

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Where did January go? Already one month into the first quarter and I don't see things slowing down. As most of you know I am in real estate. As I travel throughout our Mon Valley I notice a lot of properties for sale, but I also see many of these properties selling. There is a demand for good rental housing and if you are an investor or are looking to expand your investments to give you a bigger return on that investment, now is the time to look into single and multi family housing.



Armand N. Ferrara, Jr.

Why the demand? Look no further that our new industry ...Marcellus Shale.... There are people from Texas, Omaha, Virginia just to name a few that are working in our great Mon Valley on drilling and pipe installation and all the other peripheral companies that make up this industry. Many of them are living in motels and hotels but as they are getting more comfortable in seeing that their jobs are going to be here for a good while, they are starting to look for bigger places to live. More of a home than a room. Not yet ready to buy but definitely ready to move up. And its not just housing, the commercial market is also growing with a need for warehousing, equipment parking, offices, etc.

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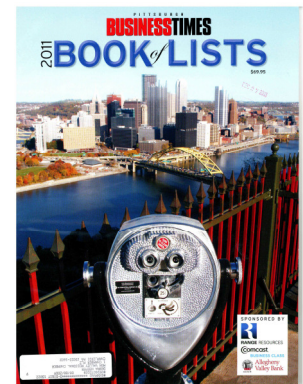
February Member Spotlight CHARLEROI SAVE-A-LOT

Charleroi Save-A-Lot and Char's Lott (a lottery store and more) has been operating since 1995 under the ownership of Vince and Charlotte Vaccaro. Ten years before, Vince bought the Charleroi Foodland in 1985. Vince and Charlotte met each other for the first time as employees of the store back in the 1960's and have now been married for 36 years!

The store is located at the corner of 1st Street and McKean Avenue in Charleroi. The Vaccaro family is known for their friendliness and generosity in supporting the community, not only in Charleroi, but also in Monongahela where they make their home. Charleroi Save-A-Lot has maintained their membership in the Chamber for 19 consecutive years, and in addition has sponsored countless events and fundraisers during that time.



Charlotte and Vince Vaccaro.



Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce

One Chamber Plaza
Charleroi, PA 15022

724-483-3507 Fax: 724-489-1045

E-mail: info@mvrchamber.org

website: www.mvrchamber.org

President: Armand Ferrara
V. President: Atty. Rick Mudrick
Secretary: David Galloni
Treasurer: Milton Kubik
Executive Board: Jerry Zahand, Sr.
Executive Board: James Protin

Chamber Staff:
Executive Director: Debra Keefer
Financial Assistant: Donna Angelo

We regret any errors or omissions
in this newsletter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cialone's Auto Care Center

Ruth Cialone
948 McKean Avenue
Donora, PA 15033
724-379-5558
Auto Repair/Inspection

GrassRoutes Counseling Services

Elliott Branch
701 Schoonmaker Avenue, Suite 100
Monessen, PA 15062
724-503-2146
www.grassroutescounselingservices.com
Mental Health Provider

Hawthorne Ventures, LLC

Danielle Price
30 Sundance Lane
Fredericktown, PA 15333
724-344-7238
www.hawthorneventuresinc.com
Advertising/Media

Continued... PRESIDENTS MESSAGE...

If you take a ride out Interstate 70 from Rostraver Township toward Washington you will see at least 8 companies that were not here just a year ago. Great growth..Great opportunities.

Imagine... this is only one aspect of growth that has found its way into the Valley. Car repair, groceries, clothing, gifts, restaurants, are all going to benefit from this industry. Are you ready for the business? Are you doing your due diligence to make sure you and your staff are up for doing more business? Isn't this a great problem to have !!

We have so much to offer, not only to the Marcellus Shale industry, but to our friends and neighbors that look to us for their wants and needs. If you look at our region starting with the four counties we touch, Washington, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Allegheny down to the many boroughs and townships that comprise them, we do have a lot to offer. It is up to each of you to plant the seeds of growth to our new friends working in this industry, that they don't have far to go to buy, repair or clean just about anything they need.

As your Mid Mon Valley Chamber of Commerce it is up to us to bring you as much information as possible to keep you abreast to what is going on in this industry. Keep watching your email and newspaper for seminars we have sponsored and will continue to sponsor for your benefit. Remember... Knowledge is Power.....The more we can share with you, we will, it's up to you to use this information to get your businesses to grow.

Armand N. Ferrara, Jr., President

MON VALLEY REGIONAL

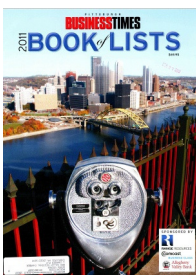
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Associate Broker, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services

Are you a business, individual or nonprofit
that has not joined the Chamber
of Commerce?

Call Deb Today at 724-483-3507!

*"Top 25 Largest Chambers
in the Greater Pittsburgh Region"*



Member to Member Discount Offer

OUTSIDETHE BOX I.T., LLC

724-997-1095

Outside the Box I.T., LLC would like to extend a **FREE** audit of your computer network. Let us give peace of mind that your business is running efficiently, or if it isn't, help to make it more user-friendly and running as a business tool instead of a business liability. From servers to web sites, we can help you grow! **PLUS**, all MVRCC Members will **RECEIVE 10% off** of all labor charges **FOR EVERY JOB!**

See all the Member to Member Discounts at
www.mvrchamber.org

ChamberChoice

Employee Benefits solutions,
products and
services.

**For more information,
contact us today!**

1-800-377-3539
www.chamberchoice.com
chamberchoice@jrgadvisors.net

THANK YOU TO MEMBER RENEWALS*

90 Years

Zelenski's Bridal & Gown Shoppe

74 Years

Authority of the Borough of Charleroi

60 Years and Over

Pierre A. Luti Advertising Co.
Model Cleaners & Uniforms

50 Years and Over

Lions Club of Charleroi
Ruschak Insurance Associates

40 Years and Over

Bassi, McCune & Vreeland, PC
Bigi & Walsh
Charleroi Federal Savings Bank
Davies Ford of Charleroi
DeRienzo Family Practice
Guttman Group
Lettrich Group
Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority
Mon Valley Office Equipment
Nix Optical
Shamrock Chemical
Van Beck Electric

30 Years and Over

Charleroi Sweeper Center
Highway Appliance Company
Monongahela Valley Hospital
Ronald Monack
Valley Tire Company
Vanderman Law Offices

25 Years and Over

Armando's Pizza
The Back Porch Restaurant
Charleroi Area School District
Jaycee Foods
Kenneth Wiltz
George M. Toohey, Optometrist
Yohe Roofing

20 Years and Over

Charleroi Borough
Frank M. Godla Mechanical, Inc.
Marsh Tire
McKnight Medical
Richard Mudrick, Attorney-at-Law
Specialty Printing

10 Years and Over

American Cancer Society
Audrey's Custom Draperies
Centimed, Inc.
Channel Craft & Distribution
Charleroi Fire Department
Charleroi Save-A-Lot
Crystal Concepts
Vito Dentino Agency
Ductmate Industries, Inc. (Charleroi)
General Industries
Junior Achievement
Milton Kubik
Gene Lofink Heating & Air Conditioning
Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association
Mon Valley Care Center
Mon Valley Community Federal Credit Union
PA CareerLink, Mon Valley
Presbyterian Senior Care
Ray Orthodontic Lab
Residence at Hilltop
Rotolo Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram
Royal Order of Scotland
Solomon Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ford
Southwest Training Services, Inc.
Speers Borough
Tregembo Motors

5 Years and Over

ActionCoach Business Coaching
Action-Housing, Inc.
Allenport Marina
Community Action Southwest
Douglas Education Center
Duwall Productions
Hampton Inn – Belle Vernon
Legal Shield
Durga Malepati, MD
Mon Valley Progress Council
Mon Valley YMCA
Mornak Excavation, Inc.
NovaCare Rehabilitation
S.E. Technologies, LLC
Spartan Health Surgicenter
Staff Masters
Tri-County Chem-Dry
Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
Villella Remodeling, LLC
Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency
Washington Financial
Washington Symphony Orchestra
Westmoreland County Community College–
Mon Valley Center

All other Renewals

Ashcraft Records Management & Storage
Belle Vernon Area School District
E. J. Burns Construction
Business Clickers Printing
BVA Federal Credit Union
CASA for Kids, Inc.
The Challenge Program
Charleroi Area Ministerial Association
John Croussouloudis
D & K Storage, LLC
Ferrara Appraisal Services
Frick Tri-County Federal Credit Union
Functional Solutions, LLC
Gene-N-Boots Candies, Inc.
Huckestein Mechanical Services, Inc.
Keystone Bakery
Keystone Benefits Group, Inc.
Lesleh Precision, Inc.
Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame
Mon Valley Initiative
Morgan Excavating, LP/Pompei & Sons, Inc.
Odyssey HealthCare
Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy Associates, Inc.
OSPTA @ Home
Pittsburgh Business Times
Premier Landscape and Lawns, LLC
Prima Diva Boutique
Redevelopment Authority of Washington Co.
Reliance Business Solutions
Sam's Club
Snapshot 47 Photos
Southwestern PA Operations for CNX Gas
Carl J. Spallino Funeral Home, Inc.
Transitional Employment Consultants
United Way of Mon Valley
Valley 1st Community Federal Credit Union
Valley Women's Health
Washington County Community Foundation

*These renewals only reflect dues received as of January 31, 2012. Renewals will continue to be acknowledged in upcoming issues of the Regional Reporter .

MEMBER REMINDER

Payment of 2012 Dues makes your business eligible for the Chamber's Pot of Gold. Next Drawing to be held February 14 at the Chamber Luncheon at the Willow Room.



CHAMBER NEWS

THE STATE OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

11:45-1:00 P.M.

Lunch Begins Promptly at Noon!

The Willow Room

Rostraver Township, (GPS) 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon



Keynote Speaker
Ben Taylor
Manager,
Great Lakes Region
**U. S. Chamber of
Commerce**



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 100th year anniversary and is the world's largest business federation representing 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.

"The Chamber is so pleased to be bringing a representative from the United States Chamber of Commerce to our region. We urge all businesses and community leaders to attend this luncheon to hear Ben speak about the State of American Business, what's going on (or isn't but should be) and the upcoming elections," said Deb Keefer, Chamber Director. "This fits with our mission to present quality programs at our events and we want everyone to take advantage of this opportunity." Because of the importance of the program, the Chamber is inviting all local businesses to attend, regardless of Chamber membership.

\$15.00/Person BUFFET LUNCHEON

Seating is limited. Make your reservation today!

Call 724-483-3507 or info@mvrchamber.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATE IN MARCH 13 LUNCHEON

The Washington County Commissioners will be featured at the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce luncheon to be held on **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Charleroi Elks Club from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm.**

Commissioners Diana Irey, Larry Maggi, and newly elected Harlan Shober will be updating attendees on the state of the

County and projects slated for 2012 and beyond. A panel discussion facilitated by Washington County Chamber President Jeff Kotula is planned along with a briefing on the Charleroi Monessen Bridge Project from PennDot representatives, Amy Costabile and Len Kubitza.

The Chamber's Pot of Gold is an accumulating jackpot that will be won by a member who is present if their name is drawn at the event. Attendees can make reservations at a cost of \$15.00/person and may register by calling the Mon Valley Regional Chamber office at 724-483-3507. The Chamber accepts VISA, Mastercard and Discover. *See insert for details.*



Commissioners Larry Maggi, Diana Irey-Vaughan, and Harlan Shober

MELVIN B. BASSI GOLF TOURNAMENT DATE, LOCATION SET

The MVRCC Golf Committee has set the 2012 **Melvin B. Bassi Memorial Tournament for Thursday, June 7, 2012 at Butler Golf Course in Elizabeth.** A 8:00 am registration and practice will be followed by a 9:00 am shotgun start.

Foursomes and sponsorships are now being accepted by calling Deb or Donna at 724-483-3507. The cost per golfer is only \$120 for 2012. Proceeds from the Bassi Tournament fund Leadership Washington County scholarships, The Challenge Program in local high schools, and several other educational initiatives in the Mid Mon Valley.



THURSDAY, JUNE 7
NEW LOCATION!

Chambers Partner to present MEDIATION WORKSHOP



An Important Local Program Dealing with Conflict Resolution In Your Place of Business!

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Anthony Lombardi Conference Center Room "F"
Monongahela Valley Hospital

Registration 7:45 AM Workshop—8 AM—12 Noon
\$25/Member \$35/Non Member

Registration Fee Includes: Morning Coffee & Pastries
Workshop Materials and Parking Token
SPACE IS LIMITED!

Registrations are being accepted on a first come first
served basis by calling or e-mailing the Greater Rostraver
Chamber office at 724-929-3329 or
grcoc1@comcast.net



Dionne Eddy and Mike Baines of **Functional Solutions** will conduct the training.

Who should attend: Managers and potential managers,
and people who must deal with difficult situations and
people.

What will be presented:

- A look at conflict - positive and negative.
- How conflict can cost an organization.
- How we grow conflict.
- How to avoid creating conflict.

Mediation, the mediator, and the mediation process.

If the March 29 workshop is filled, the training will be
repeated in another session in the following months.

AFFORDABLE RATES TO MEET YOUR BUDGET!

*Some great reasons to advertise in the 2012-2013 Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce's
Member Directory & Resource Guide.*

Informative

This 5.5" x 8.5" spiral bound "desk friendly" directory will feature our best asset—
YOU-OUR MEMBER! Every member will receive a **FREE** listing in the alphabetical
and category sections.

Resourceful

The Directory is actively sought out for information when consumers are ready-to-
buy. Also included are pages that list local governmental and community addresses,
telephone numbers and websites.

Longevity

Publications of this nature are retained well past their lifespan as a resource for quality
businesses.

Exposure

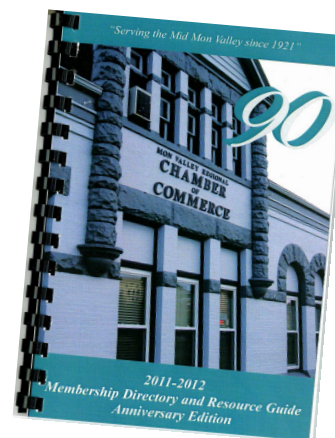
Each Directory is usually read by more than one individual providing advertisers
continued exposure to more and more potential clients, consumers and associates.

Distribution

1,000 copies will be distributed to Chamber members (300+) and in high traffic areas
throughout the region.

Easy and Affordable

Donna Angelo of the Chamber Staff is ready to accept your ad! Design service is also
available.



*Advertising in the 2012-2013 Directory will
put your business in front of thousands of
targeted clients! Capitalize on your
investment with the Chamber by utilizing this
valuable tool to increase your current market
growth and reach new customers.*

See enclosed rate sheet for last year's low
prices and call Donna at 724-483-3507
TODAY!

MON VALLEY REGIONAL CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the January Board of Directors Meeting new board member, Diann Donaldson, Reliance Business Solutions was welcomed. In other business, the **2012 Executive Committee** was elected: Armand Ferrara – President, Rick Mudrick – Vice President, Dave Galloni – Secretary, Milt Kubik – Treasurer, Jerry Zahand, Sr. – Executive Committee-at-Large, and Jim Protin – Executive Committee-at-Large. The **2012 One-Year Appointments** were made – Donna Ramusivich, Monongahela Valley Hospital, David Galloni, Charleroi Federal Savings Bank, Milt Kubik, Community Park Trustees representative, and Dr. Brad Ferko, Charleroi Area School District representative. **Also**, Lori Spina of Gosai & Gandhi Medical Practice has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Class of 2012.

2012 Board of Directors

Patricia Brickner – *PA CareerLink, Mon Valley*
Deborah Buck – *Audrey's Custom Draperies*
Vito Dentino – *Vito Dentino Agency*
Diann Donaldson – *Reliance Business Solutions*
Dr. Brad Ferko – *Charleroi Area School District*
Armand Ferrara – *Ferrara Appraisal Services*
Dave Galloni – *Charleroi Federal Savings Bank*
J. J. Georgagis – *Keystone Bakery*
Karen Juskowich – *Juskowich Notary Service*
Milton Kubik – *Charleroi Community Park Trustees*
Randy McMahon – *Handyman Matters*

Jeffrey Mendola – *Waddell & Reed, Inc.*
Attorney Rick Mudrick
Josie Pelzer – *Rotolo Dodge Chrysler Jeep*
Jamie Protin – *Chester Engineers*
Donna Ramusivich – *Monongahela Valley Hospital*
Wayne E. Ray – *Snapshot 47 Photos*
Lori Spina – *Gosai & Gandhi, MD*
Joe Williams – *TEAM Charleroi/Mon Valley Office Equipment*
Ken Wiltz – *Associate Member*
Jerry Zahand, Sr. – *Highway Appliance Company*
Lydia Zanardini – *Smitty's Marina & Grill*

Debra Keefer – *Executive Director*

Donna Angelo – *Financial Assistant*

Attorney Keith Bassi – *Solicitor (Bassi, McCune, and Vreeland)*

Attention Chamber Members: GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

SPONSOR THE REGIONAL REPORTER

\$65 Insert Sponsor – (\$45 Non Profit Rate)

You provide 400 inserts

(8-1/2" x 11" flyers printed on a 20 lb. stock are preferred.)

CALL 724-483-3507 TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

E-MAIL BLASTS

1 Free Blast/Member/Year—Additional \$25 each

(Limit 3/Member/Year)

Find us on  Facebook

Post your news on the Chamber FACEBOOK page!

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Something for everyone's budget! See all of the opportunities at www.mvrchamber.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER/TABLOID

Submit your news (anniversaries, achievements, etc.) to
info@mvrchamber.org

Deadline for Editorial/Advertising for March Tabloid:
 Wednesday, February 29. Tabloid—Publication date:
 Thursday, March 8 2012.

AFFORDABLE ADS ARE A PHONE CALL AWAY!

Advertise in the **Mon Valley Messenger**—Contact Judi Robbins, Ad Manager at 412-708-7328 or
robbins.judi@gmail.com

Advertise in the monthly Chamber Supplement to the
Valley Independent—Contact your Ad Rep or Karen Strickland at 724-684-2609.

MEMBER NEWS

GRASSROUTES COUNSELING SERVICES ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING

GrassRoutes Counseling Services (GRCS) a start-up mental health practice dedicated to providing quality mental health treatment, opens their doors on March 5th. The practice is headed by Elliott A. Branch, LSW and Vanessa L. Drew-Branch, Ed.D., LSW, a husband and wife clinical team, whose practice offers mental health counseling, massage therapy, and consultation services for non-conventional therapies clinically proven to address mental health illness and symptoms.

Branch, co-owner and Executive Director of GRCS, said, "We are excited to have the opportunity to serve the Mon Valley region. Our hope is that we will be able to effectively assisting individuals in maintaining their mental health stability. We believe that our integrative approach to addressing mental health will allow us to achieve that objective."

Our goal is to provide mental health consumers with a quality blend of evidence-based treatments aimed to facilitate their mental health recovery and stability."

GRCS will be holding an open house on March 5th, from 11-1 pm & 5-7 pm. The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce will be participating in a ribbon cutting at 11:00 AM on March 5th.

For more information contact GRCS at (724) 503-2146 or visit www.grassroutescounselingservices.com.

CHARLEROI AREA HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS "BACK TO THE 80'S"

From the era that brought the world The Rubik's Cube, Max Headroom and The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles comes this "totally awesome" musical in the style of movies such as "Back to the Future," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "The Karate Kid" and "The Wedding Singer." Join the graduating class of William Ocean High School as they live through their final senior year - as they

experience the fun, the heartbreak, the loves and the loneliness of growing up... all set to the biggest hits of the 1980's including: "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go"; "Kids in America"; "Footloose"; "Material Girl"; "Man in the Mirror"; "Love Shack"; "Mickey"; "Walking on Sunshine"; "Girls Just Want To Have Fun"; "Video Killed the Radio Star"; "The Time of my Life"; and so much more!!

Join them on this incredibly energetic and nostalgic trip "Back to the 80's." Performances are on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 7:30 pm; and Sunday, March 4, 2012 at 2:00 pm. All performances will be held in the Charleroi Area High School Auditorium. Cost of purchasing tickets in advance is \$8.00 for Adults and \$6.00 for Students and Senior Citizens. All tickets purchased at the door will be \$8.00. Tickets will be on sale in the Charleroi Area High School Auditorium Lobby beginning February 20, 2012. For more information please call 724-483-3509 ext. 3338.



**Map of
Charleroi,
Donora,
Belle Vernon,
Monongahela,
Monessen &
Rostraver
Township,
Pennsylvania**
*Happy to help you
find your way around!*

**MON VALLEY REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

One Chamber Plaza
Charleroi, Pennsylvania 15022
724-483-3507

www.mvrchamber.org

Find us on Facebook

"25 Largest Chambers in the Pittsburgh Region"



The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce has been serving the business community in the Mid Mon Valley since 1921. It is the largest (300 members) business organization in the region, and its full time staff delivers high quality networking and educational opportunities to its members. The Chamber office is open Monday-Friday, conveniently located in downtown Charleroi.

The MVRCC is proud to sponsor the 2012 Mid Mon Valley Map now available at the Chamber office. Members receive a free copy, additional copies are only \$1.00/each.



"Serving the Business Community Since 1921"

REGIONAL REPORTER

One Chamber Plaza

Charleroi, PA 15022

724-483-3507

info@mvrchamber.org

Return Service Requested

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No. 17

Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events!

Tuesday, February 14 – Chamber Luncheon, Ben Taylor, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The Willow Room, 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM. *See page 4 for details.*

Wednesday, February 15 – Chamber Board Meeting, SPHS Conference Room B, 8:00 AM

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 2, 3 & 4—Charleroi High School Musical, "Back to the 80's," CHS Auditorium. *See insert for details.*

Tuesday, March 13 – Chamber Luncheon, Panel Discussion w/ Washington County Commissioners, Charleroi Elks Club, 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM. *See insert for details.*

Wednesday, March 21 – Chamber Board Meeting, SPHS Board Room, 8:00 AM

Thursday, March 29 – Mediation Workshop, Anthony Lombardi Education Conference Center Room "F," Monongahela Valley Hospital, 8:00 AM—12:00 Noon. *See page 5 for details.*

Tuesday, April 10 – Chamber Luncheon, Alumni Room, Charleroi Area School District, 11:45 AM—1:00 PM

Wednesday, April 18 – Chamber Board Meeting, SPHS Board Room, 8:00 AM

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

If inclement weather causes a 2 hour delay or cancellation in the Charleroi Area School District, please consider the Chamber and/or TEAM Charleroi morning meetings or events cancelled. You can get the information on WTAE Channel 4 TV beginning at 5:00 AM or on their website www.thepittsburghchannel.com.

For Chamber and/or TEAM Charleroi luncheon meetings or afternoon events please call the Chamber office at 724-483-3507.

Watch the mail, e-mail, FACEbook and website for more information on all upcoming events!

www.mvrchamber.org