



# Around Town

Monthly Newsletter of the

NEWTOWN SQUARE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 23, NO. 4

EDITOR: KEN TANIS

MAY 2005

## May Luncheon

### PROGRAM

Berwind Property Group

Thursday, May 12, 2005

12:00 Noon

Charlotte's Restaurant

West Chester Pike

\$15.00

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching!

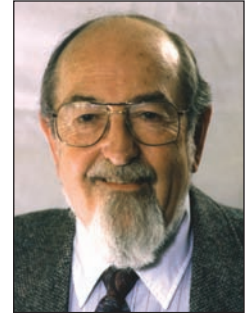
The deadline for the Dick Pound NSB&PA Scholarship is May 13, 2005! For an application, call Dick Pound at 610-742-1880 or Steve Mostardi at 610-356-8035.



NSB&PA Vice President, Paul Facenda of Facenda Photography (on right) and member Jeff Audet of Chapel Printing review a previous issue of the NSB&PA Directory which will be published this December. (See enclosed insert.)

## President's Corner

The May meeting will be held on May 12th at 12 noon at Charlotte's and will feature John Forde and Bob Dwyer of the **Berwind Property Group, LTD.**



This is the developer who has purchased approximately 150 acres of the **SAP property**, bounded by Routes 3 and 252, and are in the beginning stages of seeking Township approval.

This will be a general review of what they are hoping to develop on the property. However, because they have not progressed very far into the approval process, **specific details** cannot be included in the presentation. But I think it is extremely important that we, of the NSB&PA, have a general knowledge of the project and be mindful of the possible future impact on our businesses and area.

The NSB&PA will monitor the procedural meetings with the Township and keep you posted. The Berwind Developers have also agreed to speak to our group again later this year when more details can be divulged.

We are also keeping an eye on the proposed **Business Registration and associated fees in Newtown Township**, which we will discuss at the May meeting.

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Dick Pound, President  
610.742.1880 (cell)  
16oz@comcast.net



## *Member Spotlight*

**Alexander Cleaners**  
3529 West Chester Pike  
610-356-0346

The fine quality of life within the Newtown Square business community can be attributed in a large part to the tradition of long standing established businesses. Examples of this fact along the north side of the Pike are names like MAB, Mackey, Hassis and Weinrich which are hallmarks of the landscape. **Alexander Cleaners** is another. Although the sign says that it was founded in 1957, the truth is that **Alexander Cleaners** is older than that.

Greg Shakarjian, the current affable owner of **Alexander Cleaners**, provided me with some of the early history. His family is Armenian and his ancestors personally experienced much of the painful history and the injustices suffered by his people. Greg's grandfather came to America with nothing more than the shirt on his back and the skill of a tailor. He found work in Philadelphia and learned the language and ways of his new land. By sheer grit he rose from his penniless beginning to the point that he was able to provide for his family. His son, George, was able to buy his own business which turned out to be **Alexander Cleaners** in Newtown Square. This purchase was made in 1957. This store became his life. The family lived above the store. In 1965 his untimely and early death placed the store in the hands of his wife. She managed the store for 10 years, then leased it for another 10 until Greg was ready to take over the business at age 24. Along with his partner and mentor Krikor Mardikian, Greg brought the business to the next level.

The cleaning business has changed in many ways since the early days. Solvent fumes were simply dispersed into the air. Today the sophisticated equipment required by the EPA and our general concern for a healthy environment, require that all solvents and fumes be recollected and contained so that nothing is emitted into the air. Greg says that his business is almost in two parts. The back half of the building is in fact a rather intricate factory and the front half is a people friendly retail business. And in order to keep up with the times, Greg has installed a new computer system that tracks all items brought into the store as well as keeping track of the new and growing pick-up and delivery business.

**Alexander Cleaners** will clean almost anything except maybe your dog. Furs, leather, all kinds of fabrics, etc are this business' forte. If it is something unusual, stop in and ask Greg for his advice. He will direct you to the person who can meet your need if he cannot. He handles many of the community needs such as the uniforms of the police department, the Marple Newtown band etc. As a matter of fact as I interviewed Greg, I noticed a Santa Claus outfit hanging on the rack. It seems to me that if **Alexander Cleaners** is good enough for Santa, it must be good enough for us. We are grateful to have such a fine business establishment in our midst.

And just in case one wonders what happens to those items that people fail to ever pick up from the cleaners, you will be pleased to know that Greg gives these to charity so that those in need can benefit from our forgetfulness. Greg also shows his support for the local business community by providing a 10% discount for all NSB&PA members.

*To be featured in this newsletter, contact Ken Tanis at 610.353.6522 ext 283. Your business must have served Newtown Square for 10 years or more.*

## *Welcome New Members!*

- **A-Plus Mini Market**  
3607 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square
- **Newtown Square Gift Gallery**, Attn: Bridgette,  
3576 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square
- **DNB First Bank**, Linda D. Humphrey,  
3409 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square

### *NSB&PA Board Notes:*

- Approval was given for the layout and printing of a promotional piece about the upcoming **Community Map & Business Directory**.
- Approved expenditure of \$500 for an NSB&PA sign to be placed at the Newtown-Edgmont Little League field to support the youth program and increase our visibility in the Township.

## **2005 MEETING SCHEDULE**

**May 12, 2005** ~ Commercial  
Development Location:  
Charlotte's - 12:00 Noon

**June 9, 2005** ~ Scholarship  
presentation ~ Location:  
Casey's - Breakfast - 7:30 AM

**September 8, 2005** ~ Veterans  
Program ~ Location: TBD

**October 13, 2005** ~ Business  
Speaker ~  
Location: Casey's - Breakfast -  
7:30 AM

**December (date TBD)** ~  
Holiday Luncheon with Marple  
- Location: TBD

**January (date TBD)** ~  
Election and Forum ~  
Location: TBD

<b>President:</b>	<b>Dick Pound, Casey's</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Paul Facenda, Facenda Photography</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Paula McEvoy, Prudential, Fox Roach</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Ken Tanis, Delaware County Christian School</b>
<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Carol Audet, Chapel Printing</b>
	<b>Mike Calvello, MAB Paints</b>
	<b>Pete Crisanti, Casey's Trolleystop Restaurant</b>
	<b>Tim Drapeau, Susquehanna Patriot Bank</b>
	<b>John Custer, Jr., Esq.</b>
	<b>Sean Rinda, Sovereign Bank</b>
	<b>Steve Mostardi, Mostardi's Nursery</b>
	<b>Meg Shea, Long &amp; Foster Realtors</b>