

# I ♥ LOCAL! Holiday Happenings

From the merchants of downtown Sharon

## November 15 Night of Lights

6-7:30 p.m. – Kick off your holiday season with family, friends, fun and fireworks! Main activities are just west of the State Street Bridge and will feature fabulous entertainment and free refreshments provided by Sharon-area churches and businesses. The traditional Lighting of the Torch and Tree will begin.

Then the moment the children have all been waiting for...the always surprising and entertaining arrival of Santa! A beautiful fireworks display will top the evening!



Immediately following the fireworks,

- Join the carolers who will lead a walking parade with the kids and families up to the James E. Winner Arts & Culture Center for a "Meet and Greet" and photo opportunity with Santa.
- Make your way down to First Methodist Church for the unveiling of its annual Festival of Trees.
- Or head over to the Quaker Steak and Lube for its annual Ski Show... always a fun time!

## November 15 – December 15 DownTown ShopAround

Visit and get signatures from 12 participating merchants in downtown Sharon, and you will be eligible to win fabulous prizes! More than \$1,000 worth of prizes will be given away on December 16 when we draw from the completed "DownTown ShopAround" cards. Pick up your card at participating downtown merchants and ShopAround Sharon!

## November 24 Small Business Saturday

12-5 p.m. – Small town America's answer to Black Friday and Cyber Monday! Come ShopAround in downtown Sharon on Small Business Saturday, and you'll discover unique boutique shops and the world's largest small town stores. From noon until 5 p.m. there will be special events happening in downtown, including holiday music, a live Nativity Scene, complimentary refreshments by many merchants and free transportation circling from the east hill to the west hill of Sharon and points in between. So park once and let us do the driving. See you in beautiful downtown Sharon. For more information, contact the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce at 724-981-5880.



## November 29 Artie Gras Christmas Bazaar

6 p.m.-10 p.m. – Give the Gift of Art! One-of-a-kind gift items available from local and regional artists, including paintings, photography, jewelry, journals, sculpture work and more. Located inside Quaker Steak & Lube.

## December 7 – 9 and December 14 – 16 Art on the Avenue

Fridays: 4-9 p.m., Saturdays: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays: 12-5 p.m. – Donna Little presents two amazing weekends full of area artists at Walnut Lodge, 80 South Irvine Avenue. Shop for pottery, jewelry, paintings, photography, leather goods, custom woodwork and more! There will be different artists each weekend. 29 Logan Avenue will be open the same times and dates as Art on the Avenue, to shop for more LOCAL artists creations.

DownTown ShopAround Sharon, Pa



A privately-funded newsletter to the citizens of Sharon sponsored by Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission.

We would like to thank the following businesses that have donated money to make 16146 happen. With their kind generosity, we are able to create this newsletter.

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A privately-funded newsletter to the citizens of Sharon sponsored by Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission. 4th Edition - Winter 2012

## Pennsylvania Visits Sharon



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania stood up and took notice of Sharon during two back-to-back visits from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). In unprecedented fashion, the Secretary of DCED, C. Alan Walker, and his entire senior staff spent two days touring Sharon and the surrounding areas with a contingency from area organizations such as WaterFire SharonPA, Shenango River Watchers, VisitMercerCountyPA, Penn-Northwest, and more. The following day a public rally was held at the James E. Winner Jr. Arts and Culture Center in honor of Deputy Secretary Clyde "Champ" Holman's visit to the city. The Sharon High School Marching Band, Tiger Kittens/Men of Note and Dempseytown Ramblers provided entertainment to the estimated 150 people who attended.

In a recent interview for Keystone Edge publication, DCED Executive Deputy Secretary Rich Hudic said,

"We all left completely enthusiastic, inspired and appreciative of all the transformational activity happening in the city."

The article goes on to say he credits business leaders, including families with long-standing Sharon companies, for jump-starting the local economy with a multi-faceted vision, from propagating the arts to encouraging industrial expansion. "Seeing how they are investing their own resources and working so closely with the city manager and community organizations to restore downtown is amazing. The downtown itself, with all the artists moving into vacant buildings, the attorneys moving in... They're on the move. We saw some very fantastic things happening, and in a true public-private partnership."

Sharon, Hudic reports, has even become a kind of touchstone inside DCED. "In a lot of things that we do here, we go back and refer to Sharon – 'Look at what they are doing.'"

## A River Runs Through It



On October 18

Sharon City Council  
formally adopted a new logo  
for the City of Sharon.

## Holiday EVENTS

### November 15 Night of Lights

November 15 – December 25  
Festival of Trees at First Methodist Church

November 15 – December 15  
DownTown ShopAround

November 18 • 2:30 p.m.  
Shenango Valley Chorale Messiah  
at First Presbyterian Church

November 24  
Small Business Saturday

November 29  
Artie Gras Christmas Bazaar

December 6  
Sharon High School Winter Instrumental  
Concert

December 7 – 9 • Fri. & Sat. at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2:30 p.m.  
"A Seussified Christmas Carol"  
at Penn State Shenango

December 7 – 9 and December 14 – 16  
Art on the Avenue

December 8 • 7:30 p.m.  
Shenango Valley Chorale Holiday Concert  
at First Presbyterian Church

December 16  
Sharon High School Winter Choir Concert

January 6  
Boar's Head Festival  
at First Presbyterian Church

Looking ahead...  
February 10  
3rd Annual Winter Fest at Buhl Park



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"LIKE" us on the web! [www.facebook.com/#!/SharonCommunityAndEconomicDevelopmentCommission](http://www.facebook.com/#!/SharonCommunityAndEconomicDevelopmentCommission)

## Welcome New State Street Businesses



The Pennsylvania Dance Company was inspired by a love of dance under the direction of Jessica Wellington-DeTal who says, "my goal was to create a fun, safe place for students who are eager to learn the art." The company's mission statement is: To guide, educate, and inspire students in the highest standards of dance, while encouraging leadership, respect, and loyalty. It is located at 113 East State Street.

Circle K Pottery, owned and run by Christian Kuharik, provides classes, consultation, pottery supplies and equipment, kiln building and everything else that goes with clay. Kuharik has been teaching at Penn



State Shenango in its ceramics department since 2005. He spends the rest of his time working as a studio artist and teaching classes in his new downtown studio.

## City Improvements

The city has recently improved its 12-acre Renaissance Commerce Park with a grant of more than \$700,000 from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Sharon Fence Company has just begun building its new corporate headquarters and manufacturing plant there on Sept. 19. The Dock Street development is also gaining improved space for industrial equipment for nearby businesses such as the Sunbelt

Transformer Company, which Andrejchak reports is expanding as well.

The city recently completed another DCED funded streetscape project along Chestnut Street, Veteran's Walkway and several city parking lots. Last month PennDOT approved plans that allowed the city to go out to bid for approximately \$850,000 more in streetscape improvements, including approximately 80 new street lights on State Street and ADA ramps.

The city is also working on extending the lighting improvements onto Vine Street.

"I think if they haven't already, many people will be giving downtown a close second look next year because there will be noticeable improvements. Thanks for supporting me and the staff at City of Sharon," said City Manager Scott Andrejchak.

## Meet the City Manager!

**Birthdate:** 10/25/78  
**Family:** wife Elizabeth; daughter Maryn, 8  
**College:** Duquesne University, Bachelor of Science; Duquesne University Law School, Juris Doctorate  
**First Job:** store clerk  
**Favorite Place to Vacation:** New Orleans  
**Hobbies:** history, fishing, cooking, movies  
**Favorite Food:** fajitas  
**Favorite Book:** *John Adams* by David McCullough  
**Best Advice You Have Ever Been Given:** be a good listener  
**Favorite Thing About Sharon, PA:** the people



City Manager  
Scott Andrejchak

## Penn State Shenango Students Helping to Promote City

When the Sharon Community and Economic Development Commission (SCEDC) wanted to develop a marketing "pitch book" for the city of Sharon and develop a new website design for the city, they didn't have



to look far for a partner. When Penn State Shenango Information Sciences and Technology Instructor Lisa Bertin was looking for a project for her on-line web project course, she didn't have to look far either. Finally, when Penn State Shenango Business Instructor Joy B. Burse was looking for internships

for students Stan Goleb and Jackie Gurneal, all the planets were aligned.

Drawing from the SCEDC strategic vision plan, both the website redesign and the creation of the pitch book were developed around five "pillars" from the plan: Growing Economy; Neighborhoods and Community; Culture and Recreation; Vibrant Downtown; and Efficient Government.

Working on the pitch book gave Goleb a new outlook on the city he has called home for 35 years. "I really gained a new perspective on all the positive things going on in Sharon. It's not an overnight process, but there are significant changes happening." The purpose of the pitch book is to give potential business and tenants a quick over view of the positives Sharon has to offer.

Development and redesign of the

website was a unique project and a sign of the changing times in higher education. While Bertin is located at Penn State Shenango, her IST 296 course is delivered through Penn State's on-line "world campus," and her students span the country from Seattle to New England, so not a single student had ever been to Sharon. The students developed two templates after extensive interviews with the members of the SCEDC, and ultimately SCEDC members voted on their favorite design. The chosen template is being used to renovate the city's website based on the five pillars of the strategic vision plan. The new website for the city will be online by next 16146 publication. Stay tuned!



## Sunbelt Transformer Launches Sharon Expansion

You may not realize it, but one of the nation's largest providers of electrical power equipment is located right here in the City of Sharon. Sunbelt Transformer, with sales offices in eight states, reconditions electrical power equipment for industrial and commercial customers. In fact, you may have seen some of its inventory as you traveled along Budd Street in Sharon.

Sunbelt's expansion will include the construction of a new 90' x 400' heavy industrial facility to replace their old current shop, which will become warehouse space. The new building will have 70 ton lifting capacity to accommodate its ever expanding inventory and packaged power business.

Sunbelt Transformer President Jim Landino says that "Times are changing

and so is our company. Our focus has shifted over the years from reconditioning and selling transformers to now having the ability to package equipment and offer our customers complete power solutions. Sunbelt is committed to expanding in Sharon because we know from experience that this is the best place to be. It is where the industrial prowess is pooled for a business like ours; welders, metal workers, mechanics, painters and a low cost of operation."

Sunbelt celebrated its 32nd year



in business and plans to continue to grow their operations domestically and internationally. "We are grateful to our loyal customers, employees, and local residents who made us the successful business that we are today."

## Sharon Beautification Commission Completes Successful Year

As The Sharon Beautification Commission wraps up its outdoor activities, it is excited about its upcoming plans. The committee will be involved in the Downtown Streetscape plans with the renewal of the colorful Hanging Flower Baskets. Work in Bicentennial Park continues, as does hope that the

area will evolve into a safe, open walking park with an enhanced view of the Shenango River. Plans are being made in conjunction with Greater Sharon Associates for new holiday decorations.

The community is invited to participate in other events including city-wide litter and neighborhood

cleanups and city walking tours. Please consider becoming a member of any of the committees (Downtown Greening Committee/ Shenango Valley Garden Club/Grant Writing Committee/Cleanup Group). For more information, please e-mail: bkepple1@verizon.net or call: 724-346-9869



## Putting Abandoned Properties Back on the Tax Rolls

The City of Sharon recently partnered with the Mercer County Housing Authority and the County Commissioner's office to develop a pilot program to put blighted properties back on the tax rolls. The City of Sharon Community Development Department, working in conjunction with the Code Office and City Beautification Commission, will identify and rehabilitate up to 10 houses in Sharon that are currently empty, tax

delinquent and abandoned. Funding for the rehabilitation will come from the City of Sharon's Community Development entitlement and the Mercer County Housing Authority. Once rehabbed, the homes will be fully taxable. The plan calls for the homes to be sold to qualified home buyers.

In addition, the City of Sharon continues to manage its own Housing Rehabilitation program. The program

is available to homeowners that meet income-eligible guidelines. It is also available to landlords as a loan program. Rehabilitation funds can make homes code compliant, energy efficient and also abate lead paint hazards. Approximately 30 homes in Sharon are rehabilitated annually. For more information about these programs, please contact the Community Development Office at 724-983-3232.

## Sharon High School Inducts Hall of Fame Alumni

The inaugural class of distinguished Sharon High School Alumni participated in its Hall of Fame festivities over the Labor Day Weekend.

**The Hall of Fame Inductees for 2012 were:**

Susan Bolotin – *Class of 1968*; Edward "Ted" Catron – *Class of 1962*  
 Dr. Joseph J. Conti – *posthumous* – *Class of 1949*  
 Mark DuMars – *Class of 1957*; Henry G. Evans – *posthumous* – *Class of 1933*  
 James E. Feeny – *Class of 1954*; Joseph George – *Class of 1954*  
 Major General George McFadden – *posthumous* – *Class of 1946*  
 Dr. Leonard Pleban – *Class of 1938*

Candidate nomination forms for 2013 are currently available at the high school office.

