

The News Gusher

The Oil Region Alliance is pleased to send you its newsletter. If you have difficulty viewing this format via this email, it will be posted on www.oilregion.org soon. Also, depending upon your computer system, you may need to click on "view images" to see the images. Feel free to contact me at wthomas@oilregion.org with questions and comments concerning the newsletter.

If you wish to be removed from the Alliance's email distribution group, please email wthomas@oilregion.org



In This Issue

[Member Spotlight](#)

[Thank You, New and Renewal Members](#)

[Oil History Workshop Scheduled](#)

[Board/Staff Spotlight](#)

May 2011

Volume 7, Issue 3

National Tourism Week

By Betty Squire, VP Tourism Destination Marketing

The first full week of May is annually recognized as National Travel and Tourism Week, a tradition first celebrated in 1984. It was established at National Tourism Week when the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution in 1983 designating the week to be celebrated in May. In a White House ceremony, President Ronald Regan signed a Presidential Proclamation urging citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Since its establishment, the U.S. travel community has collectively marked the event in a number of creative ways. This year the Oil Region Alliance would like to invite you to stop into our office, located at 217 Elm Street, Oil City, to pick up your copy of the new 2011 Oil Region Visitor Guide where you can check out all the area attractions, events and hospitality providers in your own back [yard.](#) In addition, when you stop in and fill out our questionnaire you will be entered into a drawing to win the following package worth over \$200:

One-night stay at The Caboose Motel- 407 S. Perry Street, Titusville, PA - Any Sunday through Wednesday evening June through September, 2011 (advance reservations required).

Two passes to ride the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad

Two passes to visit Venango Museum of Art, Science & Industry

Golf shirt from Venango Area Chamber of Commerce

Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce commemorative item

Allegheny GeoTrail hooded sweatshirt and ball cap

Lube Lingo book

"Uplifting Melodies" CD Vocal/Piano Duets featuring James E.

Thomas and Dennis E. Geib performed at the Venango Museum of Art, Science & Industry

All of the above attractions may be accessed by going to

www.oilregion.org

Next Oil History Workshop Scheduled

By Melissa Mann, Sr. Project Manager, Heritage Development

The Oil Region Alliance will present an Oil History Workshop on Sunday, May 22, from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. at the Masonic Hall located on Route 227 in Plumer, Pennsylvania. The subject of this free workshop is "Boomtowns and Oil Farms: The Petroleum Legacy of Oil Creek State Park."

The program will feature two presentations. Kathy Flaherty, geologist with ABARTA Oil and Gas Company, Inc., will focus on the oil region's most stable boomtown in "Petroleum Centre: Hub of Oildom." Amy Randolph, geologist with Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will turn the audience's attention to one

WEDnetPA Accepting Applications

By Deb Lutz, VP Economic Development

Are you looking for some training assistance? WEDnetPA is accepting applications for training assistance for the upcoming fiscal year; the on-line application period runs from June 1st - July 15th, 2011. Additional information and information about the online application process can be found on their web site www.wednetpa.com

What is WEDnetPA?

WEDnetPA is a collaborative partnership among 32 education organizations

Included in this partnership are Pennsylvania's 13 State System universities, Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges and other educational providers.

Each provider/WEDnetPA partner serves as the point of contact for businesses accessing Guaranteed Free Training (GFT) funds. Only authorized partners are authorized to apply for funding on your behalf - to obtain more information about the GFT Program or to apply for funding, contact the WEDnetPA partner in your region:

Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Juanice F. Vega
Director, Continuing Education
Clarion, PA 16214

(814) 393-1892

jvega@clarion.edu

Child Development Centers Expands!

By Deb Lutz, VP Economic Development



The Venango Industrial Development Authority recently closed on a \$700,000 tax-exempt loan as part of the Child Development Center's (CDC) expansion project in Oil City. The project will entail the construction of a new 10,000 square foot facility, located at 210 East Bissell Avenue in Oil City that will

of the region's most prolific oil farms in "Columbia Farm of the Oil Creek Valley: 150 Years of Petroleum History and Counting." Using historic images, maps and other visuals, the presenters will conduct a program that is both informative and entertaining. A short walking tour of the Petroleum Centre and Columbia Farm sites at nearby Oil Creek State Park will follow the presentations.

There is no charge to attend this workshop; however, pre-registration is requested. For additional information about the workshop, or to register, please contact Melissa Mann at (814) 677-3152, ext. 103 or mmann@oilregion.org.

Oil Region Guide

By Marie Rainey, Tourism Services Coordinator



If you haven't seen a copy of the Official Oil Region Guide yet, then be sure to check out our [website](http://www.oilregion.org). The interactive guide can be found on our homepage and the brochure page. Visitors to the website now have the ability to flip through the pages and

provide child care and preschool education for up to 90 children, many of whom now are on a waiting list because there is no room for them in their nearby Hasson Heights facility. The new building will include seven classrooms, an indoor gymnasium, a kitchen for on-site meal preparation, and space for teachers to develop lesson plans. The CDC will hire at least 15 staff members to nurture and teach the infants, toddlers and preschool children who will occupy the center. Rina Nerlich, Executive Director of the CDC commented on the VIDA loan process as "an efficient financing method that will save the CDC significant interest fees over the course of the loan."

Industrial Development Authority financing through VIDA administered by the Oil Region Alliance is a mechanism that enables non-profit agencies to utilize tax-exempt financing to reduce costs. For-profit entities can also take advantage of financing using VIDA.

Below are some of the highlights of VIDA [financing](#). To learn more, please call the Economic Development Department.

2011 Historic Preservation Award Winners Announced

By Toni Kresinski, Meeting & Events Coordinator

The winners of the 2011 Oil Heritage Region Historic Preservation Awards have been announced. Recipients are: Judy and Henry Grandelis, for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the building which now houses AmaZing Foods Catering Company; Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City, for their stained glass window preservation project; Dr. James and Jane L. Wilkens, for the preservation of the James P. and Ida Butterworth Thomas House in Titusville; Amy Chaney, for the restoration of her residence-the James B. Robbins House in Franklin; Franklin Moving Forward Inc. for the rehabilitation of the building in Franklin that is now known as the Liberty Galleria; Paul and Nancy Newbury, for the rehabilitation of the Old Emlenton Mill in Emlenton; Robert Billingsley of Franklin, for the research and publishing of DVDs about the iron furnaces in Venango County; Gary and Sandy Baker, for the rehabilitation of The Commons at Franklin; and Robert E. Dahle, for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Fertig House in Titusville.

All winners will be recognized at a free awards ceremony to be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 at Asbury Hall of Grace United Methodist Church in Oil City. The program, "The Oil Boom in 3-D" will be presented by Mike Henderson and Grant Carner.

Co-sponsors of this year's Historic Preservation Awards are the Crawford County Historical Society; Oil Region Alliance of

link directly to our advertisers and members sites. This electronic version will make it much easier for anyone coming to our area as a visitor.

Businesses looking to relocate here will find this a helpful tool also. This new features will allow users to print out individual pages and should minimize the number we send out, thus cutting our postage [costs](#). If you find you need any copies for your business, call Marie and she will have them ready for pick up.



Board/Staff Spotlight John R. Phillips Executive Vice President

A product of West Virginia, John grew up close to Pennsylvania. After attending the University of Texas, majoring in economics, John worked for many years in economic development before coming to the Oil Region. At the Alliance John is our Executive Vice President and is involved with almost every facet of the organization including daily operations and programs.

John and his wife Nicki have a daughter Victoria. When not at the office or spending quality time with his family he loves to ride motorcycles, smoke good cigars, restore his family home in Franklin, and camping. He is also an avid supporter of charities including the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

You can find out more about the staff and Board of Directors of the Alliance [here](#)

Business, Industry & Tourism; Titusville Historical Society; Titusville Renaissance, Inc.; and the Venango County Historical Society. The awards program recognizes rehabilitation and restoration efforts undertaken during the past five years involving buildings or other structures that are at least 50 years old; individuals may be recognized for their service or commitment which promotes the preservation of the built environment. Recipients are selected from among the nominations received from the public, interested observers, and property owners.

Reservations are [recommended](#). To make your reservation or for more information about the Oil Heritage Region Historic Preservation Awards, please call Toni Kresinski, Meetings and Events Coordinator at (814) 677-3152, Ext. 110.

Member Spotlight: Kapp Alloy & Wire Inc.



[Kapp Alloy](#) has been a major member of the ORA since 2006. Located at 1 Klein St. in Oil City, Kapp Alloy celebrated 65 years in business in 2010. They are a premier manufacturer of Babbitt, solder, and metalizing spray wire, achieving 70% sales growth in 2010. Their solder has been used on every continent of the world and has even been to the moon on the Apollo missions.

Today, Kapp Alloy is a world leader in high purity solder and soldering flux. The 2010 update to their industrial website, www.kappalloy.com, resulted in many new clients from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. They are currently retooling their consumer sales website, www.SolderDirect.com to give it more exciting and unique features for consumer and small business customers.

Kapp Alloy President Jack Crawford sits on the Alliance Board of Directors. He stated, "The success of our company, employees, schools and community all depend on economic opportunity. I want jobs right here for our children when they finish school."

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To see upcoming events in the Oil Region, go to



www.oilregion.org

and check out the "Event Calendar" on the home page.

Thanks to the Oil Region Alliance's Major Members!



FLY FKL

The ORA is accomplishing its mission to bring people and prosperity to the Oil Region. Among other successes, they have taken the Barkeyville Industrial Park from empty to full in five years. I would invite everyone to become active members of the ORA. Get involved and help create jobs, attract visitors and preserve our history. They can't do it without your support and commitment."

The Alliance Thanks These New Members

**MPC Studios
Farmers National Bank
Dart Financial Planning**

...and These Renewal Members

**Clarion University-Venango Campus
Trenton Moulin
John Peterson
Leech Carbide
Carolee Michener
Stewart's Premier Catering
Patrick Pelletier
The Forest Press
May & Company
ERA Richmond Real Estate Services
O'Polka & Company, Inc.
Williams Insurance & Travel
Dr. Timothy S. Brooks, DPM
Oil City Civic Center
Forest Glen Alpacas**

Membership benefits everyone that lives, works, and plays in the Oil Region of Northwestern PA
Find out how you can help your community by calling 814-677-3152 or logging on to www.oilregion.org .



**VENANGO
REGIONAL
AIRPORT**

Chess Lambertson Field

**Continental
Connection**

Operated by Gulfstream International Airlines

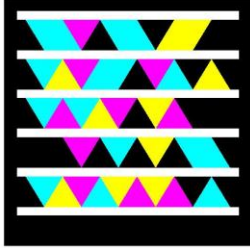


Gulfstream International Airlines serves Venango Regional Airport with daily flights between Franklin and Cleveland -- Continental Airlines' hub -- with connections to more than 60 locations. Travelers can park for free at the airport while on their trip. There are same day departure and arrival capabilities.

The Alliance urges business and pleasure travelers to use this valuable asset when planning trips.

To FLY Franklin (FKL), simply work with your travel agent, go to your favorite travel web site, or call O.C. Bell at the airport at (814) 432-5333.

Willis Thomas
Marketing & Communications Manager/BREP Coordinator
814-677-3152 extension 117
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism
217 Elm Street, Oil City, PA 16301



If you have suggestions or new ideas you would like to share, feel free to email them to chairman@oilregion.org.

We welcome input from you, the Oil Region community.