



CHESTER COUNTY CHAMBER  
of Business & Industry  
- Chamber of Influence -

# b2brief

a chester county chamber of business & industry publication

Volume 12

January / February 2012

## From my desk to yours...



*A short reminder about this publication; each month numerous articles, opportunities and announcements cross my desk and I often think that part, or all of our membership could benefit if they received this information. So, I have compiled the highlights into an easy- to-read and interactive piece with direct links to documents and websites. This is meant to be **very informal** and conversational.*

*This opening column "From My Desk" is left for a personal statement from me as the CEO of the Chamber, to highlight what crops up most during a particular month. This past month, what caught my eye was the number of people and organizations that are receiving special recognition for their impact on our community. Some of these, selfishly, are awards we are presenting at our Small Business Dinner this week.*

*First let me extend my congratulations to **Bill Ronayne** and his team at **Brandywine Valley Heating & Air Conditioning**. In the nomination materials one statement stood out to me, "Brandywine believes that the employees themselves are the key to their success." They heavily invest in the training and development of their employees and encourage community support. The County Solid Waste Department will also recognize **Paul Redman** and his wonderful staff at **Longwood Gardens** with the Green Business Award. While you might think...of course a horticultural garden should get a green award; it goes well beyond this. **Longwood** has gone way above and beyond to successfully surpass existing recycling requirements in order to meet its own high economic, social, and environmental performance standards. And, **Mark Rupsis** will also receive the **J. Larry Boling Award** and be recognized for his more than 30 years of service to Chester County.*

*Outside of our formal Chamber Awards, I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate **Endo Pharmaceuticals** on their groundbreaking in Malvern this month and a shout out to **Commissioner Farrell** for being named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Southern Chester County Chamber.*

Your President and CEO

Nancy Keefer CCE



### PA Business Council Recognized

Congratulations to Dave Patti and his talented team. For the second straight year, the Pennsylvania Business Council has won a Prosperity Project "Star Award" from BIPAC for innovative and effective use of the Prosperity Project (P2) online voter education and political outreach tool. PBC was recognized for its grassroots advocacy program in support of the Fair Share Act. They combined high tech video, email and social media, and an online letter writing campaign to garner legislative support. As an organization that values the impact of grassroots campaigns, we applaud you. **Check out the website** for the **Pennsylvania Prosperity Project**, it has a wealth of information on important policy issues impacting our business climate.

### East Goshen Township Launches Economic Group

Once again, East Goshen Township takes a proactive approach to making sure that the township stays a viable choice for businesses and residents alike. At a recent meeting a nine-member Community Development Commission was officially formed.

The commission will make recommendations to the township's board of supervisors on how to help businesses grow and how to attract new businesses to East Goshen. The ultimate goal is for the commission to help keep property values up and to increase demand for properties in East Goshen.

Our Chamber along with the Greater West Chester Chamber and the Chester County Economic Development Council pledged our support to them and to other townships looking to reach the businesses in our region.

### U.S. Chamber Releases Q4 Small Business Outlook Survey

The U.S. Chamber released findings from the Q4 Small Business Outlook Survey recently. As you'll see, the vast majority of small businesses continue to view the country as headed in the wrong direction, and economic uncertainty continues to be their biggest challenge, along with regulations and the health care law.

However, it's encouraging to see the outlook for the local economy and attitudes about their own businesses improving. Additionally, 93% of small business members support the U.S. Chamber's role in issue advocacy and voter education.

Read the full findings from the **2011 Q4 Small Business Outlook Survey** here.

## New Faces... in Familiar Places

Two organizations that we interact with regularly have announced new leadership.

We would like to extend a warm Chester County welcome to **Robert Jennings** who took the reins at **Lincoln University** to become the 13th president of the university. Jennings follows Ivory Nelson as the President of Lincoln University.

Jennings, was born and raised in Atlanta and comes to Lincoln University from his most recent position as an administrator for Gems Inc. in Union City, Ga., a learning academy serving children 6 to 12 years old and personal care for adults and seniors with special needs. In the course of his career, he has also been president of Alabama A&M University, vice president of Babcock Graduate School of Management at Wake Forest University and vice chancellor for development at North Carolina A&T State University.

He also worked for presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reporting to Congress on issues of age, sex and race discrimination.

And, while not new to the area, **P. Timothy Phelps** has been named the new executive director of the **Transportation Management Association of Chester County (TMACC)**, effective January 3, 2012. In his role as executive director, Phelps will serve as a bipartisan advocate on local and regional transportation issues; grow TMACC membership and engage the members and community to fulfill TMACC's mission, goals, and objectives; oversee the financial management of TMACC; and develop and monitor the strategic plan of TMACC.

Congratulations and best of luck in your new positions!

## Pennsylvania Chamber Invites You to a Transportation Forum

Addressing one of the most critical issues facing Pennsylvania, our aging and underfunded transportation infrastructure, the Pennsylvania Chamber will host Innovations in Transportation Infrastructure Summit from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 1 at the Hilton Harrisburg.

This free forum will address the following:

- Update on the status of transportation infrastructure systems
- Challenges in transportation infrastructure improvements on the state and federal level.
- Showcasing the technological and process innovations that are underway or around the corner for infrastructure

This event is free but you must pre-register to confirm your seat. [Click here](#) for registration information and a detailed agenda.

## Governor Corbett Releases "This past year in the State Capitol" recap

Taken verbatim from the Governor's recent recap email is the following:

In 2011, Pennsylvania faced many challenges including massive debt, a weak economy, and natural disasters. Over the past 12 months, by demonstrating calm leadership during crises and making tough decisions, the Corbett Administration is putting Pennsylvania back on track.

On the first day of his administration, Governor Corbett committed to focusing on job creation, economic development and changing the culture of Harrisburg. Highlights of the Governor's first year show his commitment to Rebuilding Pennsylvania.

### Reforming business as usual in Harrisburg:

During his first week in office Governor Corbett introduced a government reform plan which focused on reducing the size and cost of state government. By his first budget address the Governor's office stood up an open government website which made the distribution of tax dollars easier to understand by taxpayers.

### An on-time budget that did not raise taxes:

Facing a 4.2 billion dollar deficit, Governor Corbett negotiated and signed the first reality-based budget in 8 years. The enacted budget protects working families from higher taxes and begins the process of ensuring a stable, secure future for the commonwealth.

### Protecting small business by enacting legal reform:

By enacting the Fair Share Act, Pennsylvania ensured that its legal system treats small businesses and medical professionals fairly, and will be able to keep them in the commonwealth so they can continue to create jobs and provide medical services.

### Making public safety a priority:

Governor Corbett made public safety a key priority by signing bills that banned dangerous synthetic drugs and strengthened child predator laws. To keep Pennsylvania drivers safe, the Governor also signed bills banning texting and improving teen driver requirements.

### Calm leadership during crisis:

This fall, Central and Eastern Pennsylvania felt the impacts of both Hurricane Irene and from Tropical Storm Lee. Working with the State Police, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and local authorities, the Corbett Administration was able to effectively manage these crises and ensure Pennsylvanians get the assistance they need to recover.

## Representative Milne Recaps New PA Laws

Each year, the state Legislature considers, on average, 3,000 new bills. In 2011, exactly 3,419 bills were introduced, of which only 148 were enacted into law (just over 4 percent). That small number certainly reflects the challenges of trying to move a bill through the legislative process and into law. It is daunting, but is also a rewarding sense of accomplishment.

"As we launch the second half of the 2011-12 session, I wish to report to you and update you on some of the new laws now in effect in Pennsylvania this year" wrote Milne in his recent e-newsletter.

These include:

- No Texting While Driving.
- Teen Driver's Law.
- The Castle Doctrine.
- Safety in Youth Sports Act.
- Fair Share Act.
- Long-Term Care Nursing Facility Independent Informal Dispute Resolution Act.
- New Sex Offender Registration Law.
- Public Access to Birth/Death Certificates.
- Gas Pipeline Regulations.
- Electronic Auctions/Abolishing the Office of Jury Commissioner.
- Increase Non-Bid Contract Minimums.
- Limited Distillery License.

Please [click here](#) to read explanations of all these new laws.



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For information  
on chamber events  
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