

2015

VENANGO AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



VenangoWorks! COMMUNITY EDITION



Your Chamber.
In Your Community.
LEARN MORE INSIDE



OUR MISSION

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce builds, serves and promotes regional business.



OUR VALUES

- Integrity
- Leadership
- Communication
- Education

OUR VISION

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce is THE regional leader aligning business influence to drive vitality and prosperity.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Insure sustainability of the Chamber (Pg. 2)
- Create stronger business to business connections (Pg. 4, 5, 6, 8, 11)
- Develop the next generation of business leaders (Pg. 10)
- Be the business information connector (Pg. 9)

INSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Invitation to join

Chamber membership is open to businesses that maintain a voluntary annual dues investment. Benefits of membership include networking opportunities, image enhancement, political advocacy, information access, and increased credibility.

We are committed to providing the highest level of service and support in promoting members, and increasing area commerce. The Chamber provides increased visibility to new member businesses and existing members.

The Chamber offers member businesses the exclusive opportunity to promote, market and advertise through our communications and events.

Thank you to those businesses who joined the Venango Chamber in 2014!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
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| Art Inside | LIFE Leadership |
| Bikers Cave | Mustard Seed Missions of Venango County, Inc. |
| Bowen's HVAC Service | Ox Furniture Company |
| Brown's Pure Maple Products | Pennwood Career Center, LLC |
| Caldwell Signage Solutions | Porch Music Store |
| Celestial Quilts | Pretzels Plus |
| Clarion County Community Bank | Safelite Auto Glass |
| Contempo Tech Cleaning Service, Inc. | SendOutCards Pat Winger |
| Cranberry Cricket | Sheetz, Inc |
| Easy Does It Customs, LLC | Shipman Heating & Cooling |
| Fishermen's Network | Stitch'n To Go, LLC |
| FPS Energy | Stream Television & Radio |
| Gibbon's Business Solutions | The Barnard House |
| Good Hope Lutheran Church | Venango County Coon & Fox Club |
| imageast | |

The Board of Directors, Staff and Members of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce invite you to become a member and active participant in the activities of the Chamber!

You can contact us at (814) 676-8521 or chamber@venangochamber.org

*Cover design by Moxie Media



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REBATE.....-1,500
MABC BONUS.....-1,000
TRUCK BONUS.....-1,000
MABC TRUCK BONUS.....-500
CHRYSLER CAP.....-500
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

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2015 JEEP CHERO KEE LA TITUDE 4x4
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REBATE.....-1,000
BONUS CASH.....-500
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

\$22,498 36 MONTH LEASE
EVERYONE QUALIFIES \$265/mo.

2015 RAM 2500 HD REGULAR CAB
#45100



REDUCED PRICE.....\$36,798
REBATE.....-2,500
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

COMMERCIAL BUYERS
SAVE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500

\$31,298

2015 JEEP PATRIO TSPORT 4x4
#65083



REDUCED PRICE.....\$24,498
REBATE.....-2,000
BONUS CASH.....-500
CHRYSLER CAP.....-500
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

\$18,498 36 MONTH LEASE
EVERYONE QUALIFIES \$199/mo.

2015 RAM 2500 4x4 CREW CAB
#45102



REDUCED PRICE.....\$40,098
REBATE.....-2,500
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

COMMERCIAL BUYERS
SAVE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500

\$34,598

2015 JEEP RENEGADE LA TITUDE 4x4
#65149



REDUCED PRICE.....\$24,998
CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

\$21,998 36 MONTH LEASE
EVERYONE QUALIFIES \$272/mo.

2015 RAM 3500 4x4 CHASSIS/ CAB
#45100



REDUCED PRICE.....\$38,998
REBATE.....-1,500
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CASH/TRADE.....-3,000

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CREATING CONNECTIONS

Strategic Partners

The leadership of the chamber understands that promoting business growth is only possible through team work. We will continue to reach out to our partners in the community to utilize the best resources to attract and retain business in Venango County. We hear the message loud and clear that a skilled and ready workforce is a priority now and in the future. We will work to assess the tools we currently have and what we need to empower those who are currently employed in local business and those who want to be.

Our businesses need a champion! The Chamber will be that supporter, helping to problem solve a challenging situation, finding unique and affordable ways to promote each business and we will be quick to recognize a job well done! Our network is at the ready each and every day.



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CREATING CONNECTIONS

Referrals

An important role the chamber plays is serving as a referral partner to Chamber members and local businesses. Chamber staff responds to inquiries daily, directing people to goods and services available locally. Additionally, two initiatives of the Chamber encourage Venango County residents to do business locally and to celebrate good business: Invest Venango and Venango Works!

What is Invest Venango?

The Invest Venango campaign was launched to encourage Venango area businesses and individuals to shift just 5% of their current out-of-area spending back into the local economy. It's not about spending MORE money – it's about keeping the dollars you already spend local. Now you can make a bold statement about your commitment to shifting business purchases back into the local economy—just display the Invest Venango Decal at your business, home, or vehicle. By increasing public awareness about the advantages of buying from local businesses and promoting area businesses, we hope to not only improve the bottom line for these businesses, but also improve the local economy overall and create a sustainable future for our community. Stop by the chamber office to get your free “Invest Venango” decal!



Venango Area Chamber Intern Ashley Cowles (The logo in this photo is not included in the Invest Venango logo search)

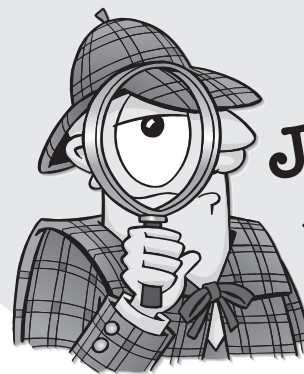
What is Venango Works?

Venango Works focuses on celebrating and recognizing business in Venango County and encourages people to share their experiences. By sharing news and stories in our monthly newsletter, recently renamed VenangoWorks! and by posting stories and photos on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and using the hashtag #VenangoWorks, we want everyone to learn and share the great experiences happening in Venango County.

We love doing business in Venango County, and we know you do too. Let's work together to support businesses, share our experiences, and show that #VenangoWorks!

Interested in doing business with our members? You can find our full online membership directory here: <http://www.venangochamber.org/chamber/member-directory/>

VenangoWorks!



Join the Search...
for the  logo!

Friday, May 29, read the **Venango Area Chamber of Commerce Edition** for a chance to win One Year of Movies at The Movies at Cranberry.* The Invest Venango logo will be hidden throughout the edition. Count the number of logos that appear in the section, then fill out the coupon below & mail or drop off to:

**Invest Venango Logo Hunt, VNI, P.O. Box 928,
1510 West First Street, Oil City, PA 16301**



**SPECIAL
EDITION
MAY 29, 2015**

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Number of logos found: _____

All entries must be received no later than noon, Monday, June 8, 2015. Winner will be notified by phone. Winner will be determined by a random drawing from all correct entries. No photocopies of entry form will be accepted.

Do not count the logos in this ad.

*Based on two movies per month for 12 months.

Thank You to

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce



from the Oil City Civic Center

The Civic Center maintains the Transit Building and offers room rentals for private or community events.

www.nationaltransitbuilding.org

Mission Statement

The Oil City Civic Center is committed to preserving the historic integrity of the National Transit Building & Annex and to fostering cultural, educational and economic development in the Venango County Area.

CREATING CONNECTIONS

Newsletter

Our newsletter, titled VenangoWorks!, is mailed monthly to nearly 550 business owners, professionals, and community leaders and is available for viewing on the Chamber's website. Membership surveys indicate that the chamber's newsletter ranks as the number one communication resource of the Chamber. With that in mind, the Chamber works very hard to make sure the information in the newsletter is relevant to business.

The newsletter shares various forms of information and promotion with readers, including:

- Spotlight articles: an article about new members welcoming them to the chamber and sharing information about their business
- Member to member articles: members are welcomed to contribute to the newsletter by sharing a success, anniversary, upcoming event, and more
- Regular features: articles each month written by members focusing on certain topics, such as networking
- Relevant content: information that applies to business, with tips and advice
- Advertising: advertisements directly in the publication and printed inserts placed by members in each newsletter

In January 2014 the Chamber launched FLEX Your Ideas (FYI), a four page monthly supplement to the Venango Chamber newsletter. FYI recognizes the civic, educational and career achievements of Venango County's most influential citizens under the age of 40, and highlights upcoming networking, social and charity events hosted by and open to all young professionals in the region. Venango County is proud to be home to so many intelligent, insightful and motivated future leaders and entrepreneurs. FYI is a way to recognize success, inspire one another and share ideas with the community.

The Venango Area Chamber strives to not only promote businesses and events through our monthly newsletter, but share information that is beneficial in helping members become successful and involved within the Chamber and community.



View our newsletter online at:
www.venangochamber.org/chamber/newsletters

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2014 EDGE LIMITED AWD

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2015 ESCAPE SE 4WD

#5666



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NOW ONLY \$25,355*

2015 FIESTA S

#5677



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CREATING CONNECTIONS

Member Events

Throughout the year, the Chamber holds a number of member events, including the **Annual Golf Scramble** in June, the **Member Steak Fry** in August, **brown bag lunch** speakers in the Chamber office, and monthly **networking mixers** hosted by member businesses. The focus of such events is to provide a variety of opportunities for members to build their network of business contacts, many who are also customers.

In addition to member events, the Chamber holds community events, our biggest being the Oil Heritage Festival and Cranberry Festival.



Oil Heritage Festival

2015 marks the 37th anniversary of the Oil Heritage Festival, proudly hosted by the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce. The annual festival, held on the 4th weekend in July, honors the area's rich heritage that resulted from the discovery of petroleum and the "oil boom" that occurred along Oil Creek in the mid-1800s. The Oil Heritage Festival depicts our distinctive heritage by incorporating many heritage related events into one of Western Pennsylvania's major festivals ... a fun-filled festival that draws thousands of visitors and guests to the region each year. Volunteers from civic and social organizations help to sponsor wonderful events designed to provide fun and entertainment for people of all ages.

This year's Oil Heritage Festival takes place from **July 23rd to July 26th**. For a full list of events and additional information, visit our website at www.oilheritagefestival.com, follow us on Facebook, and look for the schedule around the community, which will be available around the beginning of July.



Cranberry Festival

The annual Cranberry Festival is held on the third weekend in September in Morrison Park, Seneca, PA. The week preceding the festival includes additional community activities, including the crowning of the Cranberry Festival King and Queen. This year marks the 13th year of this favorite family event taking place on **Saturday, September 19**. The community is invited to come enjoy entertainment, free children events, food, crafts, a car show, and more!

Businesses, organizations and community members are welcomed to join in the planning of each year's Cranberry Festival! Contact the Chamber to find out how you can be involved.



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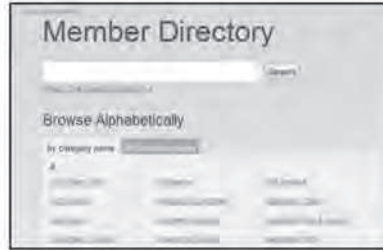
Information Connector

The Venango Chamber takes great pride in its role as ambassadors for Venango County and the Oil Region. Each day the chamber office receives calls from visitors, as well as business and community members, seeking information on the area and with questions about local events.

The Chamber's website provides current and relevant information in a dynamic format. Along with providing valuable information about the Chamber and the region, it includes a comprehensive Member Directory, online registration for Chamber events, and a community calendar that allows anyone to submit an event.



Homepage of the Chamber website



Searchable business directory



Online registration and membership

In addition to the website, the Venango Area Chamber office provides information for not only members, but the community and visitors. The chamber's visible and convenient location makes it a frequent stop for tourists and those who are new to the area. A brochure rack is located within the Chamber with maps and information on different restaurants, hotels, businesses, and activities available.

Chamber staff welcome the opportunity to serve members and the community at large! The staff includes Executive Director Susan Williams, Executive Assistant Dottie Tawney, and Intern Ashley Cowles.

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Chamber of Commerce

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DEVELOPING LEADERS

FLEX

future leaders and entrepreneurs exchange

FLEX, "Future Leaders' and Entrepreneurs' Exchange", a working committee under the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce, targets the under 40 population in the region. This group of young leaders from all over Venango County is dedicated to building a wide network of young professionals who are passionate about being involved and contributing positively to our greater community.

The group meets each month at the Venango Chamber and holds "FLEX First Friday Lunch" on the first Friday of the month at different local restaurants. Several social events are held annually, with the group inviting young professionals from neighboring communities and chambers to meet for networking.

Young Professional of the Year

FLEX Presents is an annual event that recognizes achievements by young professionals, age 19 to 39, in both the civic and professional fields. The Young Professionals of the Venango Area Chamber held the Fifth Annual *FLEX Presents* on Friday, April 10th at the Oil City Library with more than 100 people in attendance. Nominations were accepted, and then the winner is chosen by a review committee and announced at the annual event.

FLEX MISSION

FLEX represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning ourselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development and networking.



The twelve nominees for recognition in 2015 were **Chip Abramovic, Tammy Dulaney Beach, Mark Cangemi, Heather Faunce, Dan Flaherty, Amanda Hippenstiell, Kyla Mazurkewiz, Casey McVay, Greg Merkel, Trenton Moulin, Ryan Rudegeair and Amanda Slider.**

The 2015 Young Professional of the year is **Trenton Moulin**, Executive Director of Bridge Builders Community Foundations.

Interns

Each summer, local businesses and organizations employ college interns from schools throughout the region and further. This relationship benefits our community in countless ways. Employers typically reap the benefit of the best and brightest students, who bring energy and creativity along with emerging technical skills to their workplace. The community has the opportunity to engage and invite a future workforce.

The Chamber and FLEX hold an Intern Appreciation Luncheon each August to show our appreciation for the choice these students have made in spending their summer with us. College students who are working in internships or jobs related to their college majors are invited to attend. FLEX members speak briefly about their success living and working in Venango County, along with lunch and the opportunity to network.

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Interns at the 2014 Intern Appreciation Luncheon held at Wanango Golf Club

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Students

The Venango Chamber has partnered with the Oil Region Alliance, Franklin and Titusville Chambers, the Titusville Community Development Agencies, and the Forest County Business Alliance to help develop an initiative called *School Counts! In the Oil Region* that encourages employers to use high school performance records as one of the criteria used to evaluate high school job applicants.



The program demonstrates to students the importance of building a strong work ethic in high school, as it will directly affect their future employment. It also helps to show young people the correlation between working hard in school and finding a job, as well as the importance of attendance, punctuality, attitude, and effort.

For more information or to become a business partner, visit www.venangochamber.org/invest/school-counts-in-the-oil-region or contact the Chamber at (814) 676-8521

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CREATING CONNECTIONS

Recognizing Excellence in our Region

The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce takes great pride in recognizing those businesses individuals and organizations that go above and beyond to make our region successful.



Business and Partner in Business of the Year

The Chamber selects the **Business of the Year** using a wide array of criteria that include active membership in the chamber and support for the community. Additionally, the committee considers criteria including reputation for customer service and reliability, major achievements in a given year, innovation, business leadership, and excellence.

The 2015 Business of the Year is Urban/Seneca Insurance. Urban/Seneca Insurance is the resulting company from the acquisition of Urban Insurance Agency and Seneca Insurance and Full Service Notary by Rossbacher Insurance Service. The predecessor businesses have a long history of community and Chamber support. Urban/Seneca Insurance has continued this support, with a commitment to proactive involvement in civic organizations, boards, and non-profits.



The **Partner in Business** award adds to this list participation in private-public partnerships; bringing creative solutions to community challenges; innovative programs, partnerships, fundraising, marketing; promotion of the region as a place to do business or visit and improving the quality of life for the Venango Area residents.

The 2015 Partner in Business is Bridge Builders Community Foundations. Bridge Builders Community Foundations (BBCF) has been serving the Venango County community and neighboring counties for 40 years. Bridge Builders awards grants to nonprofit organizations to support programs addressing education, civic engagement, the environment, health, neighborhoods and prosperity in our area. In 2014, BBCF awarded 132 scholarships to students in Clarion, Venango, and Forest Counties totaling \$176,500. Fifteen organizations received gifts totaling \$59,567.00 from the Spring 2014 grant cycle and six organizations received gifts totaling \$8,500 from the Fall 2014 grant cycle.

The Business of the Year mixer is held each year in May and both were recognized on May 27th at the Barrow Civic Theatre.



Citizen of the Year

Each year the Chamber honors a citizen or citizens that have consistently evidenced civic leadership through volunteerism and service to their community. **The Outstanding Citizen Award** is among the Chamber's most prestigious community recognition awards and is presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner. Brenda Carll was named the 2014 Outstanding Citizens.



Volunteer of the Year

Each year the Venango Area Chamber's staff selects the Volunteer of the Year, the person that has assisted with Chamber with events or activities throughout the prior year, advancing the mission of the Chamber. The award is often a surprise until the dinner.

This year Dick and Trish Baker, of Oil City, were honored for their dedication to the Chamber. They have volunteered for several chamber events and commit their time to several local charities and social service organizations as well as their church. Congratulations!



Thank You to
The Venango Area Chamber of Commerce



from Bridge Builders
Community Foundation

*Making our community a better place
to live, work and play.*



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