

'Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.'
- Pauline R. Kezer



Newsletter

December 2009

Marshall County, West Virginia

Vol. 1 No. 9



Fun for the Whole Family

On Dec. 31, 2009, residents from across the Ohio Valley will ring in the New Year at the second annual Marshall County Winter Carnival. The event will be held from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Jefferson Avenue in downtown Moundsville. Featuring live music, children's entertainers, inflatable rides, costumed characters, wood carvers and more the carnival will provide a fun, alcohol-free atmosphere in which families can celebrate the holidays. The

To find out the latest information about the Winter Carnival, go online: www.marshallcountyfrn.com

Continued on Page 4

FRN staff on TV this month

The Marshall County Winter Carnival and the Marshall County Family Resource Network will be on television several times this month, including WTRF's "Noon News" with Stacy Rich and a Comcast Local Edition interview that will air on HLN, Channel 33.

The Winter Carnival will be discussed in depth during a five-minute interview on WTRF's "Noon News" on Dec. 18. The

Carnival will be highlighted along with the FRN this month on the "Comcast Local Edition" that will air throughout December at 24 and 54 minutes past the hour on HLN.

The Marshall County FRN wants to thank Comcast for the opportunity to tell our story!

Catch our 30-second commercial about the Marshall County Winter Carnival on TV this month!

FRN hosts prestigious Standards for Excellence training

The Marshall County Family Resource Network hosted the West Virginia Standards for Excellence Clinic Series, training representatives from 10 nonprofit organizations in the Northern Panhandle.

The Standards for Excellence program is an initiative dedicated to strengthening management and governance in the nonprofit sector. Daylong sessions were held Nov. 5, 10 and 17 with trainers Leslie Stone and Becky King.

The training received high marks from participants. "The information gathered from this training is invaluable," said Susan Harrison, executive director of

CASA for Children, an advocacy program serving abused children in Ohio, Marshall, Tyler and Wetzel counties. "As a program in the growth stage, the tools provided will help to strengthen our policies and procedures and ensure our longevity."

The centerpiece for the program is a code of conduct for well managed, responsibly governed nonprofits called Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. The standards program is designed to promote excellence and integrity in nonprofit management and to strengthen the public's trust in nonprofit

organizations.

The clinic series covered the eight major topic areas in the Standards for Excellence in detail. These sessions are designed to help you learn how to use the standards to assess and improve your organization's mission, governance, financial systems, personnel practices, fundraising, legal and compliance issues, conflicts of interest and public policy and public affairs.

The Standards for Excellence series was sponsored by the WV Community Development Hub.

Whitelatch featured speaker at Governor's Drug Summit

Marshall County Family Resource Network substance abuse prevention director Latrisha Whitelatch was one of the featured speakers at Gov. Joe Manchin's Drug Summit, held Nov. 16 at the Clay Center in Charleston, WV.

Whitelatch spoke about how the West Virginia Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being has made a difference in the local West Virginia communities.

"The partnership has changed the way we do prevention in Marshall County. It's marked a transition to data driven planning and to environment prevention," she said. "We're concerned about what the data tells us are really problems in the community and we're concerned about changing the lives of our 35,000 residents."

She said that the partnership had impacted the structure and function of the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition and

increased its capacity.

"Without the technical support we've received, we would not have been able to secure Drug Free Communities grant funds in Marshall County," Whitelatch said.

Also speaking at the Drug Summit, along with the governor, was Office of National Drug Control Policy official Fran Harding, who spoke of her passion to eliminate youth alcohol use.

Manchin unveiled his Comprehensive Strategic Plan to Address Substance Abuse in West Virginia. The plan, which was developed with the WV Partnership, is designed to guide all substance abuse efforts in West Virginia.

Whitelatch and SPF SIG coordinator Julia Chesla attended the drug summit. The summit kicked off a two-day "Share the Vision" prevention conference.

FRN Participates in County's Holiday Parade

The Marshall County Family Resource Network created and presented a float highlighting the Marshall County Winter Carnival in Nov. 21's holiday parade through downtown Moundsville.

The float was one of 76 that were entered in the annual parade, which is sponsored by the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce.

The float was staffed by the employees of the Family Resource Network and their families. The parade float was driven by a Savage Heavy Highway Corp. truck.

The employees and their families distributed candy to the spectators as well as coupons for the Marshall County Winter Carnival, good for a free ticket for the event on Dec. 31. The coupons are also being distributed at the Cameron holiday parade and other locations throughout Marshall County.

Marshall County Chamber of Commerce executive director David Knuth said the parade was a hit.

"We had more people (at the parade) than perhaps ever before, and the weather was near perfect," he said at the chamber's breakfast meeting on Dec. 2.



Wesbanco banks on Winter Carnival

WesBanco Bank, Inc. became an event sponsor of the Marshall County Winter Carnival, Marshall County Family Resource Network executive director Stacie Dei announced.

The Wheeling-based bank is sponsoring the WesBanco Winter Wonderland for children's entertainment. The entertainment, which will be spread out on Jefferson Avenue in downtown Moundsville, includes a strolling magician,



a juggler, a caricaturist, face painter and more. There will be fun for the whole

family.

"WesBanco is pleased to support the work of the Marshall County Family Resource Network by sponsoring the children's Winter Wonderland at the Marshall County Winter Carnival," said

WesBanco Moundsville branch manager Angie Coe. "We applaud the Family Resource Network in their efforts to encourage and facilitate community involvement in this and many other meaningful events." WesBanco Inc. is a multistate bank holding company headquartered in Wheeling. WesBanco's subsidiary is WesBanco Bank Inc., which operates 111 banking offices in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Have you seen the 30-second commercial featuring the Marshall County Winter Carnival? It's airing on local TV through the end of December. The spot features Tim Thompson of Wendy's, WesBanco Bank's Angie Coe and Jonathan Turak of the Moundsville law firm of Gold, Khourey and Turak.

TV spots part of carnival marketing strategy

The Marshall County Winter Carnival has expanded greatly this year, and so has its marketing strategy. For the first time, the Winter Carnival will have a comprehensive media strategy that includes television and radio advertising plus billboards and yard signs.

The 30-second TV spot will appear on WTRF Channel 7, WTOV Channel 9 and on AMC, CMT, E! Entertainment, ABC Family, Food Network, Fox News, Hallmark, HGTV, Lifetime, Nickelodeon, TBS, TLC, TNT, TVLand, Weather Channel and USA Network. The commercial features Tim Thompson, owner of 29 local Wendy's restaurants, as well as WesBanco Bank's Angie Coe and Jonathan Turak of the Moundsville law firm of Gold, Khourey and Turak.

A 60-second radio spot will

begin airing later this month on WOVK-FM to promote the event. There will be a live remote on WOVK-FM on Monday, Dec. 28. The goal is to increase the attendance at the Winter Carnival from not just Marshall and Ohio counties, but surrounding communities. This will benefit local businesses and tourist attractions, who will see increased traffic from outside of the immediate area.

With support from Lamar, there will be five billboards promoting the Winter Carnival, in Moundsville, Glen Dale and Wheeling, WV as well as Bridgeport, OH. Yard signs donated by Vance Printing and Graphics in Wheeling, will be placed at high-traffic locations in Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall and Wetzel counties in West Virginia, Belmont and Jefferson counties in Ohio and Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Gold, Khourey & Turak becomes platinum sponsor

The Moundsville law firm of Gold, Khourey & Turak has been named a platinum sponsor of the Marshall County Winter Carnival.

"The Winter Carnival is a perfect example of what makes Marshall County special. It's a unique, well-organized event with a focus on family and fun," said Gold, Khourey & Turak attorney Jon Turak. "The carnival coordinators are setting an example for other communities to follow in creating positive change for their local friends and neighbors. We are proud to partner with the Marshall County Family Resource Network to contribute to the community that our law firm calls 'home'."

Gold, Khourey & Turak is a firm of trial lawyers founded in 1978. They concentrate on representing people who have been injured, killed, or disabled and need help protecting their rights. They are licensed to practice law in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Consol Energy shines a light on winter carnival



Marshall County Family Resource Network executive director Stacie Dei announced that CONSOL Energy Inc. has become a platinum sponsor of the 2009 Marshall County Winter Carnival.

"CONSOL Energy is very proud to be a part of the Ohio Valley, and to support the Winter Carnival in Moundsville," said Joseph A. Cerenzia, director of public relations at Consol Energy Inc. "We have two very large operations there, and many employees who make Marshall County their home. CONSOL Energy wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and success in the New Year! Many thanks for including us in this very special annual event."

CONSOL Energy Inc. is the largest producer of high-Btu bituminous coal in the United States. Named one of America's most admired companies by Fortune magazine, CONSOL Energy has evolved from a single-fuel mining company into a multi-energy producer of both high-Btu coal and gas. Together, coal and gas fuel two-thirds of the nation's power.

It has 12 bituminous mining complexes in six states and reports proven and probable coal reserves of 4.5 billion tons. It is also a majority owner of CNX Gas Corp., a leading Appalachian gas producer, with proved reserves of over 1.4 trillion cubic feet.

Chesapeake energizes sponsorship

Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been named a platinum sponsor of the 2009 Marshall



County Winter Carnival. It is the first year that Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been a sponsor of the Winter Carnival.

"The Winter Carnival provides a wonderful opportunity for families in the area to enjoy a safe day of fun and entertainment as they ring in the new year," said Amy Dobkin, public affairs

coordinator for Chesapeake Energy. "Chesapeake Energy is proud to support this event."

Chesapeake Energy Corp. is one of the leading producers of natural gas in the United States. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the company's operations are focused on the development of onshore unconventional and conventional natural gas in the U.S. Natural gas is affordable, abundant, clean and American. Further information is available at www.chk.com.

Carnival

Continued from Page One

Wendy's Winter Blast Kids Fun Run will kick off the Winter Carnival, and a spectacular fireworks display will draw the event to a close at dusk.

The Winter Carnival begins at noon with the Wendy's Winter Blast Kids Fun Run, which is a 100-yard dash down Jefferson Avenue open to children 9 years old and under. The entry fee is \$10 per child.

The events include:

- Magician Ray, 2007 Pittsburgh Magician of the Year, will be strolling Jefferson Avenue during most of the Winter Carnival.
- Bob the Juggler will also be strolling Jefferson Avenue as a juggler, unicyclist and stilt walker.
- A professional caricature artist will provide customized self-portraits.
- Balloon-A-Tic creates comical balloon animals and sculptures.
- A professional artist will provide

elaborate face-painting designs with non-toxic brightly colored paints and glitter.

The event concludes with an amazing fireworks show at 5:30 p.m.

Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers and WesBanco Bank Inc. are event sponsors of the 2009 Marshall County Winter Carnival. Platinum sponsors are Gold, Khoury & Turak, the Marshall County Commission, Consol Energy Inc., and Chesapeake Energy Inc. Gold sponsors are Walmart, Savage Heavy Highway Corp., and the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition. Silver sponsors are Project Best, Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Wheeling Office Supply, Ohio Valley Health Services & Education Corp. and the Moundsville Rotary Club. Additional sponsorship has been provided by Bayer Heritage Federal Credit Union, Grisell Funeral Homes & Crematory, New Horizons Consulting, Bridgeport Equipment and Tool, and Jerry's Mini Mart.

Library to host special performance of Holden Puppets

The Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library will be opening for a brief time on New Year's Eve to host the amazing We're Holden Puppets from Pittsburgh. A holiday extravaganza, "Elves Fantoccini," is hosted by the charming Lawrence Elk and features ice skaters, dancing elves, a polar bear and the

one and only Elfs. Celebrate the season with delightful fun for all ages.

The show will be held at the library, at 700 Fifth Street, in Moundsville, from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 31. It's the library's contribution to the communitywide



Winter Carnival. The library itself is closed for the New Year's Eve holiday but the doors will be open from 1:15 -2:30 p.m. for the event. No library business will be transacted that day.

For more information, please call the library at (304) 845-6911.

Wendy's Winter Blast Fun Run

Register today for Winter Blast Kids' Fun Run

This year, there will be something big to kick off the Marshall County Winter Carnival: The Wendy's Winter Blast Kids' Fun Run.

The fun run is a 100-yard dash open to children 9 years old and under.

You can register early by filling out the registration to the right and mailing it to the Marshall County FRN. The entry fee is \$10 per child, which includes a special race T-shirt, medal for participation and five tickets for Winter Carnival events.

If you register early, you can guarantee your spot and be eligible to win a prize. There will be a special registration day on Monday, Dec. 28, at six local Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers in Ohio and West Virginia.

Tables will be set up at the following Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers Restaurants:

- Moundsville: 505 Lafayette Ave.
- Benwood: 201 Marshall St.
- Elm Grove: 12 Crossing Mall

FREE TICKET Winter Carnival

Present this coupon for a free ticket for an event at the Winter Carnival, Dec. 31, 2009, on Jefferson Avenue in Moundsville. Coupon must be surrendered. No cash/credit value. Coupon Code: NEWS12 ZIP CODE: _____ #:

- 100-yard dash for children 9 years old and under.
- Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009, at noon
- Jefferson Avenue in Moundsville.
- \$10 entry fee, which includes a T-shirt, medal and five tickets for Winter Carnival events.
- Register early to guarantee your spot and be eligible to win a prize.

Please make checks payable to
Marshall County FRN
324 7th St., Moundsville, WV 26041



Shirt Size:
Youth XS Youth S Youth M Youth L Adult Small
Parent's Name: _____
Child's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Child's Age as of Dec. 31, 2009: _____ Sex: ___ M ___ F
\$10 Per Child Entry Fee: _____
Donation: _____
Total: _____

www.marshallcountyfrn.com (304) 845-3300

Road.

- Martins Ferry, Ohio: 402 Aetna St.
- St. Clairsville, Ohio: 50707 Valley Frontage Road.
- New Martinsville: 380 North State Route 2.

Registration the day of the event will begin at 11 a.m. inside Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies, 227 Jefferson Ave.

Primary Aim LLC owns 29 of the restaurants in Ohio and West Virginia and

is the event sponsor of the Wendy's Winter Blast Kids Fun Run.









There will be a live remote from the Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers in Moundsville on WOVK-FM from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28. The remote is scheduled to include interviews with Tim Thompson, chief operating officer of Primary Aim LLC, and Stacie Dei, executive director of the Marshall County Family Resource Network.

Space Still Available on Winter Carnival Ad Board









We are asking businesses and organizations to purchase a spot on our advertising board to show your support for the Marshall County Winter Carnival. Each business card-sized (3.5" x 2") spot costs \$35 and provides you with an opportunity to market your business to the more than 1,500 people expected to attend. Please mail your check to the Marshall County Family Resource Network, 324 7th St., Moundsville WV 26041 to reserve a space on the ad board. Spots must be purchased by Dec. 11 to be included in the ad board.

For more information, contact Stacie Dei at marshallcountyfrn@comcast.net or call her at (304) 845-3300.

Winter Carnival Events

Event		Location	Time	Age
Free tours of the West Virginia Penitentiary, 818 Jefferson Ave.		818 Jefferson Ave.	11 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Everyone
Wendy's Winter Blast Kids' Fun Run for ages 9 and under. \$10 registration per child includes t-shirt and medal. Register at local Wendy's, ahead of time at marshallcountyfrn.com or day of event at 11 a.m.		Jefferson Avenue and Second Street	12 p.m.	9 and under
Magician Ray will delight all ages with his friendly style of magic.		Jefferson Avenue	12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
Bob the Juggler does it all: He walks on stilts, he juggles various objects and he will dazzle you with his unique skills.		Jefferson Avenue	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
A caricature artist will be on hand to provide customized portraits on high-quality paper suitable for framing.		Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies, 227 Jefferson Ave.	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
Balloon-A-Tic creates comical balloon animals and sculptures, plus other fanciful balloon creations.		Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies, 227 Jefferson Ave.	12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
Professional artist providing elaborate designs with non-toxic brightly colored paints and glitter.		Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies, 227 Jefferson Ave.	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
Native American crafts for children with Andrea Keller from the Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex.		Remke Helping Hands Medical Supplies, 227 Jefferson Ave.	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children

Winter Carnival Events

Event		Location	Time	Age
Disk jockey spinning tunes for children and adults.		Jefferson Avenue and Fifth Street	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Everyone
“We’re Holden Puppets” holiday extravangza, “Elves Fantoccini.” Free.		Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library, 700 Fifth St.	1:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.	Everyone
Wood carvers will be amazing carnivalgoers with their skill and artistry. Sponsored by Green Acres Power Sports.		Third Street	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Everyone
You will enjoy creating memories in this photo booth, sponsored by the Healthy Families Coalition.		245 Jefferson Ave.	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Everyone
Marshall County Firefighters Association Fire Safety Smokehouse teaches children fire safety.		Jefferson Avenue	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
Children’s inflatables featuring T-ball, basketball, skee ball and Euro Bungee.		Jefferson Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Children
“Spike” from the Wheeling Nailers and Wendy from Wendy’s Old Fashioned Hamburgers in Moundsville.		Jefferson Avenue	12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	Children
Free child admission with \$3 adult admission, 10%-30% off gift shop items. Toy demonstration every hour in 1950s room.		15 Second St.	11 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Everyone
Fireworks by Presutti Inc.		All over Moundsville	5:30 p.m.	Everyone

More than 100 turn out for Sticker Shock

More than 100 Marshall County youth and adults participated in the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition's Project Sticker Shock on Veterans Day.

Project Sticker Shock is an event designed to eliminate the sales of alcohol to adults who purchase alcohol for youth. Youth volunteers, with the help of their adult chaperones, place specially made stickers on alcoholic beverages to remind customers that it's illegal to purchase or provide alcohol to minors.

The effort included youth from Bishop Donahue Catholic High School, Cameron High School, John Marshall High School and Sherrard Middle School. Among the youth groups involved were Cameron High School's SADD chapter, the Young Panthers and the Marshall County 4-H Club.

The youth and adults visited retailers all over Marshall County, then attended a wrap-up "fiesta" at the Acapulco Restaurant in Moundsville.

The Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition and the Marshall County FRN thank the Marshall County retailers who graciously allowed the youth and adults to place their stickers on the beer inventory. The retailers were Butch's Corner in Sherrard; Dragon Mart in Cameron; Greg's



Markets in Moundsville and Cameron; Gumby's in Moundsville and Glen Dale; Jerry's Mini Mart in McMechen; Kroger in Moundsville and Benwood; Limestone General Store in Limestone; Rite Aid in Benwood; Smith Oil in Moundsville; Wal-Mart in Moundsville and Speedway in Glen Dale.

The Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition and Project Sticker Shock are funded by a SPF SIG Prevention Implementation Grant from the WV Governor's Office and the WV Partnership to Promote Community Well-Being. The grant is made possible by the State of West Virginia's receipt of



Volunteers conducted Project Sticker Shock all over Marshall County, including Kroger, left, and Rite Aid in Benwood.

a federal Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) from the

U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

Anti-Drug Coalition Brings Resource Day to John Marshall HS

On Nov. 20, approximately 650 students at John Marshall High School attended a Resource Day hosted by the Marshall County Anti-Drug Coalition. The event was chaired by Shelly Behm, a member of the Anti-Drug Coalition and a Safe and Drug Free Schools counselor/prevention specialist at Marshall County Schools.

Behm had surveyed health students earlier this year to see what topics they

might want to learn about, and geared the Resource Day around the students' requests.

Adolescent Health Initiative Region VI coordinator Dara Pond presented a program on health and wellness for teenagers.

The resource fair included information booths from Gold Khourey & Turak's "Booze Cruise and You Lose" plus the Marshall County Anti-Drug

Coalition, the Adolescent Health Initiative, the YWCA Wheeling and the Family Violence Prevention Program, Fox Run, Rural Health and Bullying/Tobacco Prevention and Cessation.

"This is our first Resource Fair here at JM," said Behm. "I think that this is a program that we would like to expand upon and repeat. I feel that the students received much valuable information."

Marshall County Calendar

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Seventh Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting, 4:30-6 p.m., Gold, Kourey and Turak, 510 Tomlinson Ave., Moundsville. The festivities will begin with Santa Claus escorted through town on a fire engine "sleigh," arriving at 4:30 p.m. The OPUS Music Club will sing carols from 5-5:30 p.m., and the official tree lighting will happen around 5:30 p.m. Hot chocolate, cider and cookies are provided by Jayne's Cookie Jar.

Christmas Sing-A-Long with visit from Santa Claus, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Moundsville-Marshall County Public Library, 700 Fifth St., Moundsville. Great fun for kids of all ages, family and friends. Join us singing carols and holiday tunes with music provided by Wesley Howsare. Santa Claus will visit too.

Saturday, Dec. 12

Holiday Cookie Sale, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Warwood Grade School, Wheeling. WV Birth to Three, Region One RAU is sponsoring a Holiday Cookie Sale to raise funds for its lending library and outreach materials for families. Dozen cookies, \$2.50; 4 dozen, \$10; 8 dozen, \$20. For more information or to volunteer to bake cookies, please call (800) 619-5697 or (304) 214-5775.

Wednesday, Dec. 16

Second Annual Cookies 'n' Crafts with Santa, Grand Vue Park, Moundsville. There will be free cookies donated by Ponderosa and free hot chocolate. Santa will be available for pictures taken by Snapshotz Photography. Following pictures, children will join in on a fun Christmas craft. All children having their picture taken or participating in the craft activity must be pre-registered by 5 p.m., Dec. 14. To have your picture taken and make a Christmas craft is only \$5 per child. For further information, please call (304) 845-9810 x. 402 or email dstocklask@grandvuepark.com.

Monday, Dec. 28

Live Remote and Registration for Wendy's Winter Blast Kids Fun Run, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers, Route 2, Moundsville. Live remote from WOVK-FM. Registration at Wendy's in Benwood, Elm Grove, Martins Ferry, New Martinsville and St. Clairsville as well.

Thursday, Dec. 31

Marshall County Winter Carnival, Noon to 5 p.m, Jefferson Avenue, downtown Moundsville. Begins with Wendy's Winter Blast Kids Fun Run, registration 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., race begins promptly at noon. Winter Carnival features live music, children's entertainers, inflatable rides, costumed characters, wood carvers and more. The Carnival will provide a fun, alcohol-free atmosphere in which families can celebrate the holiday. A spectacular fireworks display will draw the event to a close at dusk.

Gold, Kourey & Turak tree lighting Dec. 9

Gold, Kourey & Turak would like to invite the community to join them at the 7th Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at their offices located at 510 Tomlinson Ave. in Moundsville.

The evening's festivities will begin with the Moundsville City Fire Department escorting Santa Claus through town on his fire engine "sleigh" to the offices of Gold, Kourey & Turak. Santa will arrive around 4:30 p.m. and will be available for free photos with children until 6:00 p.m.

Bob Gray Photography will be on hand to take the photos.

The OPUS Music Club will sing your favorite Christmas carols from 5 - 5:30 p.m., and the official tree lighting will occur around 5:30 p.m.. This year's beautiful tree was generously donated by Wierzbicki Christmas Tree Farm in Lansing, Ohio. Hot chocolate, cider, and cookies provided by Jayne's Cookie Jar will be served in the lobby throughout the

evening.

Special thanks to Don McCormick for helping make everyone's wishes come true, and to Stanley Blankenship and members of the Marshall County Family Resource Network for their assistance with the tree.

"Christmas trees mean many things to different people," says attorney Kathleen Fantazzi. "To us at Gold, Kourey & Turak the Christmas tree symbolizes Community. Once again we welcome our neighbors and friends to join us in lighting the community's Christmas tree. The tree illuminates the neighborhood with a warm magical glow during the holiday season sending our thanks for their kindness and support over the years."

For more information on the tree lighting ceremony, please contact Gold, Kourey & Turak at (304) 845-9750. To inquire about a Christmas tree from the Wierzbicki Christmas Tree Farm, please call (740) 635-0141.

Autism workshop set Dec. 14

WV Birth to Three and the Marshall County Schools presents "7 Effective Strategies for Early Intervention Programs" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14.

The training is free and will be held at the Marshall County Board of Education, 2700 Fourth St., Moundsville.