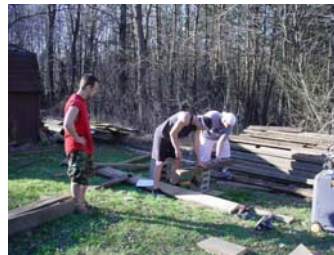




Celebrate Earth Day with an ELC Work Day



work on some projects that take some specific skills such as plumbing, fixing gutters, and replacing siding. There are also projects for those of us that don't have specialized skills such as staining siding, trail maintenance, indoor and yard work to spruce up for Spring. It is thought that those who help others are healthier and less stressed! Please feel free to donate cleaning materials. There will be hotdogs, chips,



ice tea and brownies provided.

For more information call: 724-763-6316

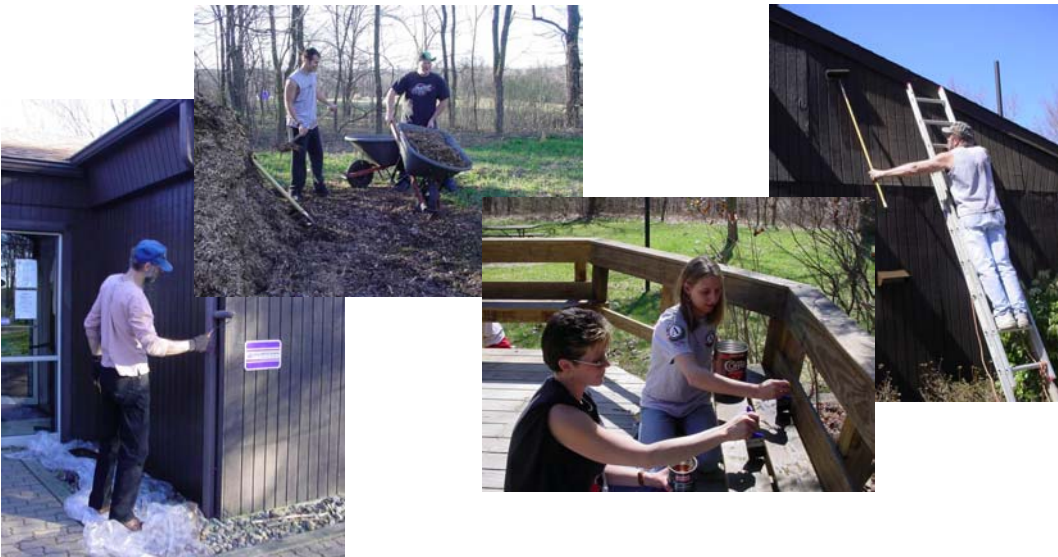
April 22, 2006

9:00-2:00

Have a talent you would like to share? We really need some people to volunteer to

Special points of interest:

- SPORTS AUCTION AND TRIVIA SHOWDOWN RECAP ON PAGE 3
- CAREERLINK'S JOB AND CAREER FAIR WAS QUITE A SUCCESS-READ THE STORY ON THIS PAGE.



Job/Career Fair

The Job/Career Fair, sponsored by the Armstrong County Board of Commissioners, Armstrong County Pennsylvania Career Link, and PHEAA, was a resounding success. Held at the Belmont on March 29, the event at-

tracted more than 460 visitors to the 28 exhibitors. Participants were able to share resumes with employers or to gather information before submitting applications. Based on the number of participants, the sponsors will be

planning another fair for the latter part of the year.

For more information, contact Armstrong County Pennsylvania Career Link at (724) 548-5693.

Inside this issue:

HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM LUNCH	2
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER SUCCESS STORY	2
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM THROUGH AVIT	3
HEALTH CAREER VIDEO	3
MFG CONSORTIUM TRIANGING	3



Health Care Consortium Luncheon

The Armstrong County Health Care Consortium will be holding a special luncheon on April 19 to provide an overview of the opportunities that accompany membership in the consortium.

Representatives of health care organizations in the county are encouraged to

join the consortium members to learn more about how the group works collaboratively to identify and provide for common training needs, assist health care workers in career ladders, provide health care job fairs and informational sessions, and conduct recognition luncheons for health care workers.

If you would like to take advantage of the opportunity to network, share resources, and assist in addressing the critical shortage of health care workers, contact Grace Thachik at (724) 471-7249 or gthachik@careertrack.org.

Small Business Development Center Success Story

KATHI DIANA
APPROACHED
THE CLARION
UNIVERSITY
SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER (SBDC)
FOR ASSISTANCE
WITH HER
BUSINESS PLAN
AND CONCEPT

Just what do you do when the world you're so familiar with comes unglued? If Kathleen Diana, you do not let that stop you from pursuing your dreams.

Sunnyside Greenery is an exemplary case in point, the epitome of start-ups. The business is a working nursery and greenhouse, conducive to growing and accommodating its clientele. Its uniqueness rests in the fact that its owner/operator caters to the elderly and physically challenged.

"I believe it's important for those who want to "stop and smell the roses", so to speak, can, no matter what", states Kathi.

"I will ensure that anyone who desires an appealing yard but cannot create it themselves can get assistance from me. I will deliver their selections and have their purchases planted for them."

Kathi continues, "People want to take pride in themselves and their surroundings, and one way to accomplish that is by the way their front yard looks. It shouldn't hinder anyone from such enjoyment just because their physique won't quite allow it to happen alone."

Based on this tenet, Kathi Diana approached the Clarion University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for assistance with her business plan and concept. Kathi herself is disabled, and was committed to ensuring that the greenhouse would be handicapped accessible, providing adequate space for wheelchairs to move about.

"I want my clients, particularly those in wheelchairs, to look around and make their selections. My clients will not be on the outside looking in." Kathi has demonstrated honesty in her word and passion in her work as her commitment came to fruition.

Sunnyside Greenery has experienced a successful first year, culminating with a Christmas season of evergreen swags and holiday wreaths. In addition to serving the direct retail trade, she has contracted with three area florists and is preparing for Valentine's Day. She is expanding her business's operations to include crafts and gifts, offering consignment opportunities to those who need an outlet.

Kathi has been dubbed as "the girl with the gold thumb – possessing the ability to grow tremendous flowers while making green money". Her talent for growing is unsurpassed. So is her heart and soul.



Allegheny Valley Institute of Technology Office Administration Programs

Allegheny Valley Institute of Technology offers programs designed to prepare individuals for careers as office support specialists. The certificate program includes Microsoft Office applications in Word and Excel and Windows XP Professional.

The diploma program adds PowerPoint, Access, and QuickBooks Accounting.

In addition, AVIT offers Microsoft's premier certification for desktop applications, Microsoft Office Specialist.

For more information, contact AVIT at (800) 272-7693 or see www.avit.ws.



Special thanks to Ron and Carole Olszewski, Harry Beckwith and family, and Diane Acerni for their time, donations, and efforts in helping to make the SATS a success!

Sports Auction and Trivia Showdown Recap

For everyone who attended the second annual Sports Auction and Trivia Showdown (SATS) event, knowledge of western Pennsylvania sports trivia was important! Contestants vied for the best score in

the sports parody game, and all, both young and seasoned, proved their mettle.

Thanks to all who participated in making the event a success.

Special thanks to Ron and Carole Olszewski, Harry Beckwith and family, and Diane Acerni for their time, donations, and efforts!

Health Careers Video

The Armstrong County Health Care Consortium, through the financial assistance of Highmark, the Medical Staff Foundation of ACMH, the Armstrong Health and Education Foundation, and Sugar Creek Rest, has developed a health careers video high-

lighting the top fifteen health care careers in demand.

The footage for the video was shot at ACMH, Sugar Creek Rest, and other locations in the County and features local professionals and students. This program will be available for schools, em-

ployers, agencies, other community groups, and individuals to view in both VHS and DVD formats.

For more information or to borrow a copy, contact the Trust at (724) 543-2599 or armeduded@alltel.net.



Manufacturing Consortium Training

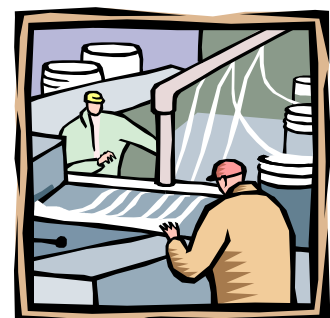
The Manufacturing Consortia from Armstrong, Butler, and Indiana Counties are working on training opportunities for both entry-level and incumbent workers.

Through the efforts of the Tri-

County Workforce Investment Board, the consortia are pursuing funds for training programs to meet the needs of member companies.

For more information, contact Armstrong County Manufac-

turing Consortium's Bernie Marrese at (724) 545-2223 or bmarrese@ris-group.com.





ARMSTRONG EDUCATIONAL TRUST

"Training for Life"

81 Glade Drive
 Kittanning, PA 16201
 Phone: 724-543-2599
 Fax: 724-545-6127
 E-mail: armeduded@alltel.net

The Armstrong Educational Trust brings post-secondary education and training opportunities to Armstrong County.

To accomplish this we:

- Survey education and training needs.
- Convene educational providers to identify programs that meet those needs.
- Provide instructional facilities and a computer lab.
- Provide financial aid and career counseling to adults.
- Market provider program offerings.

www.armstrongeducatrust.org

April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 NC/NO	5 NC/NO	6 NC/NO MFG consortium	7	8
9	10 Healthcare Consortium	11 NC/NO -First Step Starting a Small business -EOC Rep	12 NC/NO	13 NC/NO	14	15
16	17	18 AET Board Meeting -EOC Rep	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 EOC Rep Overview Workshop	26	27	28	29
30						