



REDBANK RENAISSANCE... a main street revitalization group

Our 2011 initiatives and 2010 accomplishments:

Info Boards w/ Pamphlets



TRAIL TOWN PLANNING

Renaissance was instrumental in having the Redbank Valley (water and rail) Trails included in the Clarion County Greenway plan and in helping to secure grants from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission for a trail feasibility/planning study for 36 miles of the

trail between Lawsonham and Brookville and for the New Bethlehem Trail Town Plan. The studies will recommend connections to and from towns and businesses along the trail, as well as where to put benches, signage, parking and rest areas to promote area recreational use, transportation and business development. The trail will connect Redbank Valley Municipal Park, the Hawthorn Soccer fields and high school with communities along the trail from the Allegheny River to Brookville, and eventually connect with other trails to Pittsburgh, Erie and Washington, D.C., among other destinations.



Gateway Signage

ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE

Through its Annual Arts & Crafts Show on the 1st Saturday in December (now in its 4th year), meetings with many of the areas talented artists and craftspersons over the last 2 years, hosting guest speakers and its first 4th of July arts & crafts show, Renaissance has been working to encourage area artists to form a cooperative to benefit and promote their businesses and encourage a permanent retail presence in



the area. The group is now known as Redbank Valley Arts & Crafts and is working toward recognition, additional members and a retail store that can be shared cooperatively.

To improve the appearance of the downtown business area and to promote the Chamber's

STREET BANNERS & WELCOME SIGNS

Peanut Butter Festival, the Library's Art in the Park, New Bethlehem and the Redbank Valley Bull Dogs, Renaissance designed and, with the help of several contributors, purchased street banners for the light poles on Broad Street. The Christmas banners were resurrected and cleaned. Banners are installed with Bill Reddinger's help each season.



Renaissance also successfully obtained a grant from PA Wilds to install a welcome sign on Route 66 as you enter New Bethlehem from Clarion and the North.

We hope to install 2 more welcome signs on Route 28 to highlight New Bethlehem's new trail town status and encourage use of the trails. Renaissance thanks the Clarion County Garden Club and Sawyer's Landscaping for their contributions, work and assistance in landscaping the area around the sign.



CLEAN UP EVENTS

Renaissance has sponsored many clean up events, including restoration of the entrance to the municipal parking lot on Broad Street with the help of the Clarion County Garden Club and many volunteers. Other events included removing litter, brush, overgrown vegetation and weeds from the NB/SB elementary school, Gumtown Park, local streets, the trail and the creek shoreline. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped improve the area.

FAÇADE PROGRAM

Grant awarded- before and work in progress



In July 2009, Renaissance announced its Façade Grant Improvement Program by sending letters and talking to area businesses and through news reports in The Leader-Vindicator. Grant manuals with guidelines are available on line at www.redbankren.org, at the library and through Renaissance board members. In early 2010, a successful applicant was awarded a matching grant to do façade improvements which will be completed in 2011. Renaissance hopes its first successful participant will enable us to obtain DCED grant money through the modified Main Street Program. Although we have not yet been able to raise the \$125,000 needed, nor is state funding now available to become a full Main Street program, we hope to apply for other DCED grants and raise local donations to fund additional façade improvements for qualifying local businesses. Façade improvements in communities such as Ridgway resulted in increases in annual sales of 25 to 50% and brought new jobs to the communities.

Other programs & resources:

Brochures & Community Calendar on the Website to advertise area attractions and events

For Area Students - Senior Graduation Project List

For Businesses - SBDC seminars for local businesses & Resource List

For Communities - Regional Revitalization Program with Guest Speakers

Working with those assigned Community Service

And more...

Upcoming Events and Initiatives for 2011

March 25th, 2011 – Commemoration of the Historic 1996 Flood (with video) and a Look Forward

First Fridays Music in the Park - in Gumtown Park on the first Friday of June - September to encourage people to come to town to visit the Farmers' Market, for dinner, shopping and then to enjoy a relaxing evening of music in the park. Different genres of music will be featured each month.

July Arts & Crafts Festival to coordinate with the Chamber's Fireworks – July 2nd, 2011

“Silly Walks” addition to the Peanut Butter Festival Parade. Have you always wanted to be in a parade? Renaissance will sponsor nontraditional, family fun parade groups such as lawn mower, tricycle, unicycle or briefcase brigades/drill teams, Scotty dogs in their tartans, Elvis or Beatle fan clubs, Red Hat and Church groups - use your imagination and have fun!

Façade Improvement Program – 50/50 matches in accordance with guidelines, dependent on funding

Clean Up Events – to be scheduled

Fundraisers – to be scheduled

Artists' Initiatives – Communication and organization of cooperative events, July 2nd show.

Trail Town Planning and Participation – working with Redbank Valley Trails Association, the Boroughs, communities along the trail and with Mackin Engineering consultants to develop the trails.

Regional Initiatives for Cooperation and Development – Opening lines of communication.

Community Calendar – to help area groups avoid conflicts and advertise their events.

For more information about Redbank Renaissance or to see the resources available, please visit the website at www.redbankren.org or speak with a Board member (814-275-1718).

PLEASE JOIN US IN MAKING THE REDBANK VALLEY AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE!

Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!