FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP — While her 10 employees work to snip and buzz hair on many of the shop’s 450 clients per week, Marrianne Bleakney says her business continues to grow — perhaps too quickly for its home in Franklin Plaza since 2000.

“For being here 18 years and starting out with only two employees when we first opened, we have grown quite a bit,” says Bleakney, manager of a Famous Hair location that has eight work stations. “I would love one day to move to a bigger location because we are just too busy for our small little location.”

Like Famous Hair, the Ellwood City Area Chamber

Love is E.C.!

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

Piper Hiser, 7, of Franklin Township, hugs her new unicorn, which she won in a beanbag toss and named Lily, while attending National Night Out on Aug. 7 at Franklin Plaza with her father, Bobby Kettler.

Don’t miss Chef, Wine & Ale

325 expected, organizer says

By William V. Foley
For The Chamber

Don’t miss updates on facebook.com/EllwoodCityChamber/
Famous Hair creates buzz!

Michael Covert, of Ellwood City, gets a haircut Aug. 19 from Deanna Weisz, of Franklin Township, at Famous Hair in Franklin Plaza, Franklin Township. Famous Hair in August became a member of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce.
ELLWOOD CITY — The story behind the growth of an Ellwood City Storytelling Festival that drew a crowd of 60 in its first year and up to 1,000 in many of its next 15 reflects the variety and talent of characters whose live performances capture the attention of a generation prone to be entertained mostly by digital devices, organizer Nancy Wallace says.

“This is live entertainment,” Wallace says. “It isn’t something from YouTube or a video game. Children are lying in real grass listening to and watching storytellers who are awesome.”

The 17th Ellwood City Storytelling Festival, scheduled for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 15 in Ewing Park, includes repeat performances on Folino Stage by Tim Hartman, Bill Pate, Michael Perry and the debut of Starla the Storyteller. The Ellwood City Community Enrichment festival was organized by Wallace, Veronica Pacella, director of the Ellwood City Area Public Library; and by Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Raymond Santillo and Executive Assistant Jillian Court.

“Community engagement and children are synonymous in my mind,” Santillo said. “Add storytelling, and children’s eyes will be glued to the stage. It’s a perfect mix in Ewing Park, with the outdoors, children and stories. I love seeing families together for events.”

The Storytelling Festival will also feature horse and trolley rides, free balloon animals and face painting “all under those spectacular trees in Ewing Park,” Wallace said. “This kind of entertainment has delighted children for hundreds of years. There’s a current that connects us all and elicits pleasure in simple things.”

“IT'S A PERFECT MIX”

That is the Storytelling Festival in a nutshell.”

“AWE AND GLEE”

The talents of Hartman, an actor, storyteller and cartoonist, “are many and varied,” Wallace says. “He has performed on Broadway and appeared in several movies. We are incredibly lucky to have him on our own stage.”

Pate is a singer, songwriter and musician who combines his talents to blend music and storytelling “in a unique and innovative way,” Wallace says, adding that he “follows the development of the drum in story and myth.”

A founding member of the Pittsburgh Show Offs, Perry attended Ringling Bros. and Barnum & See Story, Page 6
The generosity of our membership is tremendous. This is our main fundraiser for our office and the community treats us well. We are so appreciative.

Don’t miss chef event!

Guests can visit, among other stations, a gyro bar; and taste a baked raspberry brie wheel; taste pumpkin, apple and chocolate fudge cake; homemade falafel with cucumber sauce; quiche; donuts; shrimp cocktail and hummus; seasonal coffees; homemade ice creams; cookies; mini cupcakes; cannolis, wines and craft beers.

“A really fun evening”

The Chef, Wine and Ale features plush surroundings, food and sipping, and great baskets,” said Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce. “A really fun evening.”

Businesses expected to participate are Al’s Pizza, Connoquenessing Country Club, Custom Cakes by Jodie, Debbie’s Delicious Desserts, Farm to Fork Catering, H & S Diner & Gyro Shop, Katy’s Homestyle Bakery, Kimmel’s Bakery, Log Cabin Inn, Mary Jo’s Catering, National Grind, Palate, Shakespeare’s, Smokin’ Dave’s BBQ, Sweet Caroline’s, The Sweet Shop, Tin Man Sweets and Z Pub & Diner. Beverage suppliers include Pete’s Uptown, Croaker’s Kegs & Corks and Koehler Brewing.


“The generosity of our membership is tremendous,” Santillo said. “This is our main fundraiser for our office and the community treats us well. We are so appreciative.”
ELLWOOD CITY – The fourth Ellwood City Fall Fest and Car Cruise will not just draw thousands to Lawrence Avenue on Sept. 29, Caroline Golmic says, but will represents an invaluable opportunity “for people from all over to experience the quaintness of Ellwood City.”

It’s our opportunity to attract future customers to our businesses and future homeowners to our real estate,” said Golmic, past president of an Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce that is hosting the event, set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Our committee finds great joy in seeing Lawrence Avenue full of families,” she said, “and making memories. I want to live in a town that has events like The Fall Fest & Car Cruise.”

“One of my most favorite days”

Golmic and Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, served as co-chairs of a 2018 event that, Golmic says, “is getting closer and closer to running on auto-pilot. Though we are always looking at ways to grow and attract, the basic blueprint of the day is pretty solid.”

Among the performances scheduled are Wine & Spirit Band, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Ellwood City Community Plaza; Hannah Hamilton’s kindergarten class at 2 p.m.; and Snarflunkle, from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ellwood City Fall Festival and Car Cruise, said Raymond Santillo, executive director of the Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce, represents “fun, in capital letters. It is such a pleasant atmosphere. I love the old cars and families mixed together on Lawrence Avenue. It is one of my most favorite days.”

Up to 15,000 visitors have attended the past three Ellwood City Fall Festival and Car Cruises, Golmic said, adding that she believes the event – with “beautiful cars, food and craft vendors, live music and local retail businesses, all the fixings for a memorable day” – draws the most people to Lawrence Avenue each year.

“Thankfully, we’ve been blessed with great weather each year,” she said. “That is a major factor to the turnout of the day.”
The Ellwood City Area Chamber of Commerce
"Small Town, Big Living"

Story, From Page 3

Bailey Clown College, Wallace says. “As well as being a natural at storytelling, Mike is skilled at unicycling, juggling, playing a ukulele and just being an all-around funny guy.”

Misty Mator, an Ellwood City native who performs as Starla the Storyteller, “spent a lot of time at the library when she was in high school,” Wallace says. “Her dream was always to write fantasy, but when she went to college she found herself drawn in another direction, storytelling. She dresses as a gypsy and I’m anxious to hear her speak.”

Perry will serve as master of ceremonies for a festival that also features Alan Irvine and Curt and Sharon Savage.

Irvine, “a well-known Pittsburgh storyteller and professor,” Wallace says, will be telling fairytales and legends where music and dance enabled the characters to accomplish great deeds. The Louisiana native’s southern accent “adds to his delivery,” Wallace says.

The Savages will perform campfire songs, Wallace says, adding that “Curt is a roller-skating mailman and Sharon is the young adult librarian at New Castle Library.”

Among the vendors will be Katy’s Homestyle Bakery and an ice cream truck, Wallace says.

The story of the 2018 festival, Wallace says, will again be seeing in the eyes of children “awe and glee. I watch them elbow each other on the grass and point to make sure their friends have seen what they have just witnessed.”

And when the 6-foot-5 Hartman “stalks” Santillo in front of the children like a giant bird.

“And they get up,” Wallace says, “and try to mimic him.”

Sponsors for Storytelling Festival are Katy’s Homestyle Bakery, Ellwood City Forge/Ellwood Group, WesBanco, Lawrence County commissioners, Blank’s Concrete, Health South Sewickley, the Hoyt Foundation and the Caroline Knox Memorial Fund.

Bookmark Sept. 15!

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL MAY DRAW 1,000 TO EWING PARK!

Famous Hair creates buzz!

Famous, From Page 2

and seminars provide support. Our weekly happenings that we distribute on Fridays help our membership see everything for the next week. Our website and monthly newsletters help keep our membership engaged.”

Bleakney says she is learning about the great benefits of membership in the chamber, “but most importantly, I just want to make people aware of the great place we have here, and getting our name out there is a great start. I believe the chamber will help with that.”

Her clients – men, women and children – seek her shop’s help with cuts, coloring, perms, facial waxing, conditioning treatments and “specialty styles for special events,” Bleakney said.

“We also have a great selection of haircare products for the customers so they can achieve the same look at home,” she said.

Bleakney, an Ellport native and Ellwood City resident, essentially never left home to acquire and share her talents. She graduated in 1997 from the Lawrence County Career and Technical Center in New Castle, where she studied cosmetology for three years.

She has worked for Famous Hair for 20 years, 18 of them manager at the Franklin Plaza location.

Like similar businesses in the Ellwood City area, “We strive to provide good customer service,” she said, adding that “We do offer being open seven days a week, with later evening hours, more convenient parking and a fuller staff to accommodate guest flow.”

Famous Hair is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Her goal, she says, “is to be able to make Ellwood City and area residents beautiful for years to come.”
Packing the plaza!

2nd Avenue Project performs Aug. 11 in the Ellwood City Community Plaza. Among the songs the group performed were Chicago’s “Saturday in the Park,” Blood, Sweat & Tears’ “You Make Me So Very Happy” and the Doobie Brothers’ “Long Train Running.”

2018 CONCERT SPONSORS
- Blank Concrete and Supply
- Lori Dunham and Connie MacDonald
- ECF/EGI
- Katy’s Homestyle Bakery
- Carole Kinney
- Lawrence County commissioners
- Municipal Women’s Club
- Blanche A. Novak
- Nancy Pietrandrea
- Don and Karen Ries
- WesBanco Bank
- Women of Fair International Inc.
- Wurtemburg Presbyterian Church

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Special thank-you
- Ellwood City Borough
- Hoyt Foundation
- Caroline Knox Memorial Fund
National Night Out!

Top photo: Sherri Swany, of Ellwood City, takes a photograph of her son, Aedan, 2, with the Pirate Parrot at National Night Out on Aug. 7 at Franklin Plaza, Franklin Township. Middle photo: Camry Wisor, 5, of Fombell, receives a balloon from Marlene Dudo, of Center Township, Beaver County. Bottom photo: Calvin Sinclair, 8, of North Sewickley Township, son of Brian Sinclair, tries to dunk Angel Zilka, of Fombell.