



GREATER ROSTRAVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# CHAMBER Chatter

September 2009

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### Upcoming Events & Meetings

- October 12th - Columbus Day
- October 13th - Executive Board Meeting
- October 20th - GRC Election Ballots Due
- October 27th - Membership Meeting
- October 31st - Halloween

## Greater Rostraver Chamber of Commerce

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 E-Mail: [grc@dp.net](mailto:grc@dp.net)

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

Chamber Office Hours  
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
 8:00am to 3:00pm

*Please accept our apologies for any errors and/or omissions in this newsletter.*

## From the Chamber Office

We all need to take some time and appreciate the every day things that we often overlook. People are always saying, “you should stop and smell the roses”. Well, today I didn’t stop and smell the roses, but I did stop to marvel at a spider’s web.

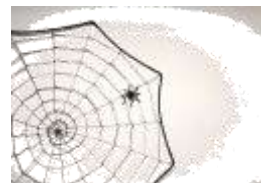
The web was attached to the handrail on the front porch of the chamber office. The morning dew caused the web to shimmer which caught my attention as I passed. I soon noticed that it wasn’t just one web on the porch, but a community of webs, all unique in size and formation. Each web was built by a tenacious creature determined to accomplish the goals and tasks at hand. I’m not a fan of spiders, but those amazing webs were on my mind all day and I formed an appreciation for the talented arachnids that built them.

A spider’s web is an intricate balance of connections and networks all coming together to meet at a common place. The spider starts building the web by assembling a solid frame, weaving to and fro until the structure is formed. From the center of the web the spider is able to broadcast the silken lines in many directions. The web is the spider’s mainstay, a place of shelter and way to capture prey.

In comparison, I see the businesses that are members in the chamber as spider webs. Each business is built on a solid frame, each business is a unique member of the community, each is different in size and each business uses a variety of networks to arrive at a common place. Each business owner is a spider determined to accomplish goals, showcase their talents and provide a livelihood. The GRC is lucky to have such talented business partners within our membership and in our community.

As we go about our busy days filled with appointments and deadlines, its easy to overlook some of the little gems right in front of us. So today take time to smell the roses, marvel at a spider’s web, or visit one of the many business partners of the Greater Rostraver Chamber.

*Gina C. Lynn*



# Fun Party Stores, Inc.

## September 2009 GRC Business of the Month

Their name says it all! "Fun party" is exactly what you'll have when you shop Fun Party Stores, Inc., 145 Finley Road, Belle Vernon for all your party needs. Fun Party Stores, Inc. is a family owned and operated retail party store. Founder and CEO, Bob LaVella, Sr. along with his wife Irene, CFO; daughter Susan, President – Retail Development; son Bob Jr., President and General Manager; and daughter Toni, President – Senior Buyer offer the finest selection of party products at competitive prices.

The company originated in 1971 as part of a national franchise system known as Fun Services. Since then they have serviced schools, churches and service organizations with toys, novelties, carnival games, and equipment throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania. In 1983, they expanded into the party retail business and they currently operate four stores, Belle Vernon, Greensburg, Jeanette, and Mt. Pleasant. In 1997, the company was incorporated and became known as Fun Party Stores, Inc.

Fun Party Stores, Inc. employs four store managers, an office manager, and distribution manager, in addition to 40 other employees. Seasonally, Fun Party Stores, Inc. employs up to 60 people.

Planning a party? Fun Party Store, Inc. offers one stop shopping for any party; graduations, weddings, baby showers, bridal showers, birthday or anniversary parties. They carry a variety of party supplies including invitations, decorations, tableware, and balloons. The most requested party themed merchandise is available as well, from beach party, fiesta, casino night, western and many others. The employees at Fun Party Stores, Inc. can help with custom decorations, balloon sculptures, and custom, full color banners. Fun Party Stores, Inc. also carries football spirit items including pennants, beads, signs decals and more for all of the local high school teams.

Fun Party Stores, Inc. is the Black & Gold Headquarters, carrying more Steelers gear than you can imagine. Steering wheel covers and accessories for your vehicle, items for your tailgating or game day parties, merchandise to wear and decorate with. They even ship Steelers merchandise to customers and fans across the United States!

In addition, Fun Party Stores, Inc. is your Halloween Superstore! Autumn decorations are plentiful and the Halloween department has costumes for everyone and every size, from infants to adults. Whether you are looking for something scary and gory, or fun and whimsical, they have it all. Beginning Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. store hours will be extended during the Halloween season.



Left to Right - Tracie Ford, Nancy Hatalowich, Sue LaVella Martin, Lisa Copeland; Standing, Tom Mimidis, GRC, Bob LaVella Sr., Owner and Andrew Solan, GRC

Be sure to visit Fun Party Stores, Inc. at any one of their locations, Finley Road, Belle Vernon, 724-929-9500; Lincoln Highway, Jeanette, 724-523-5474; Eastgate Shopping Center, Greensburg, 724-836-4386 or Countryside Plaza, Mt. Pleasant, 724-547-3909.

Store hours Monday –Friday 10am to 8pm; Saturday 10am to 6pm; and Sunday, 11am to 4pm. Extended Halloween hours Monday-Saturday 10am to 9pm; Sunday 10am to 5pm.

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

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# GRC News



Autumn has arrived! The days are getting shorter and darkness comes too soon. Take advantage of the bright sunny days and cool evenings. Enjoy the changing leaves and bounty of pumpkins.

Be sure to read about the upcoming GRC events and other fall related activities offered by Chamber members.

## Board of Directors Elections

The GRC Nominating Committee has put together a slate of candidates for the upcoming board elections. Election ballots will be mailed to all members and are to be returned to the Chamber Office by October 20th.

The following members have been nominated to fill seven board positions for the 2010 year:

- Patrick Alberts - Mon Valley Hospital
- Mary Esther Antal - First National Bank
- Raelyn Halinka - Valley 1st Community FCU
- Larry Goleshewski - PNC, Tri County
- Ron Kesten - Kesten Restaurant Equipment
- Tom Patterson - Patterson Plumbing
- Deborah Puglia - Howard Hanna Simon Realty
- Mary Lou Taylor - National City, PNC
- Rachel Willson - BVA Federal Credit Union
- Bernie Zunic - Charleroi Federal Savings Bank

Please watch for your election ballot in the mail and remember to vote!

**Join the GRC today!**  
 New members pay 2010 dues now and enjoy immediate GRC benefits.  
 Get 15 months of Chamber benefits for the price of 12 months.  
 Tell your colleagues and associates!

## Membership Meeting

The monthly membership meeting held at the Willow Room on Tuesday, 9/22/09 kicked off the first day of Autumn.

Kim Redman, Willow Room Sales & Marketing Coordinator devised a game plan that transformed the meeting space into a Steelers themed atmosphere.

Kim, was one of the guest speakers and she gave an overview of the amenities the Willow Room has to offer for both social and corporate events.

Matthew Ivill and Mike Allen both of General Industries spoke about the construction process of offices and buildings. In addition they informed the group about lease opportunities available at Willow Pointe.

Giveaways included a Steelers Tailgate Party Basket donated by the GRC and delicious Steelers decorated cookies compliments of Shortbread City of Monessen.

Approximately 55 members attended the meeting. The GRC and Willow Room thank those in attendance for their support.

## Light up Night Announced

A mention of a chill in the air, has the Light up Night committee in full planning mode. This year's festivities will be held on Friday, November 27th. Save the date and mark your calendars for this annual event.. More information will be coming soon.

Again, the committee will assemble goody bags for all the children in attendance. GRC members are asked to please donate 250 child related items for the goody bags. Items in the past have included coloring books, stickers, coupons, candy, etc. Items should be delivered to the Chamber Office by November 2nd, or please call to make arrangements for pickup.



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## Member News

### One Year Anniversary

Dunkin Donuts is pleased to celebrate their One Year Anniversary of the grand reopening of the Dunkin Donuts store on Rt. 51, Rostraver. Robyn Frederick, VP of Marketing is very excited about the one year anniversary and thanks the customers in the Greater Rostraver area for their patronage and support! The Rostraver Dunkin Donuts is one of seven stores owned by Heartland Restaurant Group.

### Take Out Made Easy

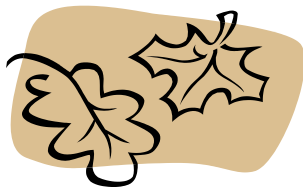
Eat'nPark introduces the Eat'nPark Pick-up Window at the Belle Vernon location, 1675 Broad Avenue. Now you can have takeout in three easy steps. 1. Call your order to: 724-930-7470; 2. Pull up to the restaurant Pick-up Window; 3. Take home your Eat'nPark takeout! Sign up for coupons and offers at [www.eatnpark.com](http://www.eatnpark.com).

### Open House Scheduled

Ken Sevick of ActionCOACH invites you to be his guest at the ActionCOACH ProfitCLUB Open House on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am to 9:00am at the Mon Valley YMCA, La Carte Room.

ActionCOACH ProfitCLUB is a group of like-minded business owners who meet twice monthly for an hour and a half to learn and discuss new business tips, strategies and ideas from an ActionCOACH Business Coach.

ProfitCLUB is a business education club where business owners can interact with peers and build general business knowledge in key areas such as sales, marketing, team building, communication, advertising, financial mastery and time management. This is a great opportunity to build your knowledge, build your business and build your profit. Call today to register, 724-382-4486.



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### Walk Planned

The annual Lois Orange Ducoeur Breast Cancer Walk is slated for Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.



Registration 9:00am, walk starts at 11:15am, Charleroi Market House, 423 McKean Avenue, Charleroi.

Proceeds benefit local cancer patients using the Sweeney-Melenyzer Pavilion and Regional Cancer Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital. Call TEAM Charleroi at 724-483-3070 or go online to [www.teamcharleroi.org](http://www.teamcharleroi.org) information.

### Credit Union Member Appreciation Day

The BVA Federal Credit Union is hosting a hog and corn roast for their members in recognition of International Credit Union Day, Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

Members are asked to RSVP by October 12<sup>th</sup> by calling 724-930-9864. BVA Federal Credit Union is located at 608 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon.

### Historical Society to Honor Veterans

The Greater Monessen Historical Society is preparing for the opening of their autumn exhibit. They are saluting the contributions and sacrifices of the veterans of the Mon Valley area. The Veterans Exhibit will run through December and highlight all branches of the service.

The Historical Society is looking for photographs, which showcase military life and wartime activities, as well as letters, medals, uniforms, albums and other military memorabilia for display. They can be brought to the Heritage Museum at 505 Donner Avenue, Monessen, during regular business hours, Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM until 3 PM. Special arrangements can be made for alternate times by calling 724-684-8460. The Historical Society is also looking for veterans to act as guest hosts during the exhibit by answering questions or sharing wartime stories with visitors. Volunteer today!

**BVA**  
Federal Credit Union

**Rachel C. Willson**  
PRM Representative

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## Center for Fitness and Health Events

Fall Events at the Center for Fitness and Health include Ballroom Dancing, Intro to Scuba and a health related Lunch & Learn.

You can brush up on your dancing skills or learn them for the first time in a workshop style class where you will learn and practice two dances. No dance experience is needed. On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, learn the Fox Trot and Cha Cha and/or on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, learn the Waltz and Salsa. The cost is \$30.00 per couple, or sign up for both nights for \$55.00. Refreshments will be served.

Get a hands-on introduction to the underwater world of scuba diving. Learn safety, technique and equipment, and try out your scuba skills underwater with swimming and target games. Class is instructed by T.L. Velas Diving and Supply. Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – 6:30-8:30pm, ages 12 and up. \$55.00 per person. Family discounts are available.

On Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> enjoy lunch and a health and wellness topic at the Lunch & Learn. The Truth about Whole Grains will be presented by Melissa Ondesko, RD, and Boot Camp Workouts for Everyone will be presented by Kristy Fabean, NETA and AFAA certified group fitness and personal trainer. The cost is \$15.00 per person.

For more information or to register for any of these classes, call 724-379-5100. The Center for Fitness and Health is located at 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon, PA.

## Twilight Special

Fantastic Sam's in the Kmart Plaza, Belle Vernon is now offering a "Twilight Special". Receive an adult cut for \$10.95 any day after 5:00pm. Includes shampoo, conditioning rinse and styling.

## Taste of Italy

The 8th Annual Taste of Italy, the premier fundraising event for the Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation (BARC) is scheduled for Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Frank Ricco Sons of Italy Lodge #731, Brownsville.

Advance tickets are \$35.00/ticket or \$40.00/ticket after September 28<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 7:00pm.



The Taste of Italy will feature wines by local winemakers and delicious hors d'oeuvres. For tickets or more information call 724-785-3520.

## Ghost Tours

Halloween Ghost Tours of Nemacolin Castle in Brownsville will be offered every Saturday and Sunday in October, 6:00pm to 10:00pm. For more information or for special group tours, call 724-785-6882.

## Congratulations Realtors

Prudential Preferred Realty is pleased to announce that Alf & Jody Moebius and Cathy Gallo have been invited to attend the Top 5 Real Estate Network Presentation. The Top 5 in Real Estate Network is an elite group of leading real estate agents who are committed to educating today's real estate consumer and raising the bar for how consumers perceive real estate agents and their professional value.

Top 5 members are among the Top 10% of Real Estate professionals in North America and must qualify for membership based on experience, production, education, use of technology in their business and commitment to the communities they serve.

Congratulations Alf, Jody and Cathy.



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## MVH Medical Staff Appointments

Sports Medicine Specialist Christopher E. Emond, M.D. has been appointed to the Medical Staff at Monongahela Valley Hospital. He joined the hospital staff in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Emond received his Medical Degree from New York Medical College in 2003. He completed his internship in general surgery in 2004 and his residency in orthopedic surgery in 2008 both at Boston University Medical Center. Dr. Emond completed his fellowship in orthopedic sports medicine at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia in 2009. He is affiliated with The Orthopedic Group, P.C., 800 Plaza Drive, Belle Vernon, PA.

Mark F. Sullivan, M.D. has been appointed to the Medical Staff at Monongahela Valley Hospital. He is board certified in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery and has joined the hospital staff in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Sullivan received his Medical Degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1983. He completed residencies in general and thoracic surgery at the College of Medicine, Chicago; The Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh; and the University of Minnesota Hospitals. His fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery was completed at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, MA in 1992. Dr. Sullivan is affiliated with Cardiothoracic Surgeon Chet Phitayakorn, M.D. with an office at 1200 McKean Avenue, Charleroi.

## History along the Monongahela

November 6, 7, and 8 from 10:00am to 6:00pm you are invited to drive at your leisure and visit participating historical sites along the Monongahela River. This is a great opportunity to learn about the rich historical heritage of the area.

Pick up a card at one of the thirteen participating locations, have it stamped at seven participating locations and drop it in the box at your last site for a chance to win a \$500 grand prize!

For more information contact BARC at 724-785-9331.



Please make note of the address change for Century 21 Frontier Realty.

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## Fashion Show

Yet another example of GRC businesses working together...

The Willow Room, Willow Pointe Plaza, Rostraver will hold a Fashion Show on Wednesday, October 28th, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

Bridal, Mothers of the Bride and formalwear by Checker's Boutique will be featured in the show. Refreshments will be served and a variety of vendors will be on hand to display their products and services.

For details and more information, contact Bonnie at The Willow Room 724-379-5666.

## Veterans Day Parade

The Monessen Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 7th. Advertising in the Veterans Day Parade Luncheon Booklet is available. Ads are available in full, half and quarter page.

If your business is interested in advertising in this booklet, contact the Monessen Veterans Council or American Legion Post 28.

## Library News

The Rostraver Public Library is enthusiastically planning its fall schedule of activities. The popular children's story times, which include stories, songs, crafts, and holiday parties, began at the end of September. At the adult level, the library's book discussion group will return for another season of lively interaction. The first meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. and the book to be discussed is Founding Brothers by Joseph Ellis.

An organization vital to the support and success of the library is the Friends of the Rostraver Public Library. The Friends meet the third Monday evening of each month to plan a variety of activities to raise money for the purchase of materials and equipment and the sponsorship of children's and adult programming.

Coming soon, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the library, will be the Friends' Vendor Show offering children's books, home décor, cosmetics, jewelry, baskets, and more. A bake sale, used book sale, and Chinese auction will complete the show.

A vital community center, our modern library now serves over 4,000 patrons. In addition to its children's and adult programs, the library offers state-of-the-art technology with public computer access and wi-fi. The library's computers are a lifeline for those searching and applying for jobs online and serve families by providing homework support and resources for home schooling. The public meeting room and quiet study room are also library features which are in frequent demand.

Despite the fact that libraries are busier than ever serving their communities, they are facing steep cuts in their funding, with some libraries in danger of closing their doors. In Pennsylvania, there are proposed cuts of 34% to local libraries and 73% to Library Access, which includes POWER Library, the statewide library card, and interlibrary delivery. POWER Library provides the only online database offered in 412 of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts.

It is essential that we contact our state senators and representatives and Governor Rendell to express our concerns over these proposed budget cuts. Go to [www.palibraries.org](http://www.palibraries.org) and click on "State Budget Update" for links to send e-mails or call your legislator. Our elected officials need to hear our voices.

The library invites you to call 724-379-5511 for more information or to register for programs and visit its website at [www.rostraverlibrary.org](http://www.rostraverlibrary.org).



### Lizzette Sterner

*Branch Service & Sales Manager*

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