



LBPA TODAY

Information Update for Lansdowne Business and Professional Association Members

Member News in Brief

LBPA Members Garner Honors as "People's Picks"

The LBPA would like to congratulate the following member businesses for their selection in the News of Delaware County's "Peoples' Picks" The following winners were named People's Picks for these categories:

- Bonnie's Wondergardens** - Lawn & Garden
- Mar-Win Shop N Bag** - Grocery Store
- Todaro's Music** - Music Store
- Noel Schmidt Furniture/Choice Seating Gallery** - Furniture Store
- Lansdowne Skate Shop** - Skate Shop

McNitt Marketing Helping St. Philomena's

Diane McNitt of McNitt Marketing is on the marketing committee for St. Philomena's school, and has come up with some unique ways to raise funds and supplies. Collect your empty ink jet, laser cartridges, fax and copier cartridges and Diane will donate them to the school. St. Philomena receives \$4 for each empty inkjet cartridge and up to \$12 for certain laser/fax/copier cartridges. Diane is also collecting materials to donate to the art department. Send her old magazines, puzzle pieces, buttons, fabric swatches, baskets, computer paper, and old posters - help nurture a creative spirit! For more information, Diane can be reached at 610-623-5556.

Other Member Tidbits...

Bill Mooney (**Creative Media Communications**) has a studio and all of the equipment to make industrial and commercial video and sound productions. He's looking for a larger facility with high ceilings. He prefers Lansdowne - anybody got any ideas? Call 610-626-9440.

Ken & Don (**Lansdowne Station Café**) are planning on opening their Café for dinner, starting in the Spring. Want a bite to eat after five? You won't have to go far to get it. New hours will be 7 to 7.

Kelly Bliss (**KellyBliss.com**) just launched her new website - a fabulous resource for large people living in a small world. Looking for that last minute gift? Check out her new gift category - no matter what size you are!.

Tim James (Massage Therapist at **Lansdowne Family Chiropractic**) is offering a holiday special: Between Dec. 15-Jan. 15, buy two one-hour massage sessions at \$60 per hour, get a third hour free! Call 610-626-5661.

LBPA Meetings

January: Dinner Meeting

When: January 13, 2003

6:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Where: Twentieth Century Club

Details: Dinner starts promptly at 7:15; Program to start at 8 p.m

Speaker: Linda Clark (Lynda Clark Productions) will discuss effective networking strategies and techniques - including those you can use on the opposite gender.

February: Member Appreciation Meeting

When: February 11, 2003

6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Where: Drexelbrook Meeting and Convention Center

Details: Networking starting at 6 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting. Dinner to be served at 7:30. Cash bar. Put your new networking skills to use as we will treat you and your guest to a gourmet quality dinner. You won't want to miss this meeting!

Your LBPA Officers

PRESIDENT

Fran Wayne(610) 259-6370

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Hoff(610) 623-2091

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Pat Arone.....(610) 626-7320

SECRETARY

Kelly Bliss(610) 394-2547

TREASURER

Rose Marie Redheffer.....(610) 583-3000

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"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

— Hamilton Wright Mabi

Member Spotlight: Conroy Classic Trains

Bill Conroy had spent his entire life as a model train enthusiast. As a child growing up in East Lansdowne, his father had introduced him to the hobby, and the passion for the miniature cars and rails grew deeper over the years.

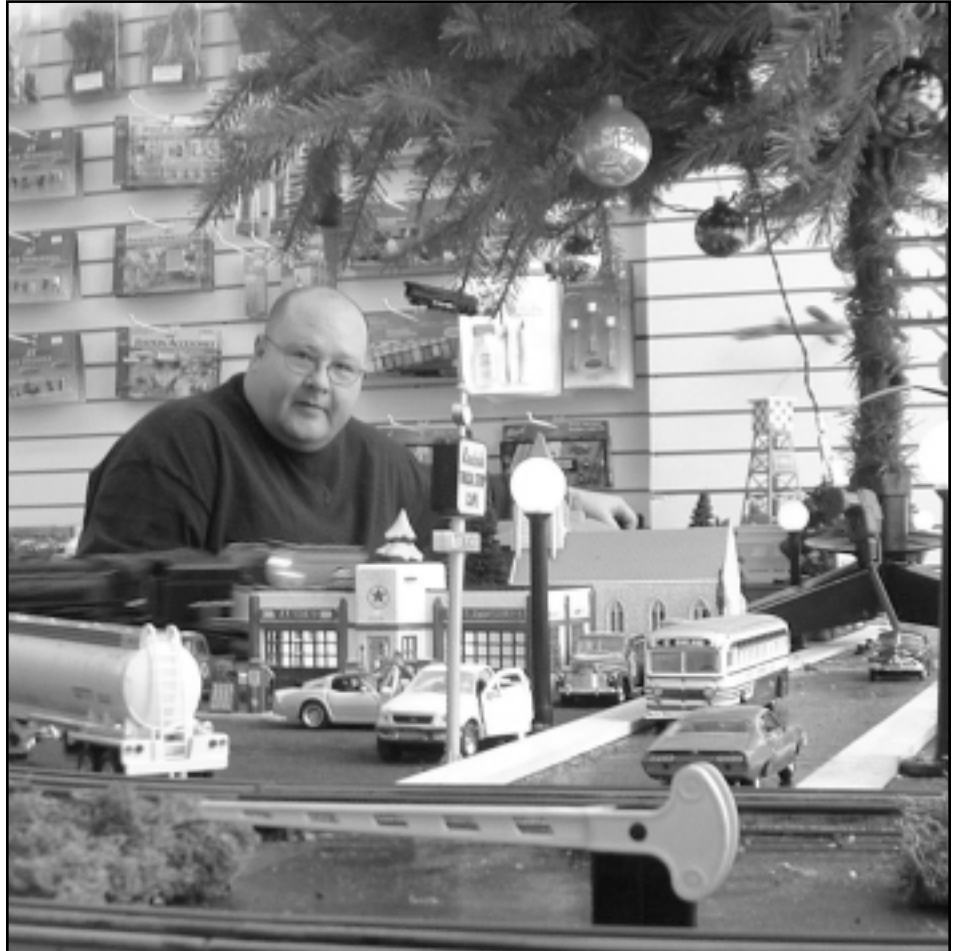
When Bill recently had the opportunity to purchase a large inventory of model train parts, he decided it was time to turn his hobby into a business. Already quite skilled at restoring and repairing "O" scale trains, Bill chose to open his own store where customers could come for service, sales, repair and the comraderie of fellow train enthusiasts.

Now Bill has his own store, Conroy Classic Trains, at 26 North Lansdowne Avenue. Fittingly, the store features a classic holiday train set, complete with Christmas tree, taking up the entire front display window.

"This is where I've always wanted to be," Bill says. "When I saw the giant display window right in the front, I knew this was the place for the store."

Bill had already ventured into the business side of the hobby a bit by selling trains and parts on eBay. And he has done plenty of restorations and repairs on his own during the past 10 years. Yet, he says, nothing compares to the personal touch that comes when a customer walks into the store looking for a part or a product.

Luckily, he managed to open the doors of his store just in time for the holiday season, a time of year that he has traditionally been quite busy with repairs. "Now people just come right in with a set or an old box of trains that they want to set up. Usually I am able get them cleaned up and in good



Bill Conroy mans the controls at Conroy Classic Trains, which he opened at 26 North Lansdowne Avenue last month.

working order - at a reasonable price."

Bill also says that he gets plenty of foot traffic from people who just want to check out his collection or talk about their own experience in the hobby. "It's a hobby with a lot of history," he says. "And I'm hoping to help share it with younger people. As of now, the hobby is just not promoted enough. If we can get younger people involved, then we can keep it going for another 100 years."

Bill and his father, Bill Sr., spend a lot of time adding to their inventory by

searching flea markets, estate sales, and auctions. "This is a great area for trains. In this part of the country, there's plenty of trains sitting in boxes in peoples attics and garages."

"Right now we want to get a foothold in the repair business. It's been going great so far. This is a great area, and a great street to be on," he says.

Conroy Classic Trains is open from 11 am until 9 pm Monday through Saturday, and 11 am to 7 pm on Sundays. For more information, call 610-626-7029.