



# The Chamber Chatter Box



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The Official Publication of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce • November 2011

## President's Corner



We are approaching Thanksgiving and the word "giving" makes me think of how fortunate we are in this economy. Unfortunately, there are many that are not.

That is why I would like to introduce to you to the South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM).

A representative of the ministries will attend our December meeting to share how they help our community in so many ways.

One way I would like to share with you is their Angel Emporium. This is a tremendous program designed to help parents and children that are financially unable to provide gifts for one another. Would you be so kind as to bring a gift to the December meeting? Please leave the price tag on the gift. A financial contribution would also be appreciated. Handouts will be available at the November meeting giving examples of some gift suggestions.

I hope you will open your hearts and provide a gift for those less fortunate. To discover other ways you can contribute to SHIM, visit their website at [www.shim-center.org](http://www.shim-center.org).

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Enjoy your families and friends.

*Debbie Maddock*



Show your support of our troops this

## Veteran's Day

**GBU - Operation Reach Out - Delivering a little piece of home to our troops!**

On November 5, 2011 GBU Financial Life, for the fifth year, will be supporting our brave men and women serving us overseas through a project GBU calls "Operation Reach Out - Delivering a little piece of home to our troops"

Over the past months GBU has been collecting and purchasing needed personal care items for our troops, On November 5<sup>th</sup> GBU members and volunteer from the community will be meeting at the GBU Home Office, on the corner of rt. 51 and Brownsville Road, to pack and prepare these items for shipping.

The GBU would very much appreciate your attendance on "packing day" Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. If you are able to attend please call Matthey Blistan, Jr. at 412-884-5100, or email [matt.blistan@gbu.org](mailto:matt.blistan@gbu.org). If you would like to send a monetary tax-deductible gift, please make checks payable to the GBU Foundation, and mail to GBU Fraternal Department, 4254 Clairton Boulevard., Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3394. Please check out our NEW Operation Reach Out videos at: <http://www.gbu.org>, click on "Operation Reach Out" under the flying American flag.

## Luncheon & General Membership Meeting

**General Luncheon Meeting  
November 3, 2011**



**Salvatore's**  
5001 Curry Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
Noon

**Guest Speaker: Rich Fitzgerald**  
Democratic candidate for  
Allegheny County Executive

### Advance reservations requested:

Contact Mary Dilla at 412-884-1233 or email: [secretary@bbchamber.com](mailto:secretary@bbchamber.com)  
\$15 with reservation \$18 without

**Next luncheon and general meeting December 1 at  
The Georgetown Centre**

### Thanksgiving Food Drive

The chamber will once again collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations for South Hills Interfaith Ministries at the November luncheon. Please consider helping those in need during these hard economic times.

## MILITARY CONNECTIONS PROJECTS

### Christmas Stocking Project

I have posted the Christmas Stocking Information on the website at [www.militaryconnections.org](http://www.militaryconnections.org) Please start spreading the word about the program. We are hoping to ship about 11,000 stockings this year and need your help with monetary donations, supply donations, and volunteers to stuff stockings! Dates for stuffing are as follows:

- November 12th 11am
- November 13th 11am
- November 20th 11am
- November 25<sup>th</sup> 6am- Loading the Truck and Transporting to Post Office

If you are able to volunteer at one of these packing dates please let me know. We can only have 15 people at a time.



### Top Five Needed Supplies

1. Canned Goods with Pop-Top Lids
2. Granola Bars
3. Individual Packs of Crackers
4. Chapstick
5. Wet Wipes

### Atria's Veteran's Day Program

On Veteran's Day Atria's will donate 15% of your check total to Military Connections if you show the flier posted on [www.militaryconnections.org](http://www.militaryconnections.org)

Thank you  
2012  
Sponsor



Summer Tissue / [militaryconnections@hotmail.com](mailto:militaryconnections@hotmail.com)  
Military Connections  
312 Auburn Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

**WOMEN'S NETWORKING LUNCHEON**



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar**  
**11:00 AM—Friday, November 11**  
**South Hills Country Club**

The monthly luncheon meeting of the Women's Networking of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce will meet on **Friday, November 11, 11 AM, at South Hills Country Club.**

To help us with our holiday shopping, and to provide greater opportunities for local and home-based businesses, the monthly meeting of the Women's Networking of the Brentwood Baldwin Whitehall Chamber of Commerce is hosting our **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar.**

**We will have lots of great shopping!**



If you or any of your friends are looking for new marketing opportunities to showcase your products and services, please reserve a table and share this information. Display tables are limited and will be reserved on a first come first served basis. **Deadline to reserve a display table is November 7.**

**We will once again hold a raffle at the luncheon with the money raise going to the local food pantry. Please bring an item to donate. It can be a promotional item from your business, a gift card, or anything you would like to donate. We will sell raffle tickets and when your number comes up, you can choose your prize! All the money will go to the local food bank.**

See you at South Hills Country Club, 11 AM!

Lunch for Chamber Members - \$15 - Bring a friend!

Lunch for Non-Members - \$18

Display Table \$10

**Please make a reservation by contacting our secretary: Mary Dilla at: 412-884-1233 / secretary@bbwchamber.com**

**Economic Development South (EDS)**

Hello everyone, my name is Greg Jones and I'm the executive director of Economic Development South (EDS), the non-profit community development corporation representing the communities of Baldwin, Brentwood, and Whitehall. Since I started in January, I've already had the pleasure of meeting most of you, and I'm looking forward to working with everyone over the coming months and years.

To keep the business community more apprised of EDS's activities, we're going to submit an update article periodically to this newsletter. At first, I'd expect that these updates will more general – as we look to touch on all of our activities. But in the future, I hope to use this forum as a way to provide more specific details about our projects and initiatives. My hope is that you'll reach out to us about programs and initiatives that interest you, and will help us spread the word about exciting redevelopment activities in the Route 51 Corridor Communities. We've already made lot of progress over these last few months, but it would not have been possible without the years of hard work from local organizations like the BBW Chamber and the BBOA.

(Cont.)

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 Secretary .....Mary Dilla

**MEN'S NETWORKING IS BACK!**

**The Men's Network is back at Legacy Lanes, 5024 Curry Road from 5—8:00 PM!**

Mark you calendar for the following dates:

- **Tuesday, November 15th**
- Tuesday, December 13th
- Tuesday, January 17th

Bring a friend, you do not need to be a chamber member to attend these events.

The *Men's Network Happy Hours* will be extremely casual in nature (*casual attire too...jeans are welcomed!*). No guest speakers, no formal agenda, no one minute commercials, just a chance to hang out with your friends, colleagues, associates, and POSSIBLE FUTURE CLIENTS. The networking you do will depend solely on you.

There will be a nominal "Cover Charge" of approximately \$10 to cover the cost of pizza & wings. There will be a cash bar.

Although we're keeping it casual, we'd like to get an idea of how many guys will be planning to attend. **Please email Dave Schultz (dave.schultz@legacylanes.us) or Steve Gardiner (steve@eberinsurance.com) if you are planning to attend or have any questions.**

(EDS Cont.)

Here's a list of some of the more notable things that we've been working on:

- A multi-municipal overlay district that will improve the consistency and effectiveness of existing land use ordinances
- Building the EDS organization to include a coalition of many communities and organizations around a shared interest in the redevelopment of our commercial corridors (Route 51, Brownsville Road, and Streets Run Road), while supporting the numerous smaller commercial areas within our neighborhoods.
- Better marketing the area through a new regional branding campaign that will include unified signage, banners, and website. This effort will help potential businesses and residents to see the many positive things going on in our communities, making us a more attractive destination.
- Working to improve the accessibility of our communities. Our communities will be increasingly competitive as gas prices rise and long commutes become less desirable. However, while we are very proximate to regional employment centers downtown and in Greentree, we are not very accessible to these areas. This effort includes increasing access to transit and improving traffic flows.
- A multi-municipal Environmental Committee. This group will serve as a Shade Tree commission, planting trees and maintaining existing ones, and a lot greening group, prioritizing greening sites and building a network of volunteers around the area to clean-up and beautify these sites.
- A façade and sign grant program. This initiative will make available matching grants for existing businesses who want to beautify their properties (new signs, new awnings, etc.).

And many more programs and initiatives that I hope to share with you in coming months

I'd love feedback from you, please call /email me and we can meet to talk more about EDS.

Best,

Greg Jones

(412) 884-1400 or

[greg@economicdevelopmentsouth.org](mailto:greg@economicdevelopmentsouth.org)

**Board of Directors**

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