



The Armstrong Beat

Photo: Randy Quinn

A newsletter of the Armstrong

County Tourist Bureau

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Come. Play! Discover...

The Heart of Western
Pennsylvania!

Armstrong County
Tourist Bureau

125 Market Street
Kittanning PA 16201
724-543-4003
armstrongcounty.com



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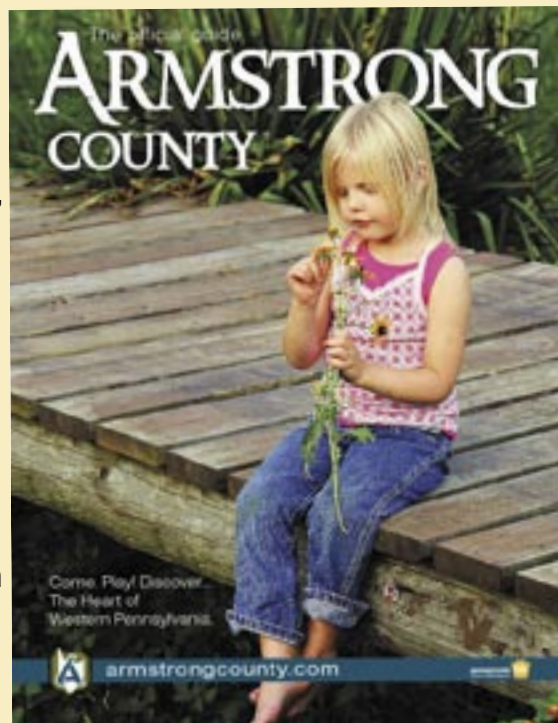
Coming Soon...

The 2008 Official Guide to Armstrong County will be arriving soon, featuring all 199 members of the Tourist Bureau!

Whether you're looking for Events, Water Adventures, The Great Outdoors, Hiking & Biking Trails, Golfing & Country Clubs, Historical Sites, Shopping, Restaurants, Lodging, Resources & Services, or just a friendly map of Armstrong County—it's in this Guide.

Designed by KH2 Design, (better known to us as Kim Hanna-Hall from Freeport) this guide is exploding with awesome Armstrong County photographs captured by Randy Quinn (see feature member section) and Joanie Haidle (from Dayton, PA) who are so generous to share their talent with the Tourist Bureau.

You'll be amazed at what is waiting for you to enjoy in Armstrong County. Come. Play! Discover... The Heart of Western Pennsylvania.



Available early
March - look for an
announcement in the mail!

Sights Set High

At our membership meeting/luncheon in 2007, Tourist Bureau director, Jessica Coil set an aggressive goal of 200 members for 2008. At that time, we boasted 188 members. Many new members came to us in the few months since, and although not quite there, we are currently promoting **199** member businesses. It's still early in 2008 and we are confident that we'll reach our goal yet. Help us out by spreading the word about the many member benefits and low cost for great exposure! If you need a reminder of the membership benefits, just visit our website (ArmstrongCounty.com), or feel free to call or stop by the office. We're open 8am-4:30pm M-F.

'08 HomeXpo Show a Huge Success

The Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills Mall was the place to be February 8, 9, & 10th. It was the new location for the Strong-Land Chamber of Commerce HOMEXPO.

This show has grown over the past five years to be one of the largest free to the public indoor shows in southwestern PA. Winter cold weather and sub zero wind chill didn't keep people away. Mall records showed over 50,000 people came to browse, shop, eat or just relax and enjoy.

The Armstrong County Tourist Bureau was one of over 150 vendors that participated. The crowd was eager for information for coming events this Spring and Summer and places to visit. If you are a member of the Tourist Bureau, your information was at our booth.

Thank-you to our members and Board of Directors who volunteered their time to work at our booth or donated an item for our "Armstrong County Basket" we gave away at the end of the show.

SUSAN PLOWMAN from Lower Burrell was the lucky winner of the basket.
CONGRATULATIONS Susan!

Feature Member Randy Quinn Photography

Kittanning, PA 16201

(724) 545-1039

Website:
www.RandyQuinnPhotography.com

Randy Quinn picked up a camera about five years ago, and has never put it down since. His first camera was a Cannon Power Shot Pro 90. He started photographing wildlife, which has led into wedding and family photography as well. Randy even makes his own picture frames, something his dad used to do.

Randy's heart lies in nature photography. Every year, Randy takes his annual vacation in the mountains of Tennessee, where alone in the Smokey Mountains, he communes with both God and nature, and gets some of his favorite photographs.

He also recently visited the Aviary. After viewing some of his work, they asked if they could sell some of his photographs at their gift shop. Randy's work has been published in the following magazines: Pennsylvania Blue Bird Society, Birds & Blooms, Pennsylvania Outdoors, Birders World Magazine, Photographer's Edge, and Pennsylvania Magazine. He also has photographs adorning the walls of the McDonalds at Franklin Village Mall and the Armstrong County Imaging Center.



"God shows His love to us everyday through the beauty of nature. The sad thing is, most of us are in such a hurry we never even see it."

-Randy Quinn

In addition, Randy is very generous to the Tourist Bureau with his photographs, which are found throughout our publications and in many of the advertisements placed in a number of publications throughout the region.

Randy's favorite subject by far is his one-year old daughter, Hannah. Randy married his wife Denise on October 3, 1998 and their precious Hannah Mae (named after both of her great-grandmothers) was born on February 12, 2007. Her first word was "dada", and she's already wrapped around his finger...her favorite toys are her picture books and she loves to feed the birds with daddy. She already has made her singing debut, along side Dad for a televised version of her favorite song "Jesus Loves Me."

Randy is employed as an Equipment Operator for PennDOT. He is available for weddings, senior pictures, baby pictures, family portraits, and pet portraits. For more information, please visit www.RandyQuinnPhotography.com.

Feature Member Keystone Bait & Tackle

1096 State Rt. 210
Shelocta, PA 15774

(724) 354-4422

Keystone Bait & Tackle is located along Rt. 210 in Shelocta, PA just one mile from SR 422. Purchased by Pam Warr in 2004, the store is a family owned and operated business. Growing up in the village of Shay (near Ford City) Pam now resides in Rural Valley, PA "Armstrong County".

Close to Keystone Lake and 2 campgrounds and within walking distance of Plumcreek (a stocked trout stream), Keystone Bait & Tackle is open year round with extended Spring and Summer hours for your convenience.

They offer artificial bait, live bait, tackle, rods, reels, lures, fishing licenses, propane and camping & boating supplies. When you are in the area stop in and take a look around. Check out the display of pictures of some of the local catches.

See if something "CATCHES" your eye.



Reminder:
Opening Day of Trout Season
April 12th



Welcome New Members!

Freeport Renaissance Association
Allegheny Ridge Corporation
Pony Farm Sporting Club
LogoWear Direct
Parks Township
Armstrong County Herb & Garden Group
FLAG, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Edgar P. Bruce
Happy Trails Equine Center
Old Springhouse Antiques/Farmhouse Fabrics
Montgomery Underground Winery
Leechburg Area Community Association
Olde Tyme Diner
Larry Smail Art
Mel's Pizzeria
Mama's Pizza & Soft Serve
www.BeautifulHomesites.com

If you would like to be considered as a feature member in the next issue of The Armstrong Beat, please contact Jessica Coil at the Tourist Bureau.

Destination Pennsylvania

Governor's
Conference on
Tourism May 4-6

The first ever Governor's Conference on Tourism will take place May 4-6, 2008 at the new Gettysburg Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg. A reception will be held at the new Gettysburg Visitors Center.

Conducted in cooperation with the PA Tourism Office, the Office of Community Affairs and Development and the Governor's Tourism Partnership, the summit will focus on preserving the distinctive character of Pennsylvania's communities while building economic development through cultural and place-based tourism.

The purpose of the summit, which will bring together key public and private stakeholders and industry experts, is to create a "blueprint for partnership" that will form the foundation for a master plan for sustainable tourism across Pennsylvania.

Municipal leaders engaged in tourism development are encouraged to attend.

Information, including conference registration and hotel reservations, is available at <http://destinationPA.visitPA.com>.

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Newsletter designed by
Kim Hanna Hall, KH2 Design

Need to get the Word Out?

We can help! (Members only benefits - contact us for details)

Newsletter Inserts - \$50 and 500 copies gets your message out to all Bureau members, all municipalities in Armstrong County, local elected officials, and many, many more businesses and organizations.

Display Window - Free for non-profits, \$25 for businesses. Available on a monthly basis - windows are LARGE, lighted, and carpeted.

Feature Member for Newsletter - FREE, just send us the info and a photo and we'll get you in - 2 members per issue are highlighted.

www.ArmstrongCounty.com

Calendar of Events - FREE, easy online submission.

Homepage News Items - FREE, send info and photo if possible. These typically run for 1-2 weeks.

Photo Gallery - FREE, easy online submission to the photo gallery.

About Our Organization

Established in 1963, the Armstrong County Tourist Bureau is the official tourism promotion agency for Armstrong County. Our mission is to promote tourism, tourism development, and the interests of the travel and hospitality industries of our region, thereby contributing to the economic growth and well-being of the area. The Armstrong County Tourist Bureau is a non-profit, membership organization.