



Citizens Working Together for Better Communities

March 2019

Looking Back:

Annual Business Meeting: January 17, 2019

The Wetzel County Chamber Annual Business Meeting was held on January 17, 2019 at WVNCC, New Martinsville Campus. At this meeting Chamber President, Don Riggenschach gave a brief overview of 2018 and 2019 goals, events, financials, and reviews. Board of Directors voted back to the board were: Don Riggenschach and Eric Vincent. Two new Board Members: Adam Pendleton – New Martinsville Dental and Brandon Galici – Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. Thanks to each of them for their commitment to the Chamber!

If you would like a copy of the 2018 Annual Report please email the Chamber at chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com

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Left to right:

- Brandon Galici – Financial Advisor for Edward Jones;
- Don Riggenschach – Riggenschach Tile & Carpet;
- Adam Pendleton – New Martinsville Dentist.



SAVE THE DATES:

The Wetzel County Chamber has some upcoming Events that we would like to invite you too:

April 20: Shortline Ramp Fest: The 5th Annual ShortLine Ramp Festival will be held on April 20, 2019. Located in Pine Grove, WV. There will be a 5 K Run / Walk beginning at 9 am with registration at 8 am. The 5 K will start and finish at the Robert C Byrd Center located at 992 North Ford Rd, Pine Grove, WV. The Fundraiser proceeds go to ShortLine School "Engineer Energy Kids", there will be an inside crafter / vendor show held inside the Robert C. Byrd Center, Pine Grove, WV, an outdoor vendor which includes a ramp cook off (one food item has to have ramps) and vendor for nonfood and items selling at your booth. If you would like to participate in any or all of the ShortLine Ramp Festival go to www.wetzelcountychamber.com to download forms or call the chamber office at 304-455-3825.

5th Annual Shortline Ramp Festival

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019

Robert C. Byrd Center in Pine Grove, WV

Lots of Activities!

9 AM	5 K Run / Walk (Registration at 8 AM at Byrd Center)
10 AM	Raising of the Flag & National Anthem
10 AM	Sign up & Decorate for Kids Box Car Race
10 AM	Ramp Taste Off Begins
10—3 PM	Race Car Drivers: Travis Brown, Scott Irvin & Sonny Conley
10:30 AM	Kids Box Car Race
10—3 PM	Children's Games & prizes
10—3 PM	Indoor Crafters/Vendors
10—3 PM	Live Bluegrass Music
10:30—2:30 PM	Chicken Poop Bingo—NEW ACTIVITY!!
11 —3 PM	Ramp Dinner (Shortline FFA Alumni Fundraiser)
12 PM	Ramp Tasting Contest
1 PM	Little Miss / Mr. Ramp Personality Contest
	Easter Egg Hunt following Personality Contest
1 PM	Horseshoe Tournament
2:30 PM	Awards Presentation

Enjoy the day!

Bring your family, friends & lawn chairs!!

May 14: Community Awards Event at 5:30 PM at Mollohan Center. Nominations are now being accepted for your someone you feel has excelled in the following categories: Business Owner, Citizen, Civic Organization, Employee, Entrepreneur, **First Responder (NEW CATEGORY)**, Professional, and Youth. Youth winner will receive a scholarship from the New Martinsville Lions Club! **Deadline to submit nomination is April 15.** This year the event will be a served catered meal. Trying something new to get rid of those pesky long food lines!! So **you will need to RSVP and pay prior to the event this year!!!** Go to www.wetzelcountychamber.com to download the nomination form. For more details call the chamber office at 304-455-3825.

MAY is going to be the Chambers TRIBUTE TO K-9 UNIT Month!!!! Join us May 7 at B & B Buffet Restaurant in Middlebourne to learn what all our law enforcement officers do and how their K-9 Units are an important role. Both Sistersville Chief Rob Haught and Tyler County Deputy Huffman will be there to explain what they do and weather permitting will give some K-9 unit demonstrations outside. Also May 28th Sheriff Mike Koontz will have Wetzel County Sheriffs K-9 Unit and handler at WVNCC, New Martinsville campus to tell us more about what they are working on and how they help protect the community. This is all part of the Chamber's lunch & learn series. RSVP to any of the chambers upcoming events by calling 304-455-3825 or email: chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com

July 11 at 7:30 am: State of Wetzel County Breakfast: Hosted by Genesis HealthCare and Wetzel County Chamber. Location: 225 Russell Ave., New Martinsville, WV. Cost is \$10.00 per person, breakfast is provided. There will be five keynote speakers speaking about issues affecting surrounding communities.

July 29 at 5:00 pm: Pay It Forward Event: Located at the Paden City Development Authority building at 425 S. 4th Ave., Paden City, WV (Paden City Health & Recreation Building). Local nonprofits are being asked to participate in a competition for funding for a community improvement project. Pay It Forward Program is designed to support community improvement projects that benefit Wetzel County WV, Tyler County WV or Monroe County, OH. Projects can range from art installations, memorial benches, landscaping, community signage, fixing potholes etc. Prize amounts will be announced later date a sponsorship is received for this event.

Aug.22 at 7:30 am: State of Tyler County Breakfast: Hosted by Genesis HealthCare and Wetzel County Chamber. Location: 201 Wood Ave., Sistersville, WV. Cost is \$10.00 per person, breakfast is provided. There will be five keynote speakers speaking about issues affecting surrounding communities.

Sept. 10 at 5:00 pm: Entrepreneur Pitch: Calling all Entrepreneurs in Wetzel & Tyler Counties, WV and Monroe County, Ohio. Located at the Mollohan Center, New Martinsville, WV. Cost is \$5.00 per person – pay at the door. Now is your chance to compete and win some money! Must be For Profit Business, Business must be in operation less than a year, or planning stage of a new business, or established business starting a new product line or new service. Prize amounts \$3000 for 1st place, \$2000 for 2nd place, and \$1000 for 3rd place. Thank you EQT FOUNDATION for funding. More sponsors will be listed as they become available.

Watch for emails, check out our website or follow us on Facebook for more information regarding our upcoming events.

The Wetzel County Chamber Upcoming Lunch & learns 2019 List:

- April 30: WTOV 9 –Smart Digital for Small Businesses**
- May 7: Sistersville & Tyler County Sheriffs Dept K-9 units at B & B Buffet Restaurant in Middlebourne**
- May 28: New Martinsville Sheriff Mike Koontz with K-9 Unit**
- June 25: Perry & Associates: Quick Books 101**
- July 30: Brandon Galici: Edward Jones – Retirement: Making Your Money Last**
- Aug. 27: Carla McBee - Cam Safety – Drug Awareness**
- Sept. 24: Perry & Associates – Oil and Gas Royalties**
- Oct. 29: V.I.T.A.L Resources: Fire Extinguisher Training**
- Nov. 26: The Arcane Store –Game Theory and Tradition Economic Thought vs. Modern Behavior Theory**
- Dec. 13: Ready, Relax, Recharge –Adult Coloring**

Just a reminder our Lunch & Learn Series usually only last 1 hour (12:00 – 1:00) and are held at WVNCC, New Martinsville Campus in room 110 **(UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ABOVE)** and lunch is provided. This event is FREE and open to the public and you DO NOT have to be a Chamber member to participate.

The Wetzel County Chamber Upcoming Business After Hours 2019 List:

- Apr. 25: Paden City Businesses at 425 S 4th Ave, Paden City
May 16: Olive Branch & LPH Enterprises & Nature By Choice, LLC at 727 Wells St, Sistersville
June 27: Bombshell & Mia Lia's Boutique at 711 Wells St, Sistersville
July 18: WVNCC at 114 Main St, New Martinsville
Aug. 15: WesBanco at Main St. Office
Sept. 19: Reynold's Memorial Hospital, 800 Wheeling Ave, Glen Dale
Oct. 17: The Arcane Game Store, 301 Main Street, New Martinsville
Nov. 21: Brandon Galici: Financial Advisor with Edward Jones at WVNCC, New Martinsville Campus
Dec. 19: Riggenbach Tile & Carpet at 801 Third St, New Martinsville
- The Business After Hours are held at the Business Location and usually start around 5:30 pm.

OTHER EVENTS / MEETINGS:

- April 20: ShortLine Ramp Festival 10 Am to 3 PM
May 14: Community Awards Event at 5:30 PM
July 11: State of Wetzel County Breakfast 7:30 AM
July 29: Pay It Forward Event at 5:00 PM
Aug. 22: State of Tyler County Breakfast 7:30 AM
Sept. 10: Entrepreneur Pitch at 5:00 PM
Oct 12 – Dec. 12: Small Business Saturday Promotion – Shop Local/ Buy Local
Dec 7: Christmas Activity Day 10 AM to 5 PM
Dec. 7: Christmas Parade at 6 PM

Want to be a Sponsor?

Would you like to sponsor an event? The benefits of involving yourself in these events cannot be taken for granted. Events are a great way to familiarize yourself and your business with the community. Sponsorships gives your business more press and social media mentions, you get before, during and after the event. With sponsorships, you get features ads, signs, or radio spots that boost your recognition. The benefits of an event sponsorships are endless!! If you would like to sponsor an event please contact the Chamber at: 304-455-3825 or by email: chamber@wetzelscountychamber.com

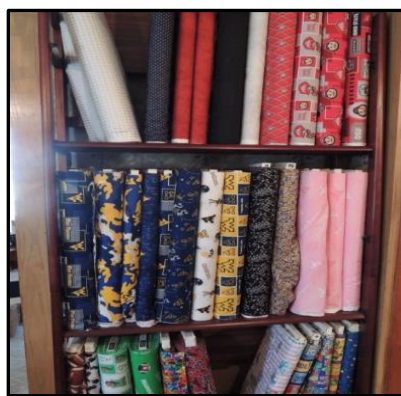
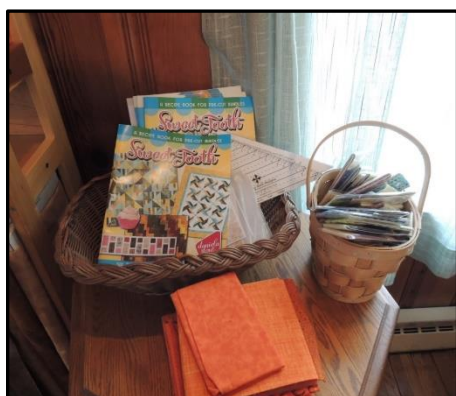
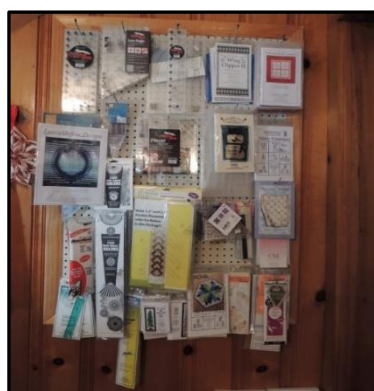
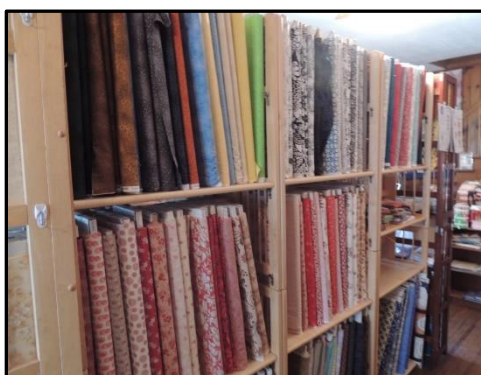
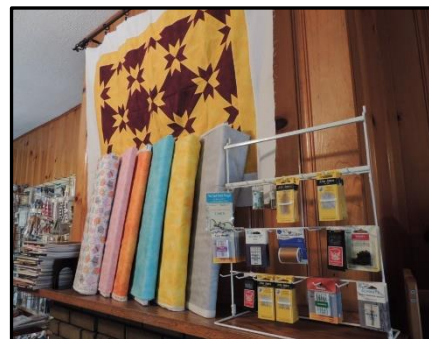
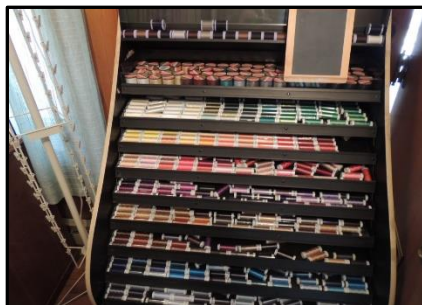
Volunteers Appreciated:

We would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT to all of our volunteers for all the hard work, effort and assistance throughout the year!!!! If anyone would like to volunteer please contact the Chamber office at 304-455-3825. There are several committees and subcommittees throughout the year that meet and plan the events and programs. You can volunteer for as little as an hour or as your schedule permits.

Featured Member:

This issue of the Newsletter we are doing a Featured Member--- **"Grandma's House of Quilting"**. Located at 424 Maple Ave., New Martinsville, WV 26155. The Owner: Alicia Cook started her business in July 2018. Here you will find the finest quality fabrics, notions, and quilting supplies and services. She has quilt kits, patterns, classes, books, and gifts. She takes great pleasure in assisting in the entire creative process, from choosing fabrics to completing your family heirloom. Alicia offer classes from beginner to advance, she can do individual or a group classes and does all age

groups. Alicia can help with matching quilt patterns, has an Accuquilt cutter to cut fabric for customers and can set you up with all your quilting supplies that live up to your creative talents. If you are looking for your next project idea get inspired, creative, or to make memories stop by Grandma's House of Quilting to start your next quilting project. Whether you are a beginner or prize – winning quilter, you'll find all the essentials you need to simply even the most complex quilting projects at Grandma's House of Quilting. Alicia has something for everyone.



Hours:
Wednesday – Friday: 10 – 5
Saturday: 10 – 2
304-398-2303
grandmashouseofquilting@gmail.com

Welcome 2019 New Members:

We would like to give a shout out to our new 2019 New Members.
Haught Heads
Nature By Choice, LLC
Mia Lia's Boutique
Wetzel County Center for Children and Families, Inc.

Hundred High School Achievement:

Photo Credit: Beverly Van Scyoc

Article Credit: Lauren Matthews – Editor Wetzel Chronicle

HHS Receives EPIC Grant

December 19, 2018

Hundred High School has been selected to receive a \$50,000 grant through the WV Department of Education's inaugural "Economic Projects Impacting Communities" competition. HHS students Madison Fetty and Hunter Tustin gave the school's EPIC presentation in Charleston on Dec. 12.

The Hornets' project involves collaboration with community partners "to revitalize the town of Hundred after the devastating floods in July 2017." Plans include an amphitheater with solar lighting, light post banners, and concrete planters filled with flowers "to help beauty the small town."



Hunter Tustin (third from left) and Madison Fetty (fourth from left) standing with Wetzel County Board of Education personnel, Hundred High School administrators, and other supporters as they celebrate a \$50,000 grant, they won through the West Virginia Department of Education's EPIC competition.

Mayor Goff said he was "so very proud" of Fetty and Tustin, "along with HHS on all the hard work that went into this project."

"On behalf of the Town of Hundred and entire community, great job and congratulations!" he said.

The projects are expected to be completed throughout the next two schools' years and will require partnering with local businesses and community organizations.

The goal of the competition is to "enhance students' technical skills and creativity while making an impact within their local communities."

"We look forward to seeing the students' work over the next two years as they partner with local businesses to turn their EPIC ideas into viable, successful projects that positively impact the economy of their communities," said Associate Superintendent, Dr. Kathy D'Antoni.

Employment Opportunities:

To see employment opportunities offered by Chamber Members go to Chamber website:

<http://www.wetzelcountychamber.com/announcements/employment-opportunities-by-chamber-members>

Quality Excellence Award 2018:

For Immediate Release: 3/29/19

Contact: Molly Hardway, Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville, WV

(304) 455-0033 • newmartinsvillegm@mphhotels.com

Local Holiday Inn Express & Suites Recognized with Quality Excellence Award from IHG

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W.Va. (March 29, 2019) – The Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville has been recognized with the 2018 Quality Excellence Award by IHG. IHG® (InterContinental Hotels Group) is a global organization with a broad portfolio of hotel brands including Holiday Inn Express & Suites properties.

The Quality Excellence Award is presented to Elite status hotels that have achieved superior levels of excellence and meet the eligibility requirements and criteria regarding the property's 12-month "Guest Love Score," license status, standards evaluation and management action plan. The 2018 Quality Excellence Award presented this spring is based on hotel records from January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018.

"Our team is tremendously proud to receive this honor from IHG," said Molly Hardway, General Manager of Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville. "We would like to thank our guests for such positive feedback as well as the local community for its continued support. Our team is devoted to guest satisfaction and maintaining excellence throughout the hotel operation, working daily to create memorable experiences."

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville is owned by MPH Hotels and managed by MPH Hotels, under a license agreement with InterContinental Hotels Group.

"The hospitality industry plays a big part in America's vacations, life transitions and business opportunities. Regardless of the reason the Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville becomes your temporary home away from home, this award is just one more reason you can rest assured you'll enjoy the utmost customer service and best in class facility during your stay," explained Alan Hardway, Vice President of Operations MPH Hotels, Inc.

The 79-unit Holiday Inn Express & Suites New Martinsville is located at 1202 N. State Route 2, New Martinsville, WV 26155. To learn more about the property, please call (304) 455-0033 or visit the hotel website at www.hiexpress.com/nmartinsville.

To see more information about Holiday Inn Branding and IHG go to:

<http://www.wetzelcountychamber.com/announcements/2018-quality-excellence-award-by-ihg-holiday-inn-express-suites>

Chamber Offering Opportunities for Businesses:

Offering healthcare for your employees a concern?

The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce continues to share some Exciting News!

The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce is an endorsing organization for the Chamber Association Benefit Plan which may offer lower Health Plan premiums.

If your business or organization is a member of the Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce you are eligible to apply for the Health Plan insurance through a local agency (listed below) to enroll your employees for health care at a **group** rate.

- You can have as few as two full time employees and still be eligible for enrollment.
- The “Chamber Association Benefit Plan” Group monthly premiums normally cost less than premiums for one business signing up a few employees.
- You **MUST** be a chamber member to be eligible for the group rate, so make sure your annual chamber membership dues are paid in a timely manner.
- You must have a location in the State of WV.

If interested in finding out if this group rate would be an advantage for your employees, call:

City Wide Insurance 304-455- 2000 (Tom Gilbert)

tom@citywideyes.com

Wetzel Valley Agencies at 304-455-4600 (Trevor Friday)

tfriday@wetzelvalley.com

McCoy Consulting at 304-233-1185 (Michael Caruso) mcaruso@mccoyconsultingservicesllc.com

WesBanco at 304-234-9517 or cell 304-794-9454 (Robert Babinchak) babinchak@wesbanco.com

Let them know you are a Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce Member and would like to hear more about the Chamber Benefit Plan. If you are not a member call 304-455-3825 or Email: chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com

***Effective immediately, any new group that wishes to accept coverage and join the Chamber Benefit Plan will now need to provide proof of a paid, up-to-date enrollment in a participating Chamber in the Chamber Benefit Plan. Without this proof, the group will NOT be permitted to enroll in the Plan. Chamber enrollment will be verified by The Health Plan at the end of each month with each participating Chamber. Any existing group not in good standing with payment of dues will be need to provide proof of Chamber enrollment and payment before the end of the month to avoid termination.

Revolving Loan Program: A revolving Loan Program is being offered through the Chamber. The program will allow those wanting to start a business or in need of a loan for an existing business to have lower rates and offer loans up to \$7500. Loan details: Up to \$7500 for a three year term. Chamber pays loan fees. Interest rate presently is 2.3%. If interested contact the Chamber office at 304-455-3825.

Focus Points:

The Chamber's Economic Growth Committee plans to primarily focus on the following for 2019:

- Broadband - the lack of broadband and connectivity in our rural communities;
- Flood Insurance Premiums - how the higher flood insurance premiums are affecting our local businesses;
- Bad Buildings Program - how to form a bad buildings committee, and how to acquire funding; and
- Small Business Promotion - putting into place promotional ideas to help draw more foot traffic into our small businesses and organizations, as well as create awareness for the services and products our local businesses and organizations provide to the area.

Chamber Meetings:

Economic Growth Committee is held each month as needed at 5:30 pm in the Chamber Conference Room, located at 201 Main Street New Martinsville. Call 304-455-3825 to be added to the email notification list and to verify date of meeting. Dates change due to committee member availability.

Membership / Community Committee is held the third Wednesday of January, April, July, October at 12 pm in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so. Call 304-455-3825 to be added to the email notification list.

Ambassadors Committee is held the first Wednesday of every month at 12 pm in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so. Call 304-455-3825 to be added to the email notification list.

April 3, 2019

May 7, 2019

May 28, 2019

Events & Special Programs Committee is held as needed in the Chamber Conference Room. Please call the Chamber office to find out the date of next meeting. This committee has subcommittees for each event, call to find out specific meeting dates. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so. Call 304-455-3825 to be added to the email notification list.

April 16 at 8 AM

Executive Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 AM in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member who wishes to address the Committee must be placed on the agenda ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

April 3, 2019

May 7, 2019

Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM (**next meeting April 17**) at West Virginia Northern Community College in Room 110. This meeting is open to the public. Any member or non-member who wishes to address the Board must be placed on the agenda ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Doing Business Today:

Tip: Sometimes as consumers, as well as business owners, we have questions concerning pricing in our area. If you do have questions or concerns, consider contacting the following people.

WV Attorney General

CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
812 Quarrier Street, 1st Floor
Charleston, WV 26301-2617

Public Service Commission

CONSUMER ADVOCATE DIVISION
Union Bldg., 7th Floor 723 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25301-2703

WV Better Business Bureau

Kanawha Blvd E #301
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 345-7502



Like us on Facebook! www.wetzelcountychamber.com

Like us on Facebook and help by sharing posts of upcoming events and activities! Thank you!

Chamber mission: "The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce exists to create value for communities by increasing understanding, appreciation and promotion of the assets and opportunities in Wetzel County and surrounding areas."

Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce
201 Main Street / P O Box 271, New Martinsville, WV 26155

www.wetzelcountychamber.com
chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com

P: 304-455-3825