

# GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

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January 2006

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## President's Article

With the New Year upon us, I trust everyone had a fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year. I truly wish your joy and excitement continue through 2006 and may it be infectious.

Have you made a resolution for this year? If you have not, I have one or two for you to try. Tell someone thank you. "Thanks" for a job well done. "Thanks" for being a friend. "Thanks" for serving. Or simply, "thanks for holding the door." Appreciation: a pat on the back or a heartfelt thank you is inexpensive yet well received. Give it a try.

How about the lost art of being cordial? Try a simple and polite salutation when passing, not just co-workers or friends, but strangers also. That's right - a greeting to a complete stranger. Acknowledge them; maybe even splurge and offer a smile. Once again, an inexpensive, kind treatment of friends and strangers that will offer rewards in return. You may be that one person that brightens an otherwise dismal day for someone.

*Mark Sullivan*

## New Members

- ◆ Rescued Treasures
  - ◆ Titon Energy
- Welcome!*

## Get Well Quick

Marie Rigdon, CURVES

## Community Calendar Sponsors

A hearty THANKS to **Irving Materials Inc.** They will be the 2006 Community Calendar sponsor. Be sure to list any upcoming events at [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) on the IMI Community Calendar and please tell others to do so. Thanks Rick - your support is appreciated!

## Message from Our Members

We've missed seeing Marie Rigdon at the lunches, so we stopped in to see her. Marie has been under the weather but CURVES continues to be "stepping to the beat". Curves is running a special now. It costs \$35 to sign up and that also entitles you to a month FREE. From that time on, the cost is \$29 a month (with a one year contract). There are a variety of options available for membership. You can pay month to month, sign a one-year contract, or pay annually. Interested in working off those holiday pounds? See Marie Rigdon at Curves (765) 674-7477.

### Interested in becoming more involved in the Gas City Area Chamber?

On May 1, the Board of Directors will have three, possibly four, vacancies. The Board of Directors determines who is authorized to sign on the Chamber's behalf (i.e. notes, receipts, acceptance, endorsements, checks, releases, contracts, etc.). The Board makes rules and regulations for conducting Chamber business, as it deems wise and proper. It has the right to fill all vacancies occurring amongst directors, officers or agents. The Board of Directors has control and management of the property and affairs of the Chamber. It is the responsibility of each board member to regularly attend monthly Board of Directors meetings.

If interested in serving on the Board, please contact the Chamber or e-mail [gascity@comteck.com](mailto:gascity@comteck.com). Nominations will be presented at the annual meeting in April and a vote will be taken.

### Business Highlight

**Community Children's Academy** is located at 100 N. 10th Street in Gas City. They are open Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Academy programs are licensed, regulated, and curriculums are age/development appropriate. They are a unique childcare learning center designed to focus on the safety and specific needs of each child. The Academy provides a Christian atmosphere, promoting respect for God, others, and learning, which in turn promotes social and behavioral development. Community Children's Academy accepts infants from 6 weeks old, toddlers (12-24 months) and preschoolers (3-5 years). The school age programs include before and/or after school care, transportation to and from selected schools and summer activities for 5-12 year old children. The children are provided with a hot and nutritious lunch. Snacks consist of milk or juice and at least one of the following: fruit, raw veggies, bread, sandwiches or cereal products. Parents are welcome to visit the Academy at any time. If you wish to discuss childcare, please visit or call (765) 674-1769.

*Correction: December's newsletter stated Bridges of Health was open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5:00-8:00 PM. Those times are incorrect. Bridges of Health is open Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5-8 p.m. We apologize for the error.*

### Director's Luncheon

Fifty-five gathered at Eastview Wesleyan Church on December 21 for a GREAT meal and two very interesting presentations. SHANE KAHKOLA, **Basic Systems USA**, gave a power point presentation of their worldwide travels and what they do when they are not in the office (next door to the Chamber). Basic Systems is a service oriented computer automation company, specializing in IT networking, data collection and process controls for business and industry. They can provide a fast and effective system tailored to your needs around the office, the plant, or the world. They have a knowledgeable team to address hardware issues, program interface or custom software programming for those special needs. Call them at (765) 674-4822.

STEVE LYONS, **Titon Energy**, gave a demonstration of the technology Titon applies to cut costs related to industry power factor correction. Steve will be visiting local businesses in the near future to discuss what Titon Energy offers. At least nine members attended for the first time; we encourage them to return.

**Director's Luncheon** *(continued)*

DR. HENRY SMITH, IWU President, was introduced and spoke briefly about the upgrades IWU has made in their media.

MARK GALENSKI, **Pre-paid Legal Services** and Chamber President-Elect, advised members that starting January 2006, the opportunity to be a luncheon speaker will cost \$25 (includes one meal). Mark said it is such a good opportunity that he would schedule any month that someone else did not and explained why. There was, however, another member that offered to double that cost for Mark not to speak. Visit our luncheons. The camaraderie cannot be beat, nor can the food.

**Do You Know?**

**Pastor Lyle Ewing** is now the Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Grant County located at 601 S. Main Street in Jonesboro. Pastor Ewing is from Ossian and excited about his new level of service within the church. Pastor Ewing will commute as he has a daughter who is a senior and a son who is a junior in Ossian.

**Marion General Hospital** is going to add a landing pad for helicopters. Helicopters will be able to land for emergency patients, reducing the time for immediate care. Groundbreaking was Monday the 21st, and construction completion is anticipated to be in June.

The new thrift store, **Rescued Treasures**, located at 210 E. Main, had their grand opening and the shop was fully decorated in holiday cheer. Tiny Felver was the lucky door prize winner of a beautiful table and chairs! Stop by and meet Paula Gallaway, Store Manager.

Ever wonder where Santa has his laundry done? June Shields tells children visiting **AA Rents** that the Santa suits hanging there are Santa's laundry. What a wonderful idea, June! If you are having a special event coming up, you should stop and see everything AA Rents has to offer. I liked the chocolate fountain: a free flowing fountain of chocolate that small, bite-sized fruits can be dipped into. Mmmmmm!

**2006 CARE Awards**

Well over 7,300 registered nonprofit organizations in Northeast Indiana provide invaluable services and assistance to those in need. These organizations truly make our region a better place to live. To recognize these extraordinary individuals and nonprofit organizations, the 2006 CARE Awards were created. Presented by **Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc.**, a regional full service certified public accounting and business consulting firm with offices in Fort Wayne, Marion and Huntington, and the United Way of Allen County, in conjunction with the Fort Wayne Business Journal, the awards serve as an opportunity to recognize and give back to those individuals and organizations that give unselfishly to our community.

Awards will be given out in four categories, **Charity, Altruism, Responsible Financial Management, and Executive Excellence**, at a luncheon ceremony at the Memorial Coliseum on February 22, 2006. A panel of well-known community and business leaders has been assembled to judge the awards. The top winner in each category will receive \$1,000 in unrestricted funds for their organization. Nominations are now open and can be filled out online. Go to [www.dwdcpa.com](http://www.dwdcpa.com) or [www.fwbj.com](http://www.fwbj.com) to fill out a nomination form or call (260) 423-2414 for more information. Nominations will remain open until January 4, 2006.

**A Tip for You**

Can you afford to drink and drive? Just tip your waitress 14 grand and get behind the wheel. On New Year's Eve, if you are tempted to have one for the road and then get behind the wheel, why not just tip your waitress \$14,000, call a cab, and save yourself a lot of grief? If you can't afford that tip, you can't afford to drive drunk either. Besides the social and professional stigma of a drunk driving conviction, the cost in dollars of a drunk driving conviction is staggering.

Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD ) estimates the cost of a drunk driving conviction to be \$10,000. But in some states the cost is much higher. Alaska estimates the cost to be \$22,000. In Illinois, a conviction includes these costs: \$4,500 for high risk insurance for three years; at least \$2,000 in legal fees; \$3,350 in court costs; \$4,000 in income loss due to four weeks in jail; \$250 for a substance abuse class; \$560 for a formal hearing to reinstate your driver's license. That doesn't count medical treatment, compensatory damages, or the horrific possibility of causing another person injury or death. So please, don't drink and drive.

**From The Desk of Penny Garrett**

The holidays are over but the warmth extended by Chamber members remains. I received a glimpse (taste) of the love the children at Community Children's Academy must be given via a plate of home-made goodies. If you have children and have never visited this facility, do so. Thanks Sheila for making the Gas City Area a location for your business.

The walkway of lights was a huge success again this year. My husband and I served as volunteers (greeting and handing out candy) and it was a pleasure wishing one and all a Merry Christmas. Susan Bournique and the Salin Bank VP, Kelley Leix, stopped by with treats, and Manpower supplied the holiday coffee and vessels. Truly, folks, visitors are very welcome - you really don't have to bring treats (but thank you very much). If you stopped in and are not mentioned, it is because the Notes had to go to press in the middle of the month. The holidays are over but the spirit of giving goes on all year long in the Gas City Area through your donations to We Care.

We live and work in a great city folks! Thanks for all you do to make that true. HAPPY NEW YEAR FOLKS - it is going to be a great one.