



News Release

WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

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SBA District Director Hosts “Be Sweet on Small Business” Tour

CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — The U.S. Small Business Administration’s West Virginia District Director, Karen Friel toured two small businesses in Bridgeport who received SBA loan guarantees to start their small business.

The first stop was at Oliverio’s Florist, owned and operated by Milda Oliverio. Oliverio’s has been open for 39 years and received their first SBA guaranteed loan through Bridgeport Bank over 35 years ago to purchase the infamous pink building where they are currently housed. A year later they received another SBA guaranteed loan through WesBanco, who took over Bridgeport Bank, to add an addition to the top of the building.

“It’s amazing to see the progression of what a lender taking a chance on a small business and a SBA loan-guarantee can do for a community,” states Friel.

The second stop was at Meagher’s Irish Pub, locally owned and operated by Tim & Jade Meagher. Meagher’s Irish Pub is new to the community and opened only nine months ago. With the help of an SBA loan guarantee through MVB Bank, the Meagher’s were able to make their dream of building an Irish Pub come true.

“We would still be talking about the idea of the pub if it wasn’t for MVB and the SBA,” states Tim and Jade Meagher.

“It’s important for the community to support small businesses and the holidays are a good time to remind everyone to shop local,” states Friel. “More than 95% of all employers in the state are small – Meagher’s employs 50 and Oliverio’s employs five – we need to show them our support.”

Joining Friel for the tours included: Robert L. Greer, Bridgeport Mayor; Luann Bush, Vice President – WesBanco and Karen Myers Braun, Branch Center Manager - WesBanco; Sam Gallo, Market President-MVB Bank (Central) and Kathy Wagner, Harrison County Chamber of Commerce.

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L to R: Karen Myers Braun, Branch Center Manager – WesBanco; Robert L. Greer, Bridgeport Mayor; Milda Oliverio, Owner; Karen Friel, SBA District Director; Luann Bush, Vice President – WesBanco



Karen Friel, SBA District Director; Jade Meagher, Owner; Tim Meagher, Owner; Sam Gallo, Market President-MVB Bank (Central); Robert L. Greer, Bridgeport Mayor

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