



Citizens Working Together For
Better Communities

Building Successful Communities

February 2015

Upcoming Events & Programs:

March 12, 2015, Business After Hours, Ridge 2 River Realty. Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce invites you to a Business After Hours hosted by Ridge 2 River Realty to be held at the former Presto Lunch location, 319 Main Street, New Martinsville, WV. We hope all can attend to meet staff and learn what Ridge 2 River Realty has to offer in the area. Stop in between **5:30—7:30 pm**. Food catered by La Pasta Bella. Entertainment and door prizes. Free admission. RSVP to 304-455-3825 or email: chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com or call Steve Zechman at 304-771-1063 or email: steve.zechman@ridge2river.com.

March 25, 2015, Business After Hours, West Virginia Northern Community College. Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce invites you to a Business After Hours hosted by **WVNCC, New Martinsville Campus**. Please join us **March 25, 2015** at 141 Main Street, **New Martinsville, WV**. Great evening to relax and network with your peers. Admission is FREE. RSVP to 304-455-3825 or chamber@wetzelcountychamber.com.

April 18, 2015, 11 am – 3 pm - Short Line Ramp Fest. This is a new Chamber sponsored event. This event is held at the Byrd Center in Pine Grove. Members of the Pine Grove community are already planning this event. Great family event, entertainment, ramp tasting contest, lots of ramp recipes to taste. There will be crafters, games, Blessing of the Bikes, etc. If you are interested in volunteering or being a vendor, please call 304-455-3825 for more information.

April 28, 2015 6 pm – Awards Dinner. Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2015 Community Awards. Nominations are being accepted for the following categories: Business of the Year; Business Owner of the Year; Employee of the Year; Professional of the Year; Educator of the Year; Youth Leadership; Civic Organization of the Year; Citizen or Volunteer of the Year.

It is easy to nominate the ones you feel need recognition for their hard work and dedication to their community. Simply go to the chamber website: www.wetzelcountychamber.com, click on the blue ribbon icon and submit your nomination. **All nominations must be submitted by March 15, 2015.** There will be 3-5 nominees in each group (determined by the committee). Beginning April 1, you will be able to go online to the chamber website and vote for your favorite nominee.

The winner in each category will be announced at the Awards Dinner. Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber at 304-455-3825. **Save the date** and mark your calendars now!!

Life in the County:

With the cold temperatures still in the air, there is still time to report on the activities around Christmas time. Thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers, and participants of the 2014 Christmas parade. Even with cold rainy weather the turnout was wonderful. Fifty-two units were in the parade, and sidewalks full of

folks coming out to watch! The Christmas tree lighting was a success! Young and old came out to watch the lights come on. The tree was donated by Jolliffe's Nursery, Hundred WV. Children came during the day to decorate ornaments at Occasions Florist so they could be placed upon the tree.

The Toy Drive during the Christmas parade, new this year, was a success. All toys and donations collected were given to the Boy Scouts Troop #149, New Martinsville. Pete Conklin, Troop leader, reported \$1200 monetary donations were used to purchase hats, gloves, and jackets. Donation of over 60 toys was received. Some other sponsors were: McDonalds Land Services – toys and clothes; SaSu's (Hair Salon) Sally & Susie Longwell – Clothing; other Individual cash donors were Sardis Church of Christ and Duffy Church of Christ. This toy drive was part of Andy Williamson's Eagle project. Andy is 17 and is a River High School Student. Andy attended one of the Chamber Board Meetings to explain his project.

Pictured to the right is Boy Scout Troop #149 shopping for Toy Drive items. Pictures provided by Boy Scouts.



Member Spotlight

Newest Chamber members are Azteca Mexican Restaurant and Plaza Latino; parent company of both businesses is Azteca Group. Azteca Mexican Restaurant just celebrated their 1 year anniversary with a ribbon cutting in January. They are located at 283 North State Route 2, New Martinsville, WV. Stop by and say hello to Erick Hernandez and his family while you enjoy a great meal.

Plaza Latino is a new grocery store located in the Riverview Plaza at 1218 North State Rt. 2, New Martinsville. This store carries Hispanic food products, fresh produce, and general merchandise.



Active in Community

Chamber Community Cash Program:

Local businesses are getting involved in a new program the Chamber is offering: Chamber Community Cash. This program is designed to help stimulate local shopping with area businesses. Anyone can purchase a Chamber Community Cash certificate (shown below) at the Chamber office for \$25. Participating businesses will be listed on the back of certificate. Certificate can be used same as cash at any of the participating business locations. Businesses will submit the certificates to chamber for reimbursement less 5%. The Chamber will retain 5% which will be used toward the Pay It Forward Grant Opportunity.

This is a great opportunity for all of our local businesses; these certificates can be given as gifts and can be used at any participating business. Certificate must be used in its entirety at one location. Businesses do not have to be a Chamber Member to participate (but if interested in membership please call the Chamber office).

If you would like to be considered one of the participating businesses, call the Chamber office at 304-455-3825 or email Sharon at chamber@wetzeltcountychamber.com. Thank you for your consideration of this program. Citizens working together for better communities!

Pay It Forward Grant Opportunity:

The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce wanted to “Pay It Forward” with a new program! The Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce Pay It Forward Program was designed to support projects that benefit Wetzel, Tyler, and Monroe Counties. This program contributes in a small way to the betterment of local communities and is one way the Chamber can thank all of its supporters.

It was open to projects in all organizations in Wetzel, Tyler, and Monroe counties that would positively impact a community. The 2014 grant award amount was \$500. Santa Boot Drive for Tyler County was chosen as the winning project. This project was submitted by Community Resources, Inc. Tyler County.

Pictured Left to right: Sandy Hunt, Chamber Board Member, Beth Tuttle, Community Resources, Tyler County, and Don Rigganbach, Chamber President.



The applications were considered in a “blind” selection through committee. No names or project applicant information was provided to committee until after a selection was made.

The Chambers mission is: “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.”

Steppin’ Out

The Chamber has an Ambassador Committee that you may have seen around the area. The Ambassadors visit existing members, new members, and potential members every second Tuesday of each month. Ambassadors also attend the Chamber events and activities to assist with that awkward moment of “I want to go to that event, but may not know anyone”. Let me tell you we have some great Ambassadors, they step right up and introduce themselves, tell you a little about the business / organization they are with and let you have an opportunity to tell your story. Our Ambassadors presently are: DeAnn Cummings of WhiteCaps Creative Group, Judy Yeager, Individual Member, Rebecca Maxwell of WesBanco-Sistersville Branch, Janey Longwell (Chamber Vice President) Quota International of New Martinsville, Linda Henriksen of Olive Branch Animal Rescue, Steve Hunt of S & S Diamonds & Fine Jewelry, Don Rigganbach, (Chamber President) of Rigganbach Tile & Carpet, Donna Early of ArtsLink & WETZ, Tad Greene of Wetzel County Hospital, Larry Lemon of Wetzel County Commissioners, Julie Liggett, Individual Member, Greg Richmond, Individual Member, Terri Tyler of Wetzel County Solid Waste Authority, and Jane Ann Gamble of Wetzel Valley Agencies, Inc.

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

www.benefits.gov - **Benefits.gov goes mobile**

Benefits.gov has launched a mobile compatible version of its website, the U.S. Department of Labor announced today (July 1). Benefits.gov, the official benefits website of the U.S. government, has enhanced its site for visitors using mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. The changes make it easier for the public to access government benefit and assistance program information anytime, anywhere.

Mobile access to Benefits.gov increased by more than 200 percent in the last year, underscoring the importance of enhancing the website to improve user experiences. A new "Responsive Design" enables the site to identify the resolution of the user's viewing screen and dynamically alter the format to accommodate the device. It ensures that a quality user experience is not dependent on the type of device or operating system being used — computer, smartphone or tablet.

"Benefits.gov is an outstanding example of how citizens can learn about the government assistance that is available to them. Opening up these resources to mobile devices moves Benefits.gov in the right direction, creating an easier experience for the public to access government benefit and eligibility information," said Al Sloane, Benefits.gov program manager.



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www.wetzelcountychamber.com

Meetings

Economic Growth Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so.

Membership / Community Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:30 AM in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so.

Events & Special Programs Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM in the Chamber Conference Room. Any member or non-member interested in participating on this committee may do so.

Executive Committee meets the first Wednesday and the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 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.

Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meets the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM 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.

Oil and Gas News

IMPORTANT Note:

This information is for educational purposes only. No part of this information is to be considered legal advice. Please consult with your attorney before signing any legal document.

Where trade and/or company names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce is implied.

Check out: Shale Play. www.shaleplayohiovalley.com This publication contains some interesting regional news.