

## Planning your Fiscal Year

The Chamber reminds our membership of the opportunities to market yourself within the Chamber through 2014. We will soon be issuing information on our Annual Directory production. Please ensure that your membership listing is up to date, and inquire about the advertising opportunities in this piece.

The Chamber will continue to offer consistent marketing options for the new year, including monthly membership meetings, annual events, special events and the top Annual Sponsors Program. If you are interested in sponsoring a specific event, hosting a mixer or business card exchange, or becoming one of our Annual Sponsors, please contact our office at 610-933-3070 or [info@phoenixvillechamber.org](mailto:info@phoenixvillechamber.org).

Sponsorships can be customized to fit any budget. Currently, prices range from \$50 to \$4,000 and can meet members' specific needs. A majority of our membership partakes in sponsorships throughout the year—contact us to learn more about these opportunities today!

## Young Professionals Networking

The Chamber and the Phoenixville Jaycees have come together to bring the Young Professionals networking opportunity to the Phoenixville Community.

This event series has been formed for business minded people aged 21 to 40 to gather in a relaxed atmosphere to network with like-minded individuals.

The events will be held on Tuesdays every six (6) to eight (8) weeks.

**We hope to see you there!**

*\*All Events are held from 6:00pm—8:00pm*

**The Rising Phoenix**  
**Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce**  
**171 East Bridge Street**  
**Phoenixville, PA 19460**



**Winter 2013/14**

### **CHAMBER HOURS**

**9am—5pm  
Monday - Friday**

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### **The Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce**

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

### **Executive Committee:**

**Crysta C. Peers**  
*Board Chairman*

**Michael Polin**  
*Board First-Vice Chairman*

**Megan Inmon**  
*Board Second-Vice Chairman*

**S. Mark Fuga**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephen Giampietro**  
*Past Chairman of the Board*

### **Staff:**

**Jessica Capistrant**  
*Chamber Director*

**Donald Hughes**  
*Member Services Coordinator*

# THE RISING PHOENIX

**Published Quarterly by the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce**

## A Message from the Incoming Board Chairman,

### Crysta C. Peers



As we enter into a new year, I am honored and humbled to serve as the Chairman of the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce. To be entrusted with this role is truly an honor and I thank you for the tremendous opportunity. I pledge, like the many others before me, to do my best to make our business community stronger and better.

I want to thank Fred Hubler and Steve Giampietro, our past two Chairs, for their leadership, friendship, and commitment to ongoing growth in our business community. Both have helped leverage the Chamber into an integral part of Phoenixville's economic development by fostering relationships. I am thankful to have many role models here, as I'm following in the footsteps of many outstanding leaders that have set the bar pretty high!

I am positively bubbling with enthusiasm and excitement for our members. I have always wanted to be in a place where I could affect positive change and hope in that you will join me in making our Chamber stronger.

My first order of business is to get a pulse of our current membership and ask how we can help. The Chamber is here to support and promote YOU! We strive for opportunity and prosperity for our members. We want to provide you with the best value for membership, however this will requires us to understand your needs, what challenges you face and what causes you pain. Helps us, help you... take time to respond to the upcoming member survey. Please share your ideas and let us know how we're doing. We invite your comments and insight. Member value is a priority to me and our goal is to offer a well-defined value of being a member of the Chamber.

Let us strive to further build upon the foundations set by our predecessors. For that to occur, however, the support, commitment and active contribution of our members and volunteers is indispensable. Someone said that the best way to take full advantage of your membership benefit was to volunteer. I wholeheartedly agree! Make 2014 the year that you join a committee or sponsor an event. Perhaps you will commit to attending every monthly meeting. I urge you to get involved.

Chamber membership is a commitment to supporting our local business community. Be proud to be a Chamber member and support member businesses. Our strength is in our membership. Our strength is in YOU!

Crysta C. Peers

*Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Board*  
*VIST Bank*  
*Business Development Officer*

## Monthly Membership Meetings

# October

**FEATURING:**

Social Media:  
Topics and Trends

**SEI** New ways.  
New answers.®

# November

**FEATURING:**

The Affordable Care  
Act and how it may  
impact your business  
and your life



# December

**FEATURING:**

Annual Holiday Concert by the  
Valley Forge Christian  
College Musicians

## Monthly Membership Meeting: 2014 Schedule

**The Phoenixville Chamber will host our Monthly Membership Meetings  
on the dates and at the times and locations listed below.**

*Breakfast Meetings are held from 7:15—9:00am*

*Luncheon Meetings are held from 11:30am—1:30pm*

**January 14th**

Franklin Commons, Luncheon

**February 11th**

Phoenixville Country Club, Luncheon

**March 11th**

Phoenixville Country Club, Luncheon

**April 8th**

Robert Ryan Catering, Breakfast

**May 13th**

Robert Ryan Catering, Breakfast

**June 10th**

Franklin Commons, Breakfast

**July 8th**

Franklin Commons, Breakfast

**August 12th**

Franklin Commons, Luncheon

**September 9th**

Valley Forge Christian College, Breakfast

**October 14th**

Valley Forge Christian College, Breakfast

**November 11th**

Valley Forge Christian College, Breakfast

**December 9th**

Valley Forge Christian College, Breakfast

Visit us at [www.phoenixvillechamber.org](http://www.phoenixvillechamber.org) to see a complete Upcoming Events List.

## MEMBER MILESTONES!

(October – December 2013)

**5 Years:****STS Tire**

Justin Mogel

525 Kimberton Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 935-4700

**The Victory Bank**

Saul S. Rivkin

548 North Lewis Road

Limerick, PA 19468

(610) 948-9000

**10 Years:****Legacy Property Group, LP**

David Chawaga

P.O. Box 283

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 517-8124

**25 Years:****Queen Appliance Wholesale**

Bonnie Yost

729 Pike Springs Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

(610) 933-2900

**Valley Forge Baptist Temple**

Pastor Scott Wendal

616 South Trappe Road

Collegeville, PA 19426

(610) 948-8100

# PHOENIXVILLE

## EVENTS 2014

**First Fridays**

5/2, 6/6, 7/4, 8/1, 9/5 & 10/3

**Summer Music Series**

6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22 & 8/29

**Phoenixville Food Festival**

5/3 food trucks 5/4 - 5/8 restaurant week  
10/4 food trucks 10/5 - 10/9 restaurant week

**Dogwood Festival**

5/12 - 5/17

**Independence Day**

7/4 fireworks

**Blobfest**

7/11 - 7/13

**Blues Festival**

9/6

**Halloween Parade**

10/21

**Christmas Parade**

12/5

If you wish to learn more about participating in First Friday's, the Summer Music Series or the Phoenixville Food Festival, call Jessica at the Chamber Office.

610-933-3070

[www.phxfirstfriday.com](http://www.phxfirstfriday.com)

[www.phoenixvillefoodfestival.com](http://www.phoenixvillefoodfestival.com)

THE RISING PHOENIX

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

(October – December 2013)

<div><b>Ace Hardware, Phoenixville</b> Michael Mott 542A Kimberton Road Phoenixville, PA 19460 Category: Hardware/Paint, Fireplace &amp; Stoves OPENING FEBRAURY 2014!</div>	<div><b>Direct Buy of Montgomery County</b> Carl Santoro 300 Schell Lane Suite 307 &amp; 308 Phoenixville, PA 19460 (484) 923-1003 Category: Furniture, Home Improvement/Maintenance</div>	<div><b>Warren Media Group</b> Karen Lavery 2045 Bennett Road Philadelphia, PA 19116 (215) 257-8400 Category: Media Production</div>
<div><b>Apex Community FCU</b> David Cocci 540 Old Reading Pike Stowe, PA 19464 (610) 323-4135 Category: Banks/Credit Unions</div>	<div><b>French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust</b> Andy Pitz 511 Kimberton Road Phoenixville, PA 19460 (610) 933-7577 Category: Non-Profit Organizations</div>	<div><b>Wells Fargo Advisors LLC</b> Brandon Skupski 100 Springhouse Drive Suite 104 Collegeville, PA 19426 (610) 454-2050 Category: Financial Services/Wealth Advisors</div>
<div><b>AVT (Applied Video Technology, Inc.)</b> Buffy MacLelland 20 Liberty Blvd A-14 Malvern, PA 19355 (610) 407-0776 Category: AV Systems Integrator</div>	<div><b>Innovations Hair Salon</b> Rose Long 538 Nutt Road Phoenixville, PA 19460 (610) 935-3595 Category: Salons/Spas</div>	

Visit us at [www.phoenixvillechamber.org](http://www.phoenixvillechamber.org) to see a complete up-to-date membership list.

THE RISING PHOENIX

2013 Annual Charity Gala:

A Season of Giving

This Gala celebrates the work and accomplishments of area non-profits, and helps those awarded to continue their great work throughout the year. This year, the Hytha Family Band and Valley Forge Christian College provided live musical entertainment, Limerick Golf Club sponsored a photo booth, and the event included incredible auction items. The Charity Gala Committee also presented an award to Mayor Leo Scoda in his final year at his post, to thank him for his commitment to Phoenixville. The Committee also awarded Petrucci's Ice Cream and Water Ice owner's John and Mary Colarusso with the "Business Philanthropy Award" for their high level of contribution to the non-profits of Phoenixville.

The Good Samaritan Shelter was selected to participate in a special raffle to promote their "Taste of Phoenixville" event, and Mom's House of Phoenixville and Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation were the monetary beneficiaries of the evening. Both were presented with a check for \$2,000.00 – a \$4,000.00 total donation – at the Chamber's Annual Holiday Membership Meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, to continue their great work in the Phoenixville Community. The Chamber and Gala Committee thank all of the sponsors, donors and attendees of the evening for helping create such a successful event and for the opportunity for the awarded non-profits to receive a substantial donation.



Thank you to our sponsors:

**Annual Sponsors:** Phoenixville Hospital, SEI, Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust, National Penn Bank, The DeMutis Group, Giardina Insurance & Financial Services, Molly Maguires Restaurant & Pub, Valley Forge Christian College, and VIST Bank

**Favor Sponsor:** Limerick Golf Club

**Community Champions:** Applied Video Technology, Inc., Ches-Mont Valley Ventures, Chestnut Knoll at Home, OWM Law, Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Phoenixville Hospital Medical Staff, Rotary Club of Phoenixville, and Trinity Benefit Advisors

**Friend Sponsors:** Century 21 Norris-Valley Forge, Clothes to Home, Mr. and Mrs. James Coyne, Friends of State Representative Warren Kampf, Robert and Laura Fretz, M. Yurick Design, mike irby photography, Minuteman Press of Eagleville, Gordon Pealock, Phoenixville Hospital Medical Staff, Signature Property Group, Renaissance Academy Charter School, Susquehanna Bank, and Valley Forge Christian College



## Phoenixville Among the Best Cities in PA for Young Families

NerdWallet, a consumer-friendly financial literary website, recently conducted a study on the best towns in Pennsylvania for young families, and Phoenixville came in at number 3.

The study accounted for public school ratings, median home values, costs of homeownership, median incomes and economic growth to rank the best places for future parents and young families to call home.

According to the article, "NerdWallet ranked Phoenixville third after assessing the town's cost of living, education system, and economic growth. The town's school district recently received an 8 out of 10 rating from the non-profit, GreatSchools. Phoenixville also experienced the second-highest rate of income growth for the past decade—a 41.3 percent increase."

NerdWallet analyst Mike Anderson said, "Located in Chester County, Phoenixville is a town 30 miles northwest of Philadelphia that boasts a historical and lively town center. Families can also enjoy together the Perkiomen Trail, a 19-mile path of cinder and stone."

While Phoenixville ranked number 3 in the state, it ranks number 1 for the towns of the Southeastern part of the state.

## Limerick Golf Club to Host Book Signing

Limerick Golf Club will host Lu Ann Cahn of NBC10 to speak on her new book. Lu Ann Cahn is the author of the inspirational memoir *I Dare Me*. Cahn has filled many roles at WCAU TV-breaking news reporter, anchor and entertainment show host - but is mostly known as a hard-charging investigative reporter with a talent for uncovering scandals and scams. *I Dare Me* is one woman's inspirational and humorous year-long journey to get her life "unstuck" by doing something new every single day. The 53-year-old author discovered that simply taking daily risks, some large and some small, had a cumulative effect, a sort of "refresh" button when she felt angry and stuck.

The cost of the event is \$25.00 per ticket, which includes entrance to event, copy of the book & a complimentary drink.

Event Timeline:  
7:00-7:30pm- Mixer  
7:30-8:00/8:15- Presentation with Q&A  
8:15-8:30/9:00pm- Book signing

For more information, contact Sandra Visnov at [sandra.visnov@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.visnov@gmail.com).

## Directory Announcement

The Chamber is beginning work on our Annual Directory. We encourage all members to review your listing online and in last year's directory to confirm your details are the same.

If you are interested in advertising in the directory, please contact Donald, Member Services Coordinator, at [dhughes@phoenixvillechamber.org](mailto:dhughes@phoenixvillechamber.org)



## Exciting Announcement for Valley Forge Christian College:

VALLEY FORGE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE RECEIVES GIFT OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

Valley Forge Christian College received the largest gift in its 75 year history on December 31, 2013 when it accepted the National Christian Conference Center. The generous gift, free and clear of any financial encumbrances, immediately bolstered the institution's finances and positions the college to provide expanded educational services to its growing constituencies.

"We are thrilled to announce the gift of the National Christian Conference Center," said Dr. Don Meyer, President of Valley Forge Christian College. "This beautiful additional campus site along the Schuylkill River provides the opportunity to extend the educational, leadership, and spiritual services of the college."

The 47 acre site is located approximately one mile from Valley Forge National Park on Valley Forge Road (Route 23). The original Inhill Farm house and barn (1731), two main buildings, a swimming pool, hiking trails, and a ropes course comprise the major elements of the property which is bordered by the Schuylkill River. The property was developed in the mid-1980s as a ministry of Missionary Fellowship. From the beginning, the National Christian Conference Center has hosted conferences and met the short and long-term space needs for various organizations and individuals.

Since the conference center is only four miles from the main campus of Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, Pa, the college plans to use this additional campus site for educational programs, worship opportunities, student housing, student leadership training, employee meetings, Board of Trustees meetings, and other uses. Rev. Mike Andriano has been hired as the Executive Director of the Conference Center. Valley Forge Christian College is part of a network of 16 Assemblies of God colleges and universities in the United States. Vice President of Development Dr. Dan Mortensen remarked that, "This represents one the largest gifts in the history of Assemblies of God higher education. This gift is transformational for the college."

President Meyer shared the sentiment of the campus when he remarked, "Words cannot express the depth of gratitude we feel toward the anonymous donors who made this gift possible. God has truly blessed the college with this gift and we are excited to see how this additional campus site will further enhance the mission and ministries of Valley Forge Christian College."

*Are you, or is someone you know, looking to learn how to start and operate a small business? Join us!*

**A year of education to strengthen your business**

We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Phoenixville Public Library and Chester County SCORE to bring seminars focused on today's business owners, including information on creating a business plan as a working document, marketing, and the legality of business.

**First Event:** Thurs., Jan 23—How to Start and Operate a Small Business, presented by SCORE

**Cost:** \$15, **Location:** Phoenixville Public Library

Register online at [phoenixvillechamber.org](http://phoenixvillechamber.org), or by calling 610-933-3070