



# The *Strong* Connection

*Your Business Partner*

May/June, 2017

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
ALLE KISKI STRONG CHAMBER

## Look over your shoulder

*When there's a bluebird singing by your window pane*

*And the sun shines bright all day through*

*Don't forget boy*

*Look over your shoulder*

*'Cause there's always someone coming after you*

*Alan Price: "O Lucky Man!"*

Cybercrime is a multi-billion-dollar, highly lucrative, highly organized business. New threats continuously appear that companies must be prepared to face. No business is immune to attack. Here are seven questions you should ask your IT team.

### ***No more money – far more information security***

You are already spending money to manage or fix your network and computers. Without spending any more, you can harvest low hanging fruit that will significantly lower your vulnerability.

Four questions to ask the team:

Do we have and enforce a password policy that meets or exceeds technology standards?

Are all guest wireless access and employee wireless devices completely segregated from the company network?

Is the network free of folders that have "Everyone" permissions?

What is our procedure for disabling IT access for terminated users and do you have the report handy that shows we are up to date?

### ***Your employees are the weakest link in your network security***

Cybercriminals are knocking at your virtual door and someone employed by the company, maybe even you, will let them in. Specific actions can reduce your risk.

Three questions to ask the team:

Have our employees been trained on how to recognize phishing and ransomware?

What types of email filtering do we currently do?

Can we get together this afternoon for you to walk me through our backup and disaster recovery plan? (Yes, it's that urgent.)

(continued page 9)

Visit our website at [www.allekiskistrong.com](http://www.allekiskistrong.com)



## Alle Kiski Strong Chamber

### OFFICERS

**Chair—Brandy L. Fabry, ABR, CRS, GRI**  
RE/MAX Dynamic REALTORS

**Vice Chair—Steve Rusek**  
NexTier Bank

**Treasurer—Robert W. Sodini**  
Sodini & Company, Inc.

**Secretary—Brian Clark**  
Brian Clark and Associates

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Deborah A. Askin, Citizens Family Health Clinic  
Pat Hollinger, Penn State New Kensington  
Joe Kallen, Asset Management Associates Corp.  
John Mango, First Commonwealth Bank  
Nelson L. Person, Apollo Trust Company  
Ron Scanlon, McCall, Scanlon & Tice, LLC  
BJ Schaltenbrand, BeaverJack Tree Service, LLC  
Janice Wirth, Allegheny Valley Hospital  
Wade Woolford, Highland Tire

### STAFF

Vice President Events—Lynda J. Pozzuto

*“The Strong Connection” newsletter is published by the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber. Advertising and news articles from members are accepted with all material subject to approval.*

### ADVERTISING RATES:

Business card: \$50 \* Inserts: \$100  
Sponsorship Ad: 1/2 page back cover: \$200

**Alle Kiski Strong Chamber**  
**308 Pittsburgh Mills Circle**  
**Tarentum, PA 15084**

Phone: 724-224-3400  
Fax: 724-224-3442  
E-mail: Lynda@akstrong.com

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Coffee & Connections

### S & T Bank

May 18, 2017  
8:00 am to 9:30 am  
920 Fifth Ave., Ford City, PA 16201  
FREE for Chamber Members

## Coffee & Connections

### Consulate Healthcare of Cheswick

May 22, 2017  
8:30 am to 10:00 am  
3876 Saxonburg Blvd., Cheswick, PA 15024  
FREE for Chamber Members

## Armstrong County Commissioners

June 7, 2017  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Belmont Complex  
415 Butler Rd., Kittanning, PA 16201  
\$25.00 pp members  
\$30.00 pp non members

## Coffee & Connections

### Minuteman Press/Thatsa Sign

June 14, 2017  
8:30 am to 10:00 am  
541 Hyde Park Rd., Leechburg, PA 15656  
FREE for Chamber Members

## AK Strong Chamber Annual Golf Outing

June 16, 2017  
Lenape Heights Golf Resort  
8:30 am Registration—10:00 am Shotgun Start  
\$100 per golfer  
Light Breakfast, Lunch Buffet & Steak Dinner  
All Day Beverages, Awards & Prizes

## Networking BINGO

June 28, 2017  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Belmont Complex  
415 Butler Rd., Kittanning, PA 16201  
\$25.00 pp members  
\$30.00 pp non members

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Coffee & Connections Heritage Hospice March 22, 2017



## Senator Don White Luncheon April 5, 2017

### Thank you Sponsors:

Alliance for Nonprofit Resources  
Central Electric Coop.  
McCall, Scanlon & Tice, LLC  
Quality Life Services

Thank you Fred Bonello, Inc. for the fabulous lunch!

Thank you Host Calvin McCutcheon



## Coffee & Connections Allegheny valley Hospital April 6, 2017



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Alle Kiski Strong Chamber Would YOU like to be considered as a Board of Director?



Looking for real personal connections and not just another pile of business cards?  
**NETWORK in a FUN and UNIQUE way!**  
The ultimate networking event!



Please Join Us for a Fabulous day out on the green!  
**Don't miss your opportunity to get NOTICED!**  
Sponsor Opportunities Available



## Riverbration American Power Boat Races

Kittanning Riverfront Park  
August 18, 19 & 20, 2017

Vendor & Sponsor Opportunities Available

We are looking for board members who believe in our mission and are willing to be active in their governance roles. We believe that this work has never been more important than it is today.

This is a challenging and exciting time for the Alle Kiski Strong Chamber. We have a tradition of high quality service to our members and invite you to be considered as part of our AK Strong team.

As a Chamber of Commerce, our Board of Directors seeks representation from all areas of our territory and representation from all types of businesses and non profit organizations.

While we do ask that our board members play an active role, we pride ourselves on supporting each other as a team and believe that we offer an opportunity for our members to learn and grow with the organization.

If you wish to be considered as a Board of Director please contact Lynda at 724-224-3400 or [lynda@akstrong.com](mailto:lynda@akstrong.com).

## Membership Directory

The **Alle Kiski Strong Chamber Directory** is a "**tried and true**" resource that is used year-round by hundreds of people in your market area, including those who own or operate a business. Being the most **cost effective** way to get the word out about your products and services, you can be reassured that your advertising dollars will be put to good use.  
**Not** a "one-day-ad" that's only briefly seen.

As a member, your company will be listed both alphabetically and categorically, in addition to having the option to place an ad in the directory. If you have not placed your ad or sent your updated company information to us, please do so now.

# CHAMBER MEMBER NEWS

## Community Health Clinic, Inc.

Proudly serving all residents of the Alle-Kiski Valley, Community Health Clinic is your one-stop, primary care provider for medical, dental, behavioral health and psychiatric services. A non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC); we take all insurances including Medicare and Medicaid and have a sliding fee scale for uninsured and underinsured patients. Community Health Clinic's integrated medical and behavioral health care provides quick access to on-site behavioral health and psychiatric care. Our care-managers help patients obtain necessary community services and referrals and we have on-site lab draws. Both basic dental and dental laboratory services are available. Suboxone treatment and CDL medical exams are provided at our Vandergrift satellite clinic. We also provide all community members with free assistance completing Medicaid, CHIP, Marketplace and hospital assistance applications. Please call our New Kensington clinic at 724.335.3334 or our Vandergrift clinic at 724.567.5671. For free health coverage assistance please call: 724.889.2783.

## J. KRUKAR CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

At **J.KRUKAR CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**, we specialize in New Home Construction as well as Commercial Construction. And we apply the same integrity to all of our projects – good quality materials with expert workmanship that together provides years of satisfaction & a valued investment. Joe Krukar has been in the Building Industry locally for over 35 years & he values the trust that customers place in him to build a Home or Commercial Project that everyone can be proud of!

### **“CRANE'S LANDING”**

We also have a quiet, secluded Residential Development,

**“CRANE'S LANDING,”** which offers some of Nature's best landscape. **“CRANE'S LANDING”** is located in Kittanning & is just one minute from the Rt. 28 & Rt. 422 Exchange, which is just 40 minutes North of

Pittsburgh. We are the Exclusive Builder & there are also Covenants implemented to protect your valued investment. So, whatever your specific needs, we are ready to work diligently with you to make your plans a reality!

## **J. Krukar Construction Co., Inc.**

110 Woodland Drive, Kittanning, PA 16201

**724-545-9665**

[joe\\_jkrukarconstruction@comcast.net](mailto:joe_jkrukarconstruction@comcast.net)

[www.jkrukarconstruction.com](http://www.jkrukarconstruction.com)

PA002935

## Bradigan's Inc. 65th Anniversary

April 4, 2017 marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bradigan's Inc. It was on this date in 1952 that Paul Bradigan Sr. and Louise Bradigan embarked on a journey of which they had no idea where it would take them. With \$900.00 in their pockets and a used pick-up truck the dream began. It was due to their hard work, sweat, and foresight that the company continued to grow and prosper.

Tom Bradigan and Paul Jr. grew up in the business doing everything from painting fences to greasing and driving peddle trucks. Sadly, in 1975 Paul Sr. passed away unexpectedly, and with the help of Louise whose knowledge of the inner workings of the business was invaluable, the sons took on the task of running the company.

That brings us to today, 65 years later. The 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, Andy, has been taking on the responsibility of working to secure the future of the companies. With his determination and business knowledge Bradigan's will continue to prosper and grow.

Bradigan's is a strong company, known for reliability, community spirit, honesty and integrity. Our customers have made us what we are today. Weather you call us for heating oil, air conditioning, heating services, or visit one of our KardGard locations, we are constantly trying to strive to go the extra mile for our customers and try to exceed their expectations.

We want to thank everyone that has helped along the way and want you to join us in the celebration of this historic anniversary.

**Bradigan's, “Where Service Never Sleeps”**

## OPED: Folmer: Support SB 76 or support status quo



During my travels throughout the 48th Senatorial District, I hear a persistent drumbeat: “Eliminate school property taxes.” Not partial elimination or reduced school property taxes — total elimination.

That’s why I’ve joined with Sen. David Argall to fight for Senate Bill 76 to eliminate school property taxes. In 2015, the Senate fell one vote short: 24-25.

This isn’t the first time we’ve been down this road. Other plans have been offered to reduce property taxes, and some have become law. However, none have totally eliminated school property taxes as proposed by SB 76.

Act 511 was passed in 1965 to reduce both school and municipal property taxes through a myriad of other taxes, which proved to be equally unpopular and were changed or repealed over the years, while school property taxes continued to rise.

In 1987, Gov. Robert P. Casey and the General Assembly sent a bipartisan tax mixture to the voters that was overwhelmingly rejected by voters statewide by a margin of over four to one.

During the Rendell Administration, gaming was promised to reduce property taxes by a minimum of 20 percent. Today, we have both gambling and school property taxes.

Every plan to eliminate school property taxes faces the same challenge: finding nearly \$14 billion in replacement revenues. It’s a big number — nearly half the total state budget. But it’s the amount needed to eliminate school property taxes. And there are just four basic options to raise \$14 billion in replacement revenues: personal income tax, earned income tax, sales and use tax and/or some other new tax.

Under SB 76, the sales tax would be broadened and expanded to 7 percent and the personal income tax would be increased from 3.07 percent to 4.95 percent. Not only does this totally eliminate school property taxes, it’s fair because people have some control over paying the sales tax — a consumption tax. For each \$1,000 you now pay in school property taxes, you would need to spend \$14,285.71 in newly taxable items before it would cost you more.

SB 76 also gives schools the ability to raise revenues through either a locally imposed personal income tax or an earned income tax — after voter approval.

SB 76 also succeeds where other plans have fallen short because more people pay sales and personal income taxes than those paying property taxes. Plus, the sales and personal income taxes are paid over time, while property taxes are often a big sum paid at one time.

Home ownership is a fundamental principle within the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. and Pennsylvania Constitutions.

Article I, Section 1 of Pennsylvania's Constitution, "Inherent Rights of Mankind," states: "All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness."

I don't think any tax should have the power to leave you homeless.

Senate Bill 76 changes the status quo by replacing existing school property taxes — dollar for dollar — with revenues from the expanded sales and personal income taxes.

Opponents of SB 76 have raised two main objections: the numbers don't work and it's technically flawed. I'm proud to have worked with Sen. Argall to address both of these issues — and correct them. SB 76 works. The numbers add up. It's technically correct.

Do you support the proposed changes of Senate Bill 76, or do you prefer the status quo? For those who oppose SB 76, I say: Show us your plan. Until then, you're supporting the status quo, which isn't working for taxpayers or schools.

— *State Sen. Mike Folmer represents the 48th Senate District in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. Reach him at [www.senatorfolmer.com](http://www.senatorfolmer.com).*

*A special thank you to Senator Mike Folmer for his permission to publish as well as credit to the York Dispatch.*

*Thank you Neil P. Andritz for bringing this article to our attention.*



## **PWAC Adult Achievement Center**

The Adult Achievement Center is an adult training program serving individuals looking to be active members of our community.

Our goal is to enable individuals to achieve their optimum level of independence and lead happy and productive lives.

Adult Achievement Center creates a positive environment where individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities to build their knowledge utilizing a multi tiered curriculum, plus hands on experiences to reinforce newly learned skills. This enables individuals to build upon their competencies in daily living skills, health management, money management, safety awareness, leisure skills, and self determination. AAC also provides hands on work experience using the curriculum as well as volunteer opportunities in the community.

Eligibility for placement at the adult achievement Center is decided on a case by case basis. The client must already have an open case with a service coordination unit to qualify.

## **Rebirth of Ford City Business Association**

Ford City, PA- the Ford City Business Association was re-founded by a few local Ford City Businesses in 2016. This was in response to Ford City Borough wanting to hear the input of established businesses in Ford City and surrounding areas. Any and all interested businesses were invited to come and prioritize promotional events and rank their most important issues in the town. It was also decided, upon Richard Wakefield, to enlist the help of 3-4 local business owners in December of 2016 and to move forward. A board of directors was formed to make most of the hard decisions, which were then presented to the general membership at quarterly general meetings. Board of directors so far includes representatives from Wolfe Insurance, Klingensmith's Drug Stores, Mantini Funeral Home, State Farm and the Ford City Pizzeria.

Over and above all the wonderfully creative ideas that have been generated by this group of involved, supportive business people is the fact that this is a true "member supported" organization.

As the group grows and evolves from a assembly of 35 business people planning monthly promotions to a town of 3,000 citizens is literally paving the way for Ford City and its future, we have different challenges to face, new, fresh faces adding to the talent pool and hopefully a greater number of members becoming involved. The talent, brainpower and resources for success are all here.

We hope to also see you at S&T Bank in Ford City on May 18, 2017 for the Chambers Coffee Connections event to meet with our businesses. For more information about the Ford City Business Association visit [www.fordcityborough.org](http://www.fordcityborough.org)



Director: Cathy Lippert  
724-919-8899



*When everything in life seems just as it should be*

*At last success seems just around the door*

*Don't forget boy*

*Look over your shoulder*

*'Cause things don't stay the same forever more*

*Alan Price: "O Lucky Man!"*

The pace of change in information technology has accelerated dramatically over the past few years. New technology management tools and models have emerged that allow companies to apply more expertise at less cost with better results. Here are five questions you should ask yourself.

### ***Manage today's technology without breaking the bank***

Four major changes in the IT world have upended the IT management and support model for small and medium businesses: The Cloud, Cybercrime, Personal Devices, and Automation Tools.

The old, "We have a guy up the street who comes in and fixes things when they break," has been rendered inadequate in this environment. Few companies can afford an internal IT team with the knowledge and experience needed to handle today's combination of network complexity and active threat.

The result is many companies have an underperforming and overly expensive IT management and support model.

Five questions to ask yourself:

Who do I trust to help me make informed decisions about using The Cloud, and how much Cloud experience do they have?

Would I rather make technology decisions based on understanding the business risks existing in our IT environment – or get blindsided by a technology failure or information security breach we could have avoided?

If I lose my smartphone, what happens?

What tools, standards and processes are available to improve our IT service and support, make our IT more efficient, and contain our costs?

Given my answers to those questions, do I think we're as safe, informed and efficient as we can be?

Simply because everything seems to be working doesn't mean there aren't real and serious problems lurking in your IT environment. Answers to the questions above will help you decide whether you're on the right track.

Dean Genge is president of Ascent Data, LLC, an information technology managed services provider and data center located at RIDC Park on Rt. 28 in O'Hara Township. He can be reached at 412-968-4080, or [dgenge@ascentdata.com](mailto:dgenge@ascentdata.com).





**Natures Best CBD Pennsylvania Grand Opening**

April 9, 2017  
700 Hancock Ave., Vandergrift, PA



Nature's Best CBD is the leader in high strain CBD products. Our strain of hemp CBD has been specifically grown to be ultra high in CBD cannabidiol with no THC. It is legal in all 50 states and there are no worries of drug screening ever. Whether you are looking for muscle pain relief, or information on joint pain, neuropathy, fibromyalgia or you have researched the wondrous effects of CBD. Our CBD oils, tinctures, powders, capsules, lotions and creams are all CBD rich and lab tested to ensure purity and quality. Everyone at Nature's Best CBD faithfully uses and believes in our products and we all have stories as to what led us here. One thing is for sure. We are all believers in CBD products and we make the best, that is why we are Nature's Best CBD. Come on in and take a look around.

**HAVIN's 2nd Chance Shop &**

**Progressive Workshop**

HAVIN (Helping All Victims In Need) and Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County (PWAC) want to announce an exciting new partnership between the two non-profits. Effective May 1st PWAC staff and Transitional Work Trainees will be fully staffing HAVIN's 2nd Chance Shop. **This is truly a win-win.** The proceeds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Shop will continue to benefit HAVIN and HAVIN will provide payment to PWAC to run the day to day operations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Shop enabling PWAC to provide staff to run the shop as well as trainees who will be making a competitive wage and gain valuable work experience!

HAVIN's 2nd Chance Shop is located at 107 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning. Donations are accepted during regular business hours which are:

Tuesday through Friday 10 AM until 5  
Saturday 10 AM until 1:00 PM.

HAVIN's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Shop accepts gently used or new seasonal clothing, household goods, home décor, small appliances and furniture. The only items we can't accommodate are electronics.

The shop will be closed May 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and then re-open on Tuesday May 9th. **We will have a grand REOPENING celebration on Tuesday May 16th at 10:00 AM.**

Your donations and support now go twice as far! Supporting two great organizations!



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## Cannabis Company of Pennsylvania

Jake Voelker  
1403 Freeport Road  
Cheswick, PA 15084  
814-504-8633

## Fire Fighter Sales and Service Co.

Ivan Piontek  
791 Commonwealth Dr.  
Warrendale, PA 15086  
724-720-6038  
ipiontek@firefighter-pgh.com  
www.firefighter-pgh.com

Fire Fighter Sales & Service Co. is a provider and designer of fire protection service, life safety equipment, low voltage building systems & training.

## Spring Hill Suites Pittsburgh Mills

Matt McSparrin  
413 E. 7th Ave.  
Tarentum, PA 15084  
matthew.mcsparrin@shspghmills.com  
www.marriott.com

Hotel and Meeting Rooms

## Natures BEST CBD Pennsylvania

Amy Bufalini  
700 Hancock Ave.  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
724-568-4657  
naturesbestcbd.pa@gmail.com  
www.naturesbestcbd.com

Superior quality CBD products without THC

## Michele Waibel, MBA

Michele Waibel  
PO BOX 48  
Bairdford, PA 15006  
412-230-7582  
mwaibel@meaccountingandpayrollservices.com  
www.mwaccountingandpayrollservices.com

I offer a broad range of affordable, personalized accounting services that are tailored to fit your unique business needs. I am an educated accounting professional with more than 20 years of accounting

experience in various industries, both as a staff member and a freelance bookkeeper. I have a strong commitment to quality and accuracy as well as a passion for accounting that is reflected in my performance. I recently made the decision to pursue my career-long dream of independently providing accounting and payroll services to multiple small businesses.

I would be happy to assist with any of your long or short term accounting needs, including setting up your accounting software, performing weekly bookkeeping services, financial statement compilations, reconciliations, training, troubleshooting, or performing accounting services on an as-needed basis, so that you can focus on growing your business. My services can provide a cost effective alternative for organizations using a CPA for bookkeeping services by performing these functions at a lower cost and delivering a reconciled package to your CPA at the end of each period. I also have extensive experience with compliance and reporting related to Allegheny Count DHS and other government agencies, so I can help with any specialized invoicing or program reporting. No job too big or small so please contact me today to discuss your accounting needs!

## Sherwin -Williams Paint Co.

Josh Smallwood  
3071 Leechburg Rd.  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
724-339-7766  
sw1182@sherwin.com  
www.sherwin-williams.com

Sherwin-Williams Paint Store of LOWER BURRELL, PA has exceptional quality paint, paint supplies, wallpaper, and stains to bring your ideas to life. Painting Questions? Ask Sherwin-Williams.

### **Brands Carried:**

Sherwin-Williams, Purdy, Graco, Titan, 3M, Shurtape, H&C, Uniflex, USG, Werner, Mi-T-M, Minwax

### **Products/Services Offered:**

Interior Paint, Exterior Paint, Paint Brushes, Rollers, Spray Equipment, Caulk, Stain, Wallpaper



The  
**Strong**  
Connection

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1506521  
Natrona Heights, PA

# GOLF OUTING

Lenape Heights Golf Resort

June 16, 2017

NexTier Bank



UPMC St. Margaret

More information: [lynda@akstrong.com](mailto:lynda@akstrong.com)