

**Back Mountain Chamber**  
 Commerce · Community · Culture

# 3rd Annual Back Mountain Expo

April 18, 2012 4-7pm  
 Misericordia University at Insalaco Hall

## Chamber's first-ever Business Expo is April 18

By SARAH HITE  
 shite@mydallaspost.com

The first-ever Back Mountain Chamber Business & Community Expo will be held at Misericordia University on Wednesday, April 18 and the event will be tied into the bi-annual presentation of the Back Mountain Historical Association.

Chip Morgan, president of the chamber, said it will be the third business expo to be held at Misericordia, but the first for the chamber.

The Back Mountain Chamber of Commerce formed in January after the merger of the Back Mountain Business Association and the Back Mountain Economic Development Council.

The chamber is one of the first in the country to include civic organizations, such as churches, nonprofit organizations, governments and public schools, which will be reflected at the expo.

"This is our largest event of the year, and it has just ballooned," said Morgan, who owns Wilkes-Barre Bookkeeping in Dallas Township. "We're trying to make it a community event, as well. We all have a lot of business-to-business connections. This chamber is about community."

Morgan expects the expo to have about 75 vendors from the Back Mountain and beyond. He said the chamber has grown to include businesses from out of the regional area, such as Bath Saver and Friedman Electric, both located in Exeter.

"It has grown into other areas, and we have members from outside of the Back Mountain, but most of them live back here," said Morgan. "(The expo) just exposes people to us and what we do, that we are here in the Back Mountain. You don't need to go outside of the area - you can do business with local people."

Michael MacDowell, president of Misericordia University, said the expo is a way for the university to support the local business community.

"We're one of the largest employers in the Back Mountain, so we have a vested interest in the economic well-being of the community," he said.

The expo also gives students an opportunity to learn more about business through community services. Students within two business groups, the Business Professional Association and the Students in Free Enterprise Chapter, helped organize the event and will be on the scene to ensure the expo runs smoothly.

"Community service is very, very, very important to us," said MacDowell.

Students from the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township also aided in the organization of the event.

After the expo, attendees will have a chance to learn more about Hanson's Amusement Park, once located in Harveys Lake, at the Back Mountain Historical Association's bi-annual presentation.

F. Charles Petrillo, a local historian who has published a book called "Harveys Lake," will be the guest speaker and will present old photographs and personal stories of the former amusement park.

Hanson's Amusement Park began in June 1891 as a picnic ground operated by the Lehigh



The Back Mountain Business Expo is in its third year at Misericordia University.

**IF YOU GO...**

**What:** Back Mountain Chamber Business & Community Expo, Back Mountain Historical Association presentation on Hanson's Amusement Park  
**When:** Wednesday, April 18. The expo will be held from 4-7 p.m., with the historical association event to follow immediately after.  
**Where:** The Sandy & Marlene Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University, 301 Lake St., Dallas Township  
**Cost:** Admission is free and the event is open to the public.  
**More info:** Businesses can register for limited exhibit space by calling 675-9380 or by logging on to [www.BackMountainChamber.org](http://www.BackMountainChamber.org). For more information about the bi-annual meetings, contact Carol Fahnestock at Misericordia University at 674-8036 or e-mail her at [cfahnest@miseriocordia.edu](mailto:cfahnest@miseriocordia.edu).

Chelsea Penman, left, a company representative from New Jersey, and Tony Banta, of Harveys Lake, look over a new computer screen advertising their web-based business at last year's expo.



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