

# GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

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January 2007

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## President's Letter

Commitment is a word that holds a lot of different values to a lot of different people. I am the old fashioned type; if you make a pledge or promise, I expect you to uphold it in short order. Recently, with Penny incurring a long illness, the Executive Committee's commitment to the Chamber was tested. I hope that the general membership saw little or no change in our daily activities. I believe the committee stepped up and made sure the Chamber kept marching forward. A special thanks goes to Celeste for stepping into Penny's shoes for a few weeks and to Penny herself for accepting and understanding the quick but tough decisions that were made on behalf of the Chamber and in her absence.

As members, I trust you realize that your board and all the committees are made up of volunteers who keep busy schedules much as you do. In recognizing this fact, I would like to thank you in advance for helping these people fulfill their commitments to this Chamber and to you.

*Mark Sullivan*

*Celeste Draher is a new part-time employee of the Gas City Area Chamber. She has been a volunteer for the Chamber since September 2005. Celeste came to us from Washington State with 11 years of Chamber experience. She has experience in all aspects of running a Chamber including bookkeeping and taxes. Celeste began her Chamber experience in the tourism department and was the Chamber's Director of Operation when she resigned in June of 2005. She came to Gas City with her husband and daughter to be near family.*

## New Members

- ◆ Starbucks Coffee
- ◆ US Post Office (Gas City)

## Important Dates

Visit [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) to link to the online Community Calendar.

- 1/4/07 ..... Board Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - **Cracker Barrel**
- 1/11/07 ..... Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - Chamber Office
- 1/16/07 ..... Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. - **Edward Jones** Conference Room - Call Chamber Office 674.7545 by January 12 for reservations.
- 1/17/07 ..... Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon - **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (Guaranteed reservations required by 1/15. Call 674-7545 & leave message to make reservation.)
- 1/22/07 ..... Newsletter Article Submission Deadline
- 1/22-26/07 ..... The 12th Annual Scholarship Telesale from 6:30-10:30 p.m.  
(Phillippe Performing Arts Center)

### IWU Telesales

The Indiana telesales is scheduled for January 22-26, 2007. The Preview Show is at 6:00 p.m. and the Live Auction is from 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. and it is available on Bright House, Comcast, Insight Communications, Oak Hill Cable – Channel 51 and Swayzee Broadband. It is broadcast live from the Phillippe Performing Arts Center.

Donations are being accepted by Indiana Wesleyan for their annual Scholarship Telesale. IWU invites, encourages, you to get involved in the excitement of the week by donating an item. They ask that items be new and have a minimum value of \$100. Prizes have ranged from pizza to corrective eye surgery and truckloads of concrete. A category is also set up for Antiques and Collectibles. For receipt purposes, it is requested that a description and documentation of the appraised value be provided.

You may choose to sponsor an event or the evening, a super board or one of many other ways. Call (765) 677-2106 to talk about sponsorship.

### New Year's Resolution?

Going to make a New Year's resolution? Why not make one of your resolutions to become more involved in your community and your Chamber. The Chamber offers the following opportunities for you to get involved and/or market your business:

Director's Luncheon - Attend regularly. Lunch is only \$6 and the networking is phenomenal. Schedule a Presentation and have a captive audience for the minimal cost of \$25 (includes one meal).

Join a Committee:

- ◆ Annual Meeting
- ◆ Annual Golf Outing
- ◆ Business Mentoring
- ◆ Concerts In The Park
- ◆ Membership Committee
- ◆ Nominating Committee
- ◆ Image Award Committee

We welcome your input and suggestions.

### Director's Luncheon

**Eastview Wesleyan Church** welcomed 81 Chamber members to the December luncheon. A ham dinner with baked potato, choice of peas or corn casserole with bread, drink and dessert choice was served. Mark Seigelin, **Edward Jones Investment** counselor, presided in the absence of President Mark Sullivan. The **Indiana Blood Center** was presented their membership plaque. Jason Phillips invited everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to donate blood following the meeting at the bloodmobile located on the property. He reminded us that a pint of blood is a precious gift and could save three people in need.

Gas City Mayor H. Larry Leach greeted the membership and thanked the members for their loyalty to the community. The Mayor said he had taken the liberty to informally change the city's slogan from the 'City With a Future' to 'Gas City - a City with No Limits.' He spoke of the close relationship the City has with the Chamber and said the Chamber was very much needed in Gas City.

Bill Sparks, **Gilead Ministries**, was the primary speaker and he addressed what Gilead Ministries was all about and how people could help or receive services. It was very interesting the many ways Gilead lends a hand to those in need. Bill said that over 1000 treatments are given a month in Grant County alone. He said Gilead builds relationships with cancer patients with no strings attached... bears a burden with them and brings the message of hope to them.

**Eastview Wesleyan** was adorned with beautiful Poinsettias which the Eastview Ladies gave as door prizes. Alice Shiveley, Chamber Volunteer, handcrafted a Christmas ornament which was raffled and the proceeds went to We Care. We thank Mark Siegelin, from **Edward Jones**, for his generosity in purchasing the item and Alice for contributing the item in the Chamber's name.

Make your reservation now for the luncheon on January 7. Call the office (765) 674-7545 and leave a message that you want to make a guaranteed reservation.

### United Way of Grant County

No donation is too small or too large according to Mike McMillan, Director of the **United Way of Grant County**. If you have not made a donation and still wish to do so, please call the United Way office at 662-9811. The campaign is currently at 51% or \$510,000 near reaching their \$1,000,000 goal.

### Office Hours

The Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce has been open with limited hours due to the extended illness of Executive Director Penny Garrett. Welcome back Penny!

Office hours are as follows:

Monday: 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon (Manned by Volunteers After Noon)

Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Blood Drive

The **Indiana Blood Center** bloodmobile was in Gas City on Wednesday, December 20. Jason Phillips attended the luncheon and coordinated the blood drive. We spoke with Jason following the luncheon and he said, "I would like to thank everyone who participated in donating blood Wednesday after the meeting. We collected 7 helpful units that can help save 21 lives! The Indiana Blood Center is looking forward to a great 2007 serving the Gas City community. Any business or organization willing to help by sponsoring a blood drive can contact Jason Phillips, Indiana Blood Center."

Thanks Again,  
*Jason Phillips*  
*Indiana Blood Center*  
(765) 642-4547

**From the Desk of Penny Garrett**

First of all, let me say that last month's newsletter was brought to you compliments of Anita M. Rice. Anita is a new Chamber Office Volunteer, and thought it a shame that the newsletter not get published because I was ill. She knows the important of the newsletter and she knows that it is the Chamber's link to each of you every month. Anita stepped up to the plate and took on the project vowing to "do her best" and she did a grand job. I personally want to say thanks and if you enjoyed getting the publication, let her know the next time you see her or e-mail her at [diplomat@comteck.com](mailto:diplomat@comteck.com).

2006 has been a great year!!! I marvel at the community's growth. Think about it... all the new businesses this year:

- ◆ Barb's Bits & Bytes
- ◆ Blu 49
- ◆ China Buffet
- ◆ Cycles Unlimited
- ◆ Exit 59 Church
- ◆ Fish 'N More
- ◆ Gas City Victory Lanes
- ◆ Grant County Event Center
- ◆ Mississinewa Management, Inc.
- ◆ Movie Gallery
- ◆ Next Level Communication
- ◆ Rescued Treasures
- ◆ Ride & Leather
- ◆ Sophie's Ice Cream Deluxe
- ◆ Starbucks
- ◆ The Primitive Inn
- ◆ Tomorrows Angels, LLC
- ◆ Wal-Mart DC

Many other businesses expanded; others added more employees or remodeled. It is exciting to see our local merchants grow and welcome new businesses. The Office has fielded numerous calls, e-mails and visits from people interested in relocating to our community. It gives me pride to tell others what a great place this is to live, work and shop. Thank you one and all for your dedication and service to the community and the Chamber. It is awesome!