

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

April 2007

Please route this newsletter to the other staff in your business to keep them up-to-date on services, functions and programs available to all employees of our member companies!

Have you had changes or improvements in your business? Have you received an award, reached a milestone or accomplished additional training? We want to know so we can share these things with your Chamber partners. Call, FAX, E-mail or send information to the Chamber office.

President's Letter

Let me take this opportunity to give my thanks to the members of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce. Each and every one of you is an example of what makes a great community. As members of the community and particularly members of the Chamber, you are always volunteering your goodwill and leadership by example. This Chamber has grown and continues to grow and strengthen because of its members. My personal thanks to the members of the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons and committee members, office volunteers and staff for their personal dedication to me and the Chamber during this past year. Once again, I have enjoyed being your leader for yet another term and appreciate your loyalty, support, partnership and many friendships. May we remain steadfast in our motto "Building our Community...Building our home!"

Mark Sullivan

New Members

- ◆ **H&R Block**
- ◆ **New Horizons Youth Ministries, Inc.**

Important Dates

Visit www.gascity.com to link to the online Community Calendar.

- 04/05/07 Board Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. – **Chamber Office**
- 04/12/07 Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 04/17/07 Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. – **Edward Jones** Conference Room – Call the Chamber Office 674-7545 for reservation.
- 04/22/07 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline
- 04/24/07 15th Annual Membership Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. – **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (Pre-paid reservations required NLT April 13)

Community Image Award 2007 – Nominations Please!

Sponsors: **Salin Bank & Trust Company** and **Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service**

Co-Sponsors: **Mutual Federal Savings Bank** and **Edward Jones**

Celebrate the business leaders in the Gas City Area by recommending them to receive an Image

Award. No big write-up is necessary; just tell us briefly why you think they should receive an award. Leaders should be recognized, should be appreciated – please help us do so. A nomination form is on our website www.gascity.com and a part of this newsletter. A committee of chamber members selects image award recipients from those nominated. The awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting on April 24, 2007. Please join us.

The month of April celebrates National Volunteer Week and the theme this year is 'Inspire by Example.'

The Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce is a full-time, full-service Chamber to members made possible by the volunteers who provide office assistance. If you have a desire to become a part of a growing, enthusiastic team that makes a difference in the community, call the Chamber office 674-7545 and speak to Penny.

Cancer Services of Grant County

March 6, 2007, Wendy Noe the program director from the Indianapolis Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation made a visit to Marion. The Foundation has supported the BESS breast education screening and survival program for **Cancer Services of Grant County** for the past seven years. The BESS program provides free mammography and further diagnostics in a barrier free system to Grant County women. Her visit included meeting with the BESS staff at Cancer Services as well as with their Executive Director. Jennifer Lane-Riefler then took her on a tour to Progressive Cancer Care and MGH/PMI where she met our Medical oncologists, Radiation Oncologists and our Radiology staff.

For information regarding future events of Cancer Services of Grant County, call 664-6815.

- ◆ Cash for Cancer - Every Friday in May
- ◆ BESS Walk of Hope - May 4
- ◆ Parade of Bikes - June 1
- ◆ Golf Scramble - June 28

The Influence Index - Friday, May 11, 2007

The **Upland Chamber** is hosting a Maximum Impact Simulcast in the Upland Community Church, 439 W. Berry Ave., Upland (3 blocks west of Ivanhoe's).

The 2007 Maximum Impact Simulcast will deliver a remarkable day of leadership training. Join over 80,000 business leaders across North America for an unforgettable day of leadership development. Renowned athletes, authors and leadership experts from virtually every circle of influence are converging for the most compelling leadership event of the year. For more information on this event and to see if special discounts apply, call 765-998-2746 or e-mail office@uplandcc.org.

Bring Your Entire Team! Register Now! May 11, 2007 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (lunch included) Names like Mark Sanborn, John Maxwell, Tim Sanders, Bill Strickland, Herman Boone, Terry Bradshaw, Jackie Freiberg, Malcolm Gladwell and Ken Blanchard. Tickets \$50 - Special discounts may apply.

Director's Luncheon

Eastview Wesleyan Church hosted a lasagna dinner on March 21 for 57 Gas City Area Chamber members. Mark Sullivan, President presided and thanked the members for their support this past year. He completed the presidency term of Mark Galenski who resigned due to personal and business commitments. While Sullivan did not anticipate serving a two-year presidential term he remained steadfast to the mission and goals of the Chamber and was glad to see the continued growth in the Chamber and Gas City Area making Gas City a better community and home.

Michael Belcher, Community School of Arts Board of Director's President, was the guest speaker. He recapped the history of CSA, which began in 1995 in the basement of St. John's Lutheran Church with 5-6 individuals per class. In nine years the participation grew to 30-60 kids and CSA moved into a small rented space in Centrum Mall. CSA now has over 600 students, kids and adults, with instructions for virtually anything anyone is interested in learning and instructions and classes may be offered throughout the community. The one and only and largest fundraising event held by CSA is the Go Kart races to be held Friday, May 25...sponsor, spectator, compete...lots of fun! For more information call 662-6263 or visit www.csa-marion.com. NOTE: Watch for Susan Knapp driving for the Gas City Chamber!

NOTE: DECA students attend monthly Luncheons as Chamber guests and sponsorship is waning. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated. Average attendance is 10 students per luncheon during the school year or an approximate cost to the Chamber of \$360 per year.

Annual Chamber Dinner/Meeting Entertainment Features (April 24 @ 6 p.m. – Eastview Wesleyan Church)

Kelly Ailstock, 15th Annual Chamber Dinner/Meeting Chairperson announces the date, time and event highlights. Prepaid reservations are due to the Chamber no later than April 13. Single reservations are \$25 or a table of 8 for \$175. The annual meeting theme is "Find It Here." Entertainment featured will be:

The Ole Miss Singers comprised of 43 singers in grades 9 - 12. They perform several times throughout the year. Their repertoire consists of classical, jazz, pop, sacred, and contemporary choral music. They compete each year in the Indiana State School Music Association Organizational Contest. Last year they were awarded gold medals in both the performing and sight singing competitions at the highest level. They also have sung for many civic organizations and they sang the National Anthem for the grand opening of the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center here in Gas City. They are under the direction of Kathy Walters, who is in her 8th year of teaching at Mississinewa.

The Mossburg Strings is comprised of the oldest five of nine Mossburg children: Caleb (17), Aaron (15), Rachel (14), Jacob (13) and Jared (11). There are three younger brothers and a younger sister. They enjoy playing many different musical styles including classical, fiddling, oldies, patriotic and Christian. They perform in a variety of venues including churches, businesses, weddings, schools, reunions, dinner theaters and festivals. The Mossburg Strings have been Grand Champions and First Runner Up at the Indiana State Fair Youth Talent Competition, which typically begins with over 600 individuals. The children love to share God's gift of music with anyone who enjoys listening!

Chamber Officers Elected

Candace Eck, **Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc.** was elected at the March Board of Directors meeting by unanimous vote to serve as Treasurer on the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Candi is a former Chamber President (2004-2005) and is a CPA and Supervisor on the DWD Marion Office Team providing services in accounting, auditing, tax service, QuickBooks™ accounting software and Peachtree® accounting software. She graciously accepted to fill the vacancy when asked and was appointed by the President in February. The Chamber is glad to have Eck's service.

Scott Nicholson, **Mutual Federal Savings Bank** Branch Manager was elected unanimously to serve as the Vice-president by the Board of Directors at their March meeting. Scott was first elected to the Board in 2006 and chaired the Web-site/News Committee. Nicholson's term will become effective May 1.

Dues Invoices Will Be E-Mailed Or Faxed

The general operating expenses of the Chamber is financed through your membership dues. The amount of the membership dues varies based on the number of employees. Your invoice will indicate the number of employees on record for your business. Two part-time employees are counted as one full-time employee. If your current staffing level is not as indicated, please call the Chamber Office and we will be glad to tell you the appropriate membership rate.

Membership dues are payable annually. Statements will be mailed approximately the third week of April and will be for fiscal year 2007-2008 (May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008). If you do not receive an invoice (by snail mail, e-mail or fax), please contact the Chamber (Phone 765-674-7545 or e-mail gascity@comteck.com). Accounts are delinquent 90 days after the due date (See Note Below).

By-laws excerpt: Members whose dues are more than ninety (90) days in arrears may be dropped from membership, after due notice, by the Board of Directors. Due notice will be the following: A letter sent to the member after said member is 45 days in arrears. A personal contact by a director of the board will be made after 75 days have elapsed and then the member will be dropped after 90 days in arrears (Rev. 10/02).

Spotlight

Mississinewa High School Partnership: April Dickey's high school Journalism students have partnered with the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce agreeing to contact area Chamber members and submit articles for publication in the Chamber Notes. Students, freshmen through senior grades, are using skills they are learning by making contact with area businesses, interviewing and writing "Business Spotlight" articles for publication. Following is a feature article submitted by Mississinewa High School.

Balloons, Flowers & Gifts

by Ryne Cunningham, MHS Journalism Student

Jeanna Jones has owned Balloons, Flowers, and Gifts at 102 W. Main St., Gas City for five years. "I always wanted to be my own boss and make my own money. Before, I worked at a bank and I was making the bankers' money", said Jones. "But I love owning my own business."

Jones' business is at the site of a former balloon store. She and her husband Bruce Jones have worked there for almost six years. In addition to the two of them, she has a full-time employee, and three

part-time employees. "I had no experience with balloons", Jones said, "but my friend did so she put me under her wing."

Jones has always had an interest in the business. "I've always liked crafts and making things and delivering the balloons," said Jones. The shop has undergone a name change recently. "Before I bought this establishment its name was Balloons and Toons. I kept the name for a couple of years and then got into flowers." Since she didn't want to spend a whole lot of money advertising, she just changed the name to Balloons, Flowers & Gifts.

Jones enjoys being a part of the community. "I love the community in Gas City," said Jones. "I like to support my local community; I've always been a local Gas City girl."

Bo's Auto Service

by Paul Smith, MHS Journalism Student

Bo Timmons owns an auto service shop located at 621 W. Main St. by the Gas City bridge. Timmons grew up in Marion and worked at local gas stations. "It was my dream growing up to work on cars," said Timmons. Timmons has two children, a boy and a girl. "Someday when I retire I'll pass the company to them," said Timmons. "Unless you have \$500,000 to buy it from me." That's the amount Timmons spent in starting Bo's Twin City Auto Service. "It was tough at the beginning, financially," said Timmons. Although he has several mechanics, two master technicians, and two service mechanics, Timmons helps with the work on the cars at the shop. "I do it all; I'm a working owner," said Timmons.

Timmons enjoys repairing cars and tuning them as well. "I really like building hotrods though," said Timmons. During the eight years he's had this business, Timmons has seen many technological advances, including scanners and digital imaging alignment systems. "Where would I be in 10 years?" asked Timmons, "seeing cars in the shop with hydrogen fuel cells, I guess."

DIPLOMATS welcome Caleb Crandall, **Mississinewa Management, Inc.** as their newest member and give thanks to Fran Cheney, **Good Neighbor Pharmacy**, and Nancy Hoover, **Associate Member**, who resigned their service. For information concerning membership or services of the Diplomats, contact Anita M. Rice, Diplomat Coordinator, ph. 674-7545.

So You Think You Know Everything?

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple.

Letter to the Editor

I would like to propose a "*KICK Off The Weekend*" on Thursday evenings in Gas City for businesses on Main Street. Think of lights, music, gardens and people of the community coming together to stroll Main Street and congregate in small groups here and there around sidewalk umbrella tables and chairs. Businesses not necessarily open for "business," but for promotion and bringing the community together, encouraging health (in walking and getting fresh air) and socializing (in getting the stay-at-homers out).

At **Hairbenders**, we have a garden and patio in back. If you don't have a garden, create one with potted plants in front of your business. Put fresh flowers and candles on your tables. If you can't stay open, leave your lights on and create an inviting window display. Make it special? I will have tables and

chairs in front encouraging strollers to stop and chat and watch the world go by. If you would like to join my business in this evening activity, start planning now. Give me a call if you are interested in sharing ideas and more specifics.

Sue Pattison, Hairbenders
121 West Main Street, Gas City
Phone 674-8133 or 674-8784

Spotlight on Social Security

Continued on next page...

Board of Directors 2006-2007

Officers

Mark Sullivan, President
Irving Materials, Inc.

Janet Blake, President-Elect
Next Level Communication

Susan Knapp, Vice-President
Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home

Candace Eck, Secretary-Treas.
Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc.

Members

Cheryl Baker
Mississinewa Valley Paving

Dennis Banks
STAR Financial Bank

Dr. Philip Catey
Catey Dentistry

Fran Cheney
Good Neighbor Pharmacy

Scott Nicholson
Mutual Federal Savings Bank

Michael Powell
Mississinewa School Admin

Denny Smith
2 B Personalized

Kelly Snyder
F. C. Tucker

Larry Terwillegar
Masonic Lodge #645

Executive Director

Penny A. Garrett



Spotlight on Social Security

February 2007

Saving Is a Big Part of Retirement Financial Planning



By: John Williams, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Some Americans were surprised to learn last month that today's workers aren't as diligent about saving as previous generations were.

For example, from the 1950s through the early 1980s, personal savings hovered between 6.6 and 11 percent of income. Since the early 1980s, however, personal savings steadily declined. Now the personal savings rate is at its lowest level since 1933. The Commerce Department reported in January that the savings rate fell to a minus 0.5 percent in 2006. This means that some Americans spent all of their income last year as well as some of their previous savings or increased borrowing.

How does saving relate to Social Security and retirement? According to most financial experts, you'll need at least 70 percent of your annual working income when you retire to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. For the average worker, Social Security will provide only about 40 percent of that amount. That means you would have a 30 percent gap to fill by savings or other means.

Most workers can reach this goal through contributions to their employers' 401(k) or 403(b) plans, pension plans, Individual Retirement Accounts or other savings and investments.

Of course, these numbers are just general guidelines. The percentage of pre-retirement earnings that a worker can count on from Social Security can vary greatly. That amount will depend on how much you earned and how many years you worked in jobs where you paid Social Security taxes. If you were married, your retirement financial goals also would be affected by the entitlement and expectations of your spouse to Social Security and other retirement benefits.

A convenient and handy way to see if your retirement savings plans are in your favor is by using Social Security's online Retirement Benefits Planner at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners>. You can plug in the numbers and get estimates of what you (and your spouse) can expect in terms of Social Security benefits – and what you need to come up with yourself by other means. And, of course, the earlier you start planning and saving for your retirement financial needs, the easier it will be.

For more information about Social Security, visit us at www.socialsecurity.gov.

John Williams is SSA's Public Affairs Specialist for East Central Indiana. You can contact him by e-mail at john.w.williams@ssa.gov



**Nomination Form: Community Image Awards 2007
Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce**

Sponsors:

Salin Bank & Trust Company
Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service
Edward Jones/Mutual Federal Savings Bank

I nominate _____ for the **Excellence in Business and/or Service Award**. This individual is an individual business/partnership/corporation or organization that has shown evidence of strong growth, demonstrated visions for their business or exemplified an attitude of service toward others. The nominee has demonstrated a willingness and history of going above and beyond the call of duty in their business or acts of service.

Reason for Nomination: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

I nominate _____ for the **Community Leadership Award**. This individual/business/group of individuals has consistently shown leadership in enhancing the image of this community. The nominee has demonstrated an ability and history of promoting a positive image for the Gas City/Jonesboro area.

Reason for Nomination: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Mail Form To: Gas City Area Chamber | 316 E. Main St. | Gas City, IN 46933

