

**Winter 2014**

Published Quarterly by the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce

## CHAMBER HOURS

9am—5pm

Monday—Friday

Closed for holiday:

Dec 25&26 | Jan 1&2

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## The Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce

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## 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**

*President/CEO*

**Maggie Douglas**

*Front Office Coordinator*

**Derrick Harvey**

*Intern*

# Chamber Hosts Gala; Gives \$5,000 to Feel The Warmth, Local Non-profit



The Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Charity Gala on Saturday, November 22 in support of local non-profits. The dinner and silent auction raised money for Feel the Warmth, which provides school supplies, uniforms, winter coats, children's books, and toys to less fortunate children in the Greater Philadelphia region. The Gala featured a jazz and blues band, a lively photo booth, and over 60 items available in the silent auction, including golf packages, gym memberships, and tickets to events throughout the region.

The Chamber presented Feel The Warmth with a \$5,000 donation at its December Monthly Membership Meeting, held December 9. Thank you to all who supported this very special event and contributed to Feel The Warmth's success!

For more pictures from the Gala and other events, turn to page 8.



Guests enjoyed the Photo Booth favor, sponsored by the Phoenixville Jaycees.



## Monthly Membership Meetings

# October

### FEATURING:

A discussion of business risks, presented by SCORE

**Thank you** to our video sponsor, Phoenix Media Group, for shooting all of our membership meetings for local programming!



### FEATURING:

How to log-in to your membership dashboard on the new Chamber website and a Healthcare Update.



# November

# December



### FEATURING:

A performance by the University of Valley Forge musicians, the presentation of the Charity Gala donation, and a yearly re-cap.



## SCORE Events in 2015



Chester County SCORE will offer seminars at Phoenixville Public Library throughout 2015. The varied topics and knowledgeable presenters are a great way to learn new skills and better your business!



**First Event:** Thursday, January 22

*How to Start and Operate a Business*

**Cost:** \$10, **Location:** Phoenixville Public Library

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

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





## Member Updates

What's going on with our members? Find out here!

Congratulations to Bridge Street Chocolates on its recent fourth anniversary! Here's to many more years of success and chocolate.



Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Community Realty is now open in Downtown Phoenixville. At the helm of the brokerage are co-owners John Colarusso, Phoenixville entrepreneur, and Phoenixville real estate sales professional, Jennifer Daywalt. The company will serve the greater Phoenixville area, including Chester, Montgomery, and Berks counties. We welcome Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate to the Phoenixville Community!

The Best Companies Group's annual *Best Places To Work in PA* competition has ranked Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. (TPD) as the #29 Best Place to Work in PA (small/ medium employers group) in its ninth year on the list.



Good Samaritan Shelter's loan program recently helped a shelter resident purchase a car. The shelter says that he "was able to purchase a reliable car and has since found employment." The loan program is designed to give small, interest-free loans to shelter residents to help them achieve a goal.

Congratulations to the Phoenixville Jaycees on their successful Burn Off the Bird 5k Run and 1-Mile Walk! They held the run after Thanksgiving to get Phoenixville active again after a big turkey dinner.



The Chamber is always pleased to hold Ribbon Cuttings for new or changing members, and we have been part of quite a few this year. Most recently, we celebrated Mod House Vintage and Moe's Southwest Grill.



## Phoenixville Named “City on the Rise”

NerdWallet, a consumer-friendly financial website, recently conducted a study on cities on the rise in Pennsylvania, and Phoenixville came in at #16. The overall score for each city was derived from the community's population growth (2.98%), employment growth (-0.56%), and income growth (9.80%) from 2009 to 2012.

According to NerdWallet, here's what the top cities had in common:

- **Income and population outpace employment.** While Pennsylvania's gains in median income and population were impressive, employment growth was moderate or negative in all but two of our top 10 places.
- **Metro areas are still strong.** While there was no geographic center of growth in Pennsylvania, most of our cities were clustered around the historic metro areas of Pittsburgh, Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia.
- **Employment options are homogenous.** In almost every entry on our list, the top employers included manufacturers, hospitals and local and federal government offices and agencies.

Pennsylvania, like other states that weathered the recession well, saw its unemployment rate softened by an expansion in fossil fuel production. Natural gas extraction, which began in 2005, in the Marcellus Formation has had such a massive impact that Pennsylvania is now the third-largest producer of natural gas in the U.S. The formation, estimated to be largest natural gas reserve in the world, is underneath 64% of Pennsylvania, and covers all but the southwestern tip of the state.

While the boom wasn't big enough to shield Pennsylvania from the recession entirely, it did manage to help offset the nationwide decrease in employment. Pennsylvania's unemployment never once topped 8.7%, while the national average was over 9% every month in 2010 and 2011.

Still, a large portion of Pennsylvania's economy still relies on its traditional industries. The health care sector is making major gains in Pennsylvania. In 2013, health care and social assistance represented the largest private industry by GDP in the state, and hospitals were consistently major employers in our top 10 cities.

Meanwhile, pharmaceutical companies continue to employ many residents in the greater Philadelphia communities. Manufacturing also is still a strong economic driver.

Recent figures indicate Pennsylvania's economic recovery is likely to continue. In 2013 alone, unemployment decreased 1.4%, and the state's GDP increased 10% from 2009 to 2012. Whether with its proven industries, or through emerging ones, Pennsylvania's economy appears to be on a positive path for years to come.



## *Faces of Phoenixville* to Launch in 2015

In the New Year, the Chamber will launch a program called *Faces of Phoenixville* that shares an inside look into the many shops, restaurants, boutiques, and more of Phoenixville. We'll begin the series with Country Charm Furnishings. For more, be sure to visit [phoenixvillechamber.org](http://phoenixvillechamber.org).

Stephanie Wenitsky, owner of Country Charm Furnishings, says that she immediately loved Phoenixville "because of how down to Earth the people were and because of Phoenixville's rich history and diverse culture." From the time her store opened in 2008, she's been an active part of the Phoenixville community. "Being a part of any

community holds an obligation to give back, and Phoenixville makes it incredibly easy to truly want to do our part. We have had food drives and events for childhood cancer."

In fact, Stephanie believes in spreading kindness in her shop, too. She says, "I believe that business really is personal. You interact with people every day – how could it not be personal? How you treat business associates, customers, even competitors, is truly telling of the kind of person you are."

And what's her favorite part of running her shop? "My favorite part of doing business is being able to help people design their custom pieces. It is so fulfilling to know that we can provide exactly what the customer wants. When our customers are happy, we're thrilled!"

You can visit Stephanie at 28 South Main Street in Phoenixville for accent pieces and furniture. Check out [country-charm-furnishings.com](http://country-charm-furnishings.com) for more information.



### **The Chamber Thanks its 2014 Annual Sponsors!**

#### **Platinum:**

The Phoenixville Hospital, SEI

#### **Gold:**

Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust, Tompkins VIST Bank

#### **Silver:**

National Penn Bank

#### **Bronze:**

Chestnut Knoll at Home, The DeMutis Group, Giardina Insurance & Financial Services, Maillie, LLP, and the University of Valley Forge





## Welcome, New Members!

(October-December 2014)

**1 Touch AVS**

Thomas Duffany  
917 Old Fernhill Road, Suite 100  
West Chester, PA 19380  
610-948-9300  
Category: Business Services

**Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.**

Crysta C. Peers  
crysta.peers@ampf.com  
Category: Financial Services

**Better Homes and Gardens  
Real Estate Community Realty**

John Colarusso  
221 Bridge Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-933-1919  
Category: Real Estate

**Black Lab Bistro**

John Shi  
248 Bridge Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-935-5988  
Category: Restaurant

**Firebird Theatre**

Janet Hoehl  
P.O. Box 7283  
Audubon, PA 19407  
610-220-4649  
Category: Theatre/Productions

**Grassroots Marketer**

Laura Vernola  
133 Jacob Street  
Mont Clare, PA 19453  
267-225-4435  
Category: Marketing Services

**Hand and Stone Massage and  
Facial Spa**

Gerard Ruffenach  
1750 Egypt Road, Suite 220  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-666-9600  
Category: Salon/Spa

**Lily Laser and Beauty**

Liana Grigoryan  
534 Second Avenue  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
610-489-6148  
Category: Salon/Medi Spa

**Moe's Southwest Grill**

Valerie O'Neill  
1570 Egypt Road  
Oaks, PA 19456  
844-489-8845  
Category: Restaurant

**Mr. Tire**

Mike Benedict  
311 Bridge Street  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-935-3677  
Category: Auto Repairs

**Northwestern Mutual**

Eric Sharpe  
150 North Radnor Chester Road,  
Suite B-102  
Radnor, PA 19087  
610-293-3605  
Category: Insurance

**Tronniks, Inc.**

David Barnhart  
1041 W. Bridge Street, Suite 7A  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
855-876-6645  
Category: Surveillance

**True Blue Auto Glass**

Gina Werkheiser

40 South Second Avenue

Phoenixville, PA 19460

610-805-0338

Category: Auto Repairs

**Uno Chicago Grill—Oaks**

Jenna Di Cesare

106 Black Rock Road

P.O. Box 984

Oaks, PA 19456

610-539-8300

Category: Restaurant

**Member Milestones  
(October—December 2014)****25 Years:****Valley Forge Kitchen and Bath**

William Hochwind

2351 Pottstown Pike

Pottstown, PA 19465

610-469-8500

**20 Years:****University of Valley Forge**

Dr. Don Meyer, President

1401 Charlestown Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

610-917-1406

**15 Years:****Breese Contracting**

Bradley Breese

934 Pike Springs Road

Phoenixville, PA 19460

610-933-3417

**10 Years:****Miller Designworks**

Steven Miller

400 Franklin Avenue, Suite 118

Phoenixville, PA 19460

610-917-0100

## Directory Announcement

The Chamber is making updates to our online Membership Directory. We encourage all members to review your listing online and in last year's directory to confirm your details are the same.

In 2015, the Chamber office will issue emails regarding members' categories. If you need to notify the Chamber of any changes, please contact the Chamber office at [info@phoenixvillechamber.org](mailto:info@phoenixvillechamber.org).

Have an upcoming event, press release, or big announcement?

**Send it to us!**

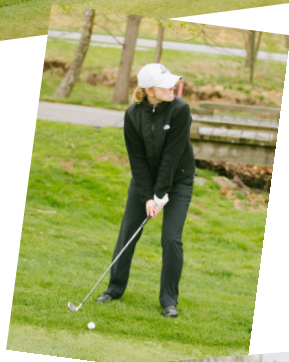
We love to include member developments in our email blasts, the latest news section of our website, and at events.

Submit to [info@phoenixvillechamber.org](mailto:info@phoenixvillechamber.org)

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



## A Look Back at 2014



Golfers bundled up at the Golf Classic.



Rhythm and Blondes were a hit at the Annual Charity Gala.



Mod House Vintage cut the ribbon in October.



Robert Ryan was named *Outstanding Citizen of the Year* at the Annual Dinner.



Members Stephanie Wenitsky and Peter Urscheler danced cheek-to-cheek at the Annual Charity Gala.

## We can't wait to see what 2015 brings!

The Rising Phoenix  
Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce  
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