

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew Returns

Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew is back! The event will be held on Saturday, July 15. This year's event features a Biking Scavenger Hunt from 2 to 4 p.m., where participants will ride their bicycles to stops along the trail in Oil City and take a photo at each spot. Bikers will get entered to win prizes for each place they stop. Then, from 4 to 7 p.m., will be the "Brew" portion of the event.

There are two ways to participate:

- Curbside Pickup (\$40): Pick up a package full of craft beers from local breweries in a cooler tote bag, along with fun swag from brewers and sponsors.
- VIP Ticket (\$50): Includes the package listed above PLUS a tasting of various craft beers with Scierka's Tavern while enjoying live music. This year we are offering additional VIP tickets!

Tickets go on sale June 3. Get your ticket before July 1 and save \$5. The beer activities will take place in the courtyard of the Venango Chamber.

Bike 'n Brew attendees can only bike or only brew, or "Bike AND THEN Brew"! It's up to you! Get ready for a fun day of activities, local beer, prizes, live music, and more.

We are currently seeking event sponsors and brewery sponsors. To get your tickets or sponsor, visit ohfbikenbrew.org.



"The Future of Venango Area Business!"



FLEX Feature:

Oil Creek State Park with Ivy Kuberry

Tell us about your position at Oil Creek State Park.

I work for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources out of Oil Creek State Park. This department is responsible for maintaining and protecting 124 state parks, managing 2.2 million acres of state forest land, providing information on the state's ecological and geologic resources, and establishing community conservation partnerships.

What is your role at the Park?

I am the Environmental Education Specialist at Oil Creek. I provide educational and interpretive programs on the environment and local history for schools, private groups,

and the public. I also provide outdoor recreation programming from kayaking to archery, maintain our social media accounts, and act as the park's volunteer coordinator.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I love getting to talk to people and share information about the park's cultural and natural resources. I think there is a lot more going on here than most people realize, and watching them get excited and make connections to the land is very rewarding.

What would surprise people about the Park?

We have over 61 miles of hiking trails, a 9.7 mile bike trail, and a network of cross-country ski trails. The park is around 7,300 acres, which is much larger than most people think.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about Oil Creek State Park?

Petroleum Centre is a ghost town that once stood near the park office. During the 1860's it was the center of the world's oil industry, and had a huge impact on turning the tide of the Civil War. The money that the federal government made in taxes on oil was enough to support the Union when funds were running dry.

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Upcoming Events

June 3 - Bike 'n Brew Poster Raid - Oil City & Franklin

Help us spread the word about Bike 'n Brew at our Poster Raid on June 3! We'll meet up at the Venango Chamber in Oil City or 4 Season Cycle in Franklin to pick up flyers, then visit local businesses to distribute them.

We'll meet afterwards at Trails to Ales in Franklin for a social.

If you plan to come, please email flex@venangochamber.org and let them know where you will be meeting to pick up flyers.



Member Profile: Amanda Barker



Amanda Barker is the Branch Manager for the Cooperstown Public Library, which operates under the Oil Region Library Association.

Amanda obtained her bachelor's in History from PennWest Clarion, and then went on to earn a master's in Library Science, also from PennWest Clarion.

When asked about her achievements, Amanda referenced getting her master's degree, successfully navigating her branch through the pandemic, and being recognized as one of the nominees for FLEX Presents Young Professional of the Year in 2021.

Amanda's future goals include establishing the library as a community center, not just as a place for books, and she would also like to gain fluency in the German language.

Her hobbies include reading, video games, cooking, watching horror movies, and amateur biology.

Amanda appreciates hiking, trails, and community events in Venango County and says her favorite thing about working here has been establishing connections with her patrons at the library.

Welcome to FLEX, Amanda!

Volunteering with FLEX

Looking to share or get involved with volunteer opportunities? Share them on our FLEX Facebook Group and connect with other individuals wanting to make a difference.

Don't forget to snap some photos while volunteering this summer and share them online with the hashtag #flexinthecommunity. Let's showcase all the incredible ways we are making a positive impact together!



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Event Photos: First Friday Lunch and Leadership Graduates

FLEX members enjoyed lunch at El Toro in May. Thanks to everyone who attended!

For the Summer season, we're putting First Friday Lunches on hold - but don't worry, they'll be back in action this Fall.



Congratulations to the 8 FLEX members who graduated from Leadership Venango!

FLEX members who were part of the Class of 2023 include: Heather Hondel, Daniel Newbury, Amanda Barber, Christian Snyder, Amanda Barker, Seth Herrick, Kate Whitling, and Bridey Keller. Find more about the class in the cover story of this newsletter.

June Events & Meetings:

Marketing Committee: Thursday, June 1 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Bike n Brew Poster Raid: Saturday, June 3 • 6 p.m. • Franklin & Oil City

Events & Fundraising Committee: Monday, June 12 • 5:30 p.m. • Zoom

FLEX Monthly Meeting: Monday, June 26 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Find more event details on our Facebook page or in our Weekly Update email.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Join today!

Interested in joining?

Email the FLEX Membership Committee Chair Joslyn Dechant at joslyn.dechant@gmail.com or join online: VenangoFLEX.org.

FLEX MISSION: FLEX represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning ourselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development, and networking.

CONNECT WITH US: VenangoFLEX.org • flex@venangochamber.org

