location across the street from the current office location.

This move is part of the steps towards the Chamber owning a permanent location. The Chamber placed a bid on the property at 44 West Main St. and that sale will soon be closed. During the remodeling, the Chamber had to secure a short term lease which necessitated finding temporary office space. The temporary location is 20 East Main.

"This endeavor is a long-term investment for the Chamber. We're looking forward to moving into a permanent location

and anticipate we will temporarily be at 20 East Main St. for no more than 6 months," said executive director Amy Ver-cant.

The temporary location allows the Chamber to maintain its visitor information and souvenir shop during the transition. During the move itself, the Chamber will remain open to serve the membership and the community.

The permanent location will offer many advantages to the Chamber and to North East. Not only will a vacant property be rehabilitated and put into use, but the space allows the Chamber to create an expanded visitor center to promote businesses and community assets. The building will become a focal point for tourism, business and community information.

## FIRST FRIDAYS RETURN WITH MAY 1 KICK OFF

North East's First Fridays @ 5 summer series begins with the First Friday Kickoff on May 1 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Now in its third year, First Fridays are the "see and be seen" summer event in North East. The Chamber's goal is to take the First Fridays events to another level by incorporating more activity to draw more people downtown.

First Friday events serve as an opportunity to provide something for everyone in

downtown North East. Activities planned to happen at each First Friday include live entertainment, an art walk, craft and vendor booths, sidewalk sales, dining specials and more.

In addition each night will have a different theme or special event associated with it.

- ◆ **May 1 – First Friday Kick-off:** Celebrate the first event of the year and enjoy nicer weather as we kickoff First

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## BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

## BUSINESS SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Making connections, promoting what you have to offer, sending customers your way, helping you 'get it done'...the Chamber does all this and more. Our business support and development services do just that - they are aimed at giving your business and added boost wherever you need it.

Specific business support and development initiatives offered by the Chamber include:

- ◆ Monthly Business-After-Hours events
- ◆ Promotions & Marketing Committee
- ◆ Referrals to futures customers
- ◆ Annual North East business locator map
- ◆ Print and online membership directory
- ◆ Copy and fax service
- ◆ Ribbon cuttings

To start taking advantage of these offerings or for more information, contact the Chamber at 725-4262 or stop in to the office during regular business hours which are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We're hear to support you!

## CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW MARKETING COORDINATOR

The Chamber is please to welcome Katie Wike to the position of Marketing Coordinator.

As a lifelong resident and graduate of North East High School in 2009, Katie is excited to have the opportunity to showcase all North East town has to offer. She attended Gannon University where she earned a BA in History and she has previously worked in the renewable energy and journalism fields.

"Taking this position has allowed me to reconnect with the community where I grew up," Katie said. "It's exciting to

contribute to an organization that helps the community in so many ways."

"I'm so pleased to welcome Katie to our team. Her creativity, work ethic and knowledge of the community are a valuable asset to the Chamber," commented executive director Amy Vercant.



## FIRST FRIDAYS

(Continued from page 1)

Fridays. Entertainment by the Hultman and Barb Songbook.

- ◆ **June 5 – Car Cruise In:** Bring your classic and collector cars downtown for a car cruise to mark the second event of First Fridays. Entertainment by the Erie Height Brass Ensemble.
- ◆ **July 3 – Olde Fashioned Fourth of July:** Have a red, white, and blue Independence Day with street performers, face painting, entertainment, a picnic dinner in Gibson Park and more!
- ◆ **August 7 – Dinner Under The Sun:** Treat yourself to a date night downtown and enjoy dinner specials at local restaurants under the warm August sun.

Chamber members and businesses of all types – both nonprofit and commercial – are invited to participate. Suggestions are to conduct a fundraiser, pair with local artists and exhibitors, hold a sidewalk sale, offer dining specials, giveaways and promotions.



Signage and maps will encourage attendees to explore all activities happening during First Fridays.

Call the Chamber at 725-4262 for more information. To participate in the event, contact Holly at holly@nechamber.org.



## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The following members are serving on the Chamber's board of directors. Thank you for your leadership!*

Barb Blount, *secretary*  
*Blount's Boards and Bags*

Bob Brown  
*Brown's Equipment Co.*

Gary Brown  
*Mercyhurst University NE*

Tim Burch  
*Burch Farm Country Market & Winery*

Vern Frye, *treasurer*  
*North East Township*

Carl Gregg, *president*  
*First National Bank*

Peggy Hauser, *vice president*  
*Grape Arbor Bed & Breakfast*

Cal Janes  
*Janes Property Management*

Bob Mazza  
*Mazza Vineyards*

Lori Miller  
*Serendipity Consignment Boutique*

Kari Moore  
*Roberts Trucking*

Missy Orton  
*Orton's Fruit Market*

Anne Saxer  
*Individual*

## CHAMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

*To assist in accomplishing its mission, the Chamber maintains several committees. Here's an update on recent committee work.*

### Promotions & Marketing

In response to a need expressed by several members, the Promotions & Marketing Committee has been discussing how to educate members about what each other does and how to assist each other. To address this need, the Chamber is setting up a private Facebook group exclusively for members where they can share information, ask and give assistance, and keep in touch with each other. Watch your email for an invite and instructions on how to get connected with the group.

### Economic Development

This newly formed committee identified several areas that would improve

North East's economy and then identified two specific projects as a starting point. These are the creation of a "How to Start a Business" packet of information and a database of available commercial properties. Both of these projects will be worked on over the course of the summer.

### Logo and Website

In addition to a new location, the Chamber logo and website is getting a facelift. Members have the opportunity to bid on developing a new logo for the Chamber. In addition, the look and functionality of the website is being upgraded, mostly to make it mobile device friendly and to incorporate improved content.

*Are you interested in serving on a Chamber committee? Contact Amy Vercant at 725-4262 or amy@nechamber.org.*

## ANNUAL MEETING PICS

Here are a few pictures from the Chamber's Annual Meeting which took place January 28.





# NORTH EAST UNCORKED “MURDER AT THE CONCORD SALOON” PICS

Here are a few pictures from the North East Uncorked: Murder at the Concord Saloon” which took place March 21.



**Did you receive your 2015 Membership Directory and Window Decal? If not, contact the Chamber at 725-4262**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Beyond Paper & Ink
- BS Expressions
- Cote & Sons Concrete Construction
- Edward Jones - Daniel C. Young
- Health and Wellness Massage Therapy
- Kingdom Culinary Services
- NOVA Safety & Health Consulting
- Norwex Eco Friendly Products
- Silgan Plastics
- Ann M. Stanko
- Szymanski Consulting, Inc.
- White Dragon Martial Arts

## COMMUNITY YARD SALE MAY 15 & 16

It’s time to clean out those closets and sort out the attic with the Community Wide Yard Sale event coming up on May 15 and 16.

In the coming weeks, residents can list their yard sale on the sale locator map for \$5. Businesses can purchase ads on the map.

The deadline to register your sale is Monday, May 11. The cost is \$5.

Maps will be available Wednesday, May 13. Maps are handed out from the Chamber office and other locations.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BEYOND PAPER & INK

*Janelle Thies-Green is the proprietor of Beyond Paper & Ink. She was the winner of our “Name the Newsletter Contest.”*

**Q: Why did you decide to become a member of the NE Chamber of Commerce?**

A: I decided to become a member of the NECC to network with other businesses. In addition, I want to stay up-to-date with local events and acquire more referrals from the NECC employees and other chamber members.

**Q: What’s the number one thing you want the community to know about your business?**

A: Beyond Paper & Ink is a home-

based business that offers both graphic design + printing for your home, business or event. Not only do I personally work one-on-one with you to create a custom design for your project, but I also deliver a professionally printed product at very competitive rates. Design + printing services include: logo design, business cards, yard signs, rack cards, brochures, menus, flyers, stationery, banners, wedding invitations, event invites and beyond!

**Q: How were you inspired to start your own business?**

A: After almost five years of working for a local printer, I wanted to find a



job that would utilize my B.S. in Marketing from Gannon University. Frustrated after months of job searching, I received a phone call at home from a previous customer asking if I still did graphic design... I said yes and the phone hasn’t stopped ringing. I feel truly blessed to have a job that I love – it hardly ever feels like work.

**“Business opportunities are like buses, there’s always another one coming.” ~ Richard Branson**

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT BS EXPRESSIONS

*Brad and Edyie Reed, along with their daughter Amanda, are the owners of The Teachers Apple Basket and have expanded into a new venture, BS Expressions.*

**Q: Why did you decide to become a member of the NE Chamber of Commerce?**

A: Community has always been important to us and we realize that together we can build our community into a strong moral and financially responsible place for our present and future generations.

**Q: What’s the number one thing you want the community to know about your business?**

A: We can personalize a wide variety of items to meet the needs of individuals and organizations.

**Q: How were you inspired to start your own business?**

A: We have always wanted to put our expressions of pictures or phrases on items. As we sought out the process, we quickly discovered the difficulty in finding a local manufacturer. Hence, we began our own manufacturing.



*Pictured are examples of sublimation, a specialty of BS Expressions. Sublimation is the process using heat and pressure to transfer photos onto different coated substrates.*