



# Holiday Open House

Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8

Back Mountain Business & Professional Association strives to support the community

A small group of business owners gathered in the spring of 1992 to discuss the idea of forming a local organization of business and professional people. Just a few months after the initial meetings, the new Back Mountain Business & Professional Association had dozens of members, a calendar of events and even bigger plans.

- The original goals were:
- To provide a directory of members and distribute it throughout the Back Mountain.
  - To provide a voice on issues that affect businesses in the region.
  - To sponsor events at which members can become acquainted with one another and their products and services.

- To encourage members to do business with one another.
- To coordinate special events and sales.
- To inform students at College Misericordia and Penn State Wilkes-Barre and their families of the range of products and services that are available in the Back Mountain.

The BMBPA took on its official form as a registered non-profit corporation in September, 1992 just a few months after a steering committee began to plot its course.

As it has matured, BMBPA has sponsored community events and supported local institutions.

The organization made the original donation that began the CD-ROM collection at the Back

Mountain Memorial Library, and contributed funds for the construction of a new children's wing.

BMBPA also took over beautification and maintenance of the triangle at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415, perhaps the most visible patch of land in the Back Mountain. That task has now been handed off to another organization.

BMBPA's most visible and popular activity has been the annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on the campus of Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The event attracted hundreds of children and their families each year. In 2002, the combination of an early holiday and scheduling conflicts resulted in the replacement of the Easter

Egg Hunt with a Children's Spring Festival, held at College Misericordia. That has become the model for future years.

The association produced its second local business fair in April, where members were able to showcase their products and services for a very reasonable fee, and the general public was able to see the wide range of options available to them right in their backyard. This will now become an annual event.

We also have fun, with a summer mixer and holiday party each year that allows members to exchange information in an informal setting.

Anyone who operates a business in the Back Mountain, or who does substantial and regular

business in the region may join BMBPA. A slate of officers and 12-member board of directors oversees operations, while committees work on specific projects and as liaison with other business groups.

Annual membership dues are only \$75. For more information, call any member of the board of directors, or leave a message on the BMBPA voice mail, at 675-9380.

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3 Black Duck Grille	4 Campbell Business Machines
5 Corbett Insurance	6 The Dallas Post
7 Encon	8 Feathered Nest
9 First Federal Bank	10 Grange National Bank
11 Lewith & Freeman Real Estate	12 Mary Kay Cosmetics
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