



# Newsletter

Nov. 1, 2007 **New "Welcome to Blossburg" Sign Ordered**  
V.I.B.E. recently ordered a new "Welcome to Blossburg" sign from Tyoga Writing and Design. It will be located in the same area as the current sign at the intersection of North Williamson Road and Main Street adjacent to the green bridge. The new sign will have a larger area to announce events and will be installed before the end of the year. To make a tax-deductible contribution to this project (or any other V.I.B.E. project) write a check to Blossburg V.I.B.E. and mail it to PO Box 126, Blossburg, PA 16912.

**Recycle Computers! Magazines! Textiles! More! Environmental Fair To Be Held Saturday, Nov. 17**  
V.I.B.E. and the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority will host an environmental fair Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the high school parking lot on Carpenter Street with computer recycling, magazine recycling, textile recycling and more.

In addition, various companies and organizations will have booths so attendees can learn about reducing environmental impact, reuse of materials and recycling options. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is the theme of the event.

NTSWA and V.I.B.E. will give away environmentally friendly products, including a door prize of a reusable grocery bag filled with products and a reusable water bottles designed by V.I.B.E.

The following items will be collected: computer towers, monitors, laptops, printers, scanners, cables, mice, keyboards and similar computer-related items; mp3 players; PDAs; eyeglasses; ink cartridges; cell phones; rechargeable batteries; magazines and other glossy papers; clothing, rags, curtains, bedding and other fabric and textiles.

For- and nonprofit vendors with environmental or conservation information or environmentally friendly or locally produced products are welcome. Booths can be informational, commercial and/or fun. For a free booth or more information, contact Tonya McNamara, mcnamara@epix.net or 570-638-3112.

## Reuse, Part 1: Grocery Bags!

In partnership with Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority, Blossburg V.I.B.E. will be distributing free reusable grocery bags, funded in part by a 902 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The bright green bags feature the slogan, "Be the change you want to see. Recycle!" The bags will be distributed at Bloss Holiday Market and Bloss Hardware in December.



## Reuse, Part 2: Water bottles!

To reduce the waste associated with purchasing bottled water, Blossburg V.I.B.E. is purchasing 500 reusable water bottles. The 21-ounce translucent blue bottles feature a small V.I.B.E. logo. The bottles will be available for a \$5 donation at the Environmental Fair Nov. 17. Why shouldn't you use bottled water? Visit [www.fastcompany.com/magazine/117/features-message-in-a-bottle.html](http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/117/features-message-in-a-bottle.html). Why drink tap? It's clean, safe and cheap.

## Light Up the Holidays Decorating Contest, Dec. 23

Decorate your house or business storefront for the holidays and maybe you'll win a prize from V.I.B.E.! Last year, Misty Jo Wiczorek and Jeffrey Osborn won the grand prize and their house graced the front page of the *Wellsboro Gazette*. This year's judging will be Sunday, Dec. 23, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. everywhere in the borough of Blossburg.

## Downtown Goes Wireless

Free wireless internet access will be available soon in all of downtown Blossburg. From the Bear A to the library, residents and visitors will be able to check email and surf the web, thanks to Blossburg FreeNet, a project sponsored by Blossburg V.I.B.E. to increase use of the downtown area. Angelina's Pizzeria, Brendyn Stager, Blossburg Memorial Library, Blossburg Borough and Toddler University are generously donating access to their buildings and existing internet connections. Blossburg Improvement Association contributed \$600 towards equipment for the project. More information is available at [www.blossburg.org/wifi](http://www.blossburg.org/wifi).

## More Grants Awarded for Facade Work

This year, Blossburg V.I.B.E. awarded grants to Blossburg Main Street property owners Ray Davis, Pat & Doc Ollock and the First Baptist Church of Blossburg for improvements to façades of their buildings at 314, 226 and 213-215 Main Street, respectively.

The grant money was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development as part of its New Communities Main Street program, which seeks to revitalize Pennsylvania's downtown areas through a four-point approach that encompasses design (such as the façade restorations, parking, signage and streetscapes), promotions, economic restructuring and organization. Blossburg V.I.B.E. has been awarded \$65,000 for planning and façade improvement grants since April 2005.

Blossburg V.I.B.E. awards matching grants to property owners who have completed historically appropriate renovations to the façade of a building, up to \$3,000 per storefront. The design guidelines were developed by the design team in conjunction with Larson Design Group of Williamsport. For information, applications or assistance, please contact Heidi Jones at 570-638-2486 or [heidi@ridgerunnerconsulting.com](mailto:heidi@ridgerunnerconsulting.com).

## V.I.B.E. Publishes Blossburg Business Directory

On the reverse of this newsletter, you will find the Blossburg Business Directory, a place mat first published by Blossburg V.I.B.E. in August to increase the awareness and patronage of the businesses and services available in Blossburg and the surrounding area. Seventy-three businesses were listed on the 2,500 place mats which were distributed in Blossburg, Covington and the restaurants north on business Route 15 to Grammas' Kitchen. This edition of 10,000 place mats contains even more businesses. Great refrigerator reference!

## V.I.B.E. Members Elect New Officers

At the regular monthly V.I.B.E. meeting in July, members elected new officers. Tonya McNamara was elected president, Jill Nickerson was reelected vice president, Jackie Smith was elected secretary and Heidi Jones was elected treasurer. Members expressed their appreciation for the work accomplished by outgoing officers Bev Jones and Lonny Frost. Tonya said, "Lonny's three years of service to V.I.B.E. as secretary has provided us with a strong foundation to move forward."

## Mother Jones Silhouettes Still Available

In 1899, at the request of United Mine Workers District President William B. Wilson, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, a well known crusader in the American labor movement, came to Arnot to help rally the coal miners to continue their strike for more humane working conditions. With the support of Mother Jones, their wives, the farmers and William B. Wilson, the miners were able to hold on until the coal company agreed to all their demands. She stayed at Wilson's house on South Williamson Road, now the location of American Legion Post 572.



Mrs. Hazel Brooks suggested a woman silhouette to accompany the several Coalie Pickman designs available. V.I.B.E. member and artist Lonny Frost created the design, which was produced as black plywood silhouettes by North Penn High School students Eric Wivel and Cody Groover under the direction of Mr. Bill Swingle.

The 3½-foot tall Mother Jones silhouettes are available for \$12 from Bev Jones, 570-638-2763, [jonesbev@gmail.com](mailto:jonesbev@gmail.com). For more information about the strike, visit [www.blossburg.org/wb\\_wilson/thestory\\_4.htm](http://www.blossburg.org/wb_wilson/thestory_4.htm).

## Farmers' Market Closed for Season - Plan for Next Year!

The farmers' market started by V.I.B.E. has been held every Saturday June to October, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Riverside Plaza parking lot for the past three years, offering locally grown or picked fruits and vegetables, baked goods and homemade craft items. Community Revitalization program funds obtained by Tioga County Development Corp. will purchase our membership in the "Buy Fresh Buy Local" Northern Tier chapter and provide each market within Tioga County with signs to display in 2008. New vendors always welcome. Contact Tonya McNamara, [mcnamara@epix.net](mailto:mcnamara@epix.net) or 570-638-3112.

## Endless Mountain Music Fest in Blossburg, Aug. 1, 2008 20th Annual Alumni Reunion, Aug. 2

Endless Mountain Music Festival, a two-week series of concerts, will open at the North Penn High School auditorium Friday, Aug. 1, 2008. The concert will feature world-class musicians in a Latin musical fiesta. The next day, the Blossburg-North Penn Alumni Association will hold its annual reunion at the fire hall. For more information, visit [www.endlessmountain.net](http://www.endlessmountain.net) and [www.blossburg.org/alumni](http://www.blossburg.org/alumni).

## Blossburg News & Views Needs Your Information

Our weekly column in the *Wellsboro Gazette* (and on [blossburg.org](http://blossburg.org)) needs your information! Events, congratulations, birthdays, anniversaries and other items welcome. Contact Cheryl Whitney Boinske, [news@blossburg.org](mailto:news@blossburg.org) or 570-638-3107.

## What is Blossburg V.I.B.E.?

Blossburg V.I.B.E. (Visions in Business & Entertainment) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created in 2004 to envision, plan and implement projects that will enhance the quality of life for those who live, work, play or attend school in Blossburg. Join us!

**Blossburg V.I.B.E.**  
PO Box 126  
Blossburg, PA 16912

