

# GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

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May 2007

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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

Perhaps I better introduce myself, I'm Janet Blake, General Manager of Next Level Communications (home of Verizon and Centennial Wireless) and your 2007-2008 President. It has been my pleasure to be involved with the Gas City Area Chamber since 2004. The Chamber and the community welcomed me with open arms and many of you are my customers. For that, I thank you. I am also in the Kiwanis and serve as their President – what a treat! If I haven't had the opportunity to shake your hand yet, I hope I do this year. I want to congratulate the Image Award Winners and thank Salin Bank and Trust, Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service and Edward Jones/Mutual Federal Savings Bank for the sponsorship of these awards.

*Janet Blake*

## Important Dates

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

- 05/03/07 ..... Board Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. – **Chamber Office**
- 05/10/07 ..... Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. – **Chamber Office Conference Room**
- 05/15/07 ..... Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office Conference Room**  
Call the Chamber Office 674-7545 for reservation.
- 05/16/07 ..... Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon – **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (Guaranteed reservations required NLT May 11, 2007 – Call 674-7545 and leave message to make reservation.)
- 05/22/07 ..... Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

## Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Dinner Meeting & Award Banquet

The 15th Annual Chamber Dinner/Meeting was held April 24 at the Eastview Wesleyan Church. Kelly Ailstock, Annual Meeting Committee Chairperson and her committee of Janet Blake, Celeste Draher, Penny Garrett, Louis Rodriguez and Brenda Sullivan are to be commended for their accomplishments. The tables were decorated with goblets filled with red and white carnations adorned with a black top hat. Upon entering the room off in the distance on the far wall was a skyscape depicting the City of Gas City setting the mood for an enchanting evening. The *Ole Miss Singers*, dressed in black formal attire performed a repertoire of classical, jazz, pop, sacred and contemporary choral music.

Concluding the evening was *The Mossburg Strings* who performed a variety of musical styles including classical, fiddling, oldies and Christian. The theme "Find It Here" was significant throughout the evening honoring and recognizing businesses and individuals for their outstanding contributions. A highlight of the evening is presentation of the 2007 Image Awards in honoring Gas City's businesses.

Receiving the Excellence in Business/Service Award, sponsored by **Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service**, was Caleb Crandall. Caleb, an avid sports fan, graduated from Mississinewa High School and the University of Oklahoma. He began his career in Oklahoma but brought his talents back home (Gas City) in 2005 demonstrating his pride in his community. Caleb opened an accounting business in 2005 and expanded the services he offers to property management and mortgages. The Crandall family have purchased a couple of buildings on Main Street, and are restoring them 1892 condition with plans for them to house other businesses.

The Community Leadership Award, sponsored by **Salin Bank & Trust Company**, was presented to Jerry Long, **Gas City Historical Society** and his wife Carolyn who are dedicated to the preservation of Gas City history. They were recognized for their tireless journey of researching ways to save the old Gas City High School located in the 400 block of East South A Street resulting in a completed \$2 million restoration of 19 filled senior citizen one and two bedroom apartments. Without President Jerry Long, his support system and wife, Carolyn, we would have seen a vacant parking lot rather than a home to Gas City's most valuable treasures, our senior citizens, some of whom even attended school in the building.

The President's Award, sponsored by **Mutual Federal Savings Bank** and **Edward Jones**, was presented to Patty Chapman for her decades of service to the Gas City area. She has served for over 40 years on the Gas City Fireman's Auxiliary and started the annual food drive in the early 70's and still spends several days each year helping with the drive now known as "WE CARE." She has been a member of the Gas City Historical Society and is currently President. She has served as a curator at the museum since it opened. She has volunteered with the Grant County Cancer Services with fund raising and made home visits to comfort those afflicted with cancer. She is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, the Gas City Garfield Committee and Gas City Moose.

Tim Tedder, **T2Designs**, was recognized for his web-mastery services in creating and maintaining the [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) website. He received the first and possibly only 'Silver Mouse' Award to commemorate his contribution and the appreciation of the Chamber. Tim Tedder, T2Designs, was recognized for his web-mastery services in creating and maintaining the [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) website. He received the first and possibly only 'Silver Mouse' Award to commemorate his contribution and the appreciation of the Chamber.

### **Chamber Board of Directors Elected**

A special thank you goes to those Board of Directors that have served their terms: Thanks for your dedication and hard work Dennis Banks (**Star Financial Bank**), Cheryl Baker (**Mississinewa Valley Paving**) and Dr. Catey (**Catey Dentistry**). New members elected to the Board of Directors are Kelly Ailstock, **Renbarger Insurance & Financial Service**, Dawn Brown, *Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc.* and Nancy Bryant, **Gas City-Mill Twp. Library**.

**Volunteers** "Inspire By Example" and donate precious hours of their time to the chamber and/or their community. Chamber volunteers honored for their service included Anita Rice, Celeste Draher, Gwen Black, Joy Storey, Marilyn Brown, and Alice Shively. Gratitude baskets were presented to the regularly scheduled volunteers. Following is a list of merchants who contributed. We ask that you

please patronize these merchants who showed their appreciation for the value of volunteers: AAA Insurance, Abbey Carpet, Allstate Insurance/ Rusty Jack-Agent, American Legion #95, Blockbuster, China Buffet, Circle K, Cracker Barrel, Gas City Chamber of Commerce, Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Holiday Inn Express, IMI, Jackie's Family Restaurant, Kelly Ailstock, Mike Anderson Chevrolet, Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Services, Owen's Hardware, Penny Garrett, Primitive Inn, Renbarger Insurance, Star Financial Bank and Zurich Insurance.

### Special Thanks

Gavel Donation – Dave Huffman, **Marion School Employees FCU** and  
Refinishing Gavel – Dr. Philip Catey, **Catey Dentistry**  
Refurbishing of Ribbon Cutting Scissors – **Wal-Mart Distribution Center #7055**

### Other Event News

**7th Annual Walk of Hope – Friday, May 4th at 6:30 p.m.** Walk Start Time: 6:30 p.m. Walk-Day Registration and Pre-Walk Rally: 5:00-6:20 p.m. The BESS program provides free mammograms to underserved women in the Grant County Area. The program is funded in part through grants from the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the Avon Breast Care Fund and the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust. For more information about the free mammogram program or BESS Walk contact **Cancer Services of Grant County** at (765) 664-6815..

**WAL-MART Distribution Center #7055**, Gas City - “Helping Opportunity Meet Excellence” held their grand opening April 10 and provided facility tours and lunch to over 1200 invited guests. Honorable Mitch Daniels, Governor of Indiana and H. Larry Leach, Mayor of Gas City, were among many distinguished guests and Wal-Mart executives present. Distribution Center #7055 is committed to improving both the local community and environment. Gas City welcomes Wal-Mart and their associates to Gas City and the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home Bereavement Education Series** – Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home will present a series of free, educational presentations on issues of interest to bereaved or grieving people. Each program in the Bereavement Education Series will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Congregational Church, 1006 N. Western Avenue, Marion, Indiana.

- ◆ Tuesday, **May 15**, 2007 Understanding Your Grief  
Presenter, Dar Richardson
- ◆ Tuesday, **July 17**, 2007 – Parent Loss  
Presenter, Michael Handlin, LCSW and Bonnie Knuth, LSW
- ◆ Tuesday, **September 18**, 2007 – Memories That Heal  
Presenter, Ken Prather
- ◆ Tuesday, **November 20**, 2007 – Grief during Special Days and Holidays  
Presenter, Jeanne Sporre, BSN, Bereavement Counselor

Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home is a 104-year old, non-profit, community-based agency that provides end-of-life care for the patient and support for the family. The hospice team includes a medical director, nurses, home health aides, social workers, spiritual care coordinators, bereavement counselors

and volunteers – who provide care in either the patient’s home, in a long-term care facility or in the agency’s 11-bed in-patient Hospice Home in Fort Wayne. The agency serves residents in Grant County and adjoining locations. For more information please contact Lauren Zwirn, MSW, Bereavement Coordinator with Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home at (765) 668-0885 or e-mail to vnurse@inday.rr.com.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Community's Children Academy Manager Loves Her Job by Shannon Smith**

Erica Hensley is the manager of the **Community’s Children Academy** on 10th Street in Gas City. "We have kids from infants to 12 year olds," said Hensley.

The Community’s Children Academy has been providing quality childcare to the Gas City community for seven years and currently has 83 children. "We are a learning program. We have art activities and learning activities. We offer developmentally appropriate activities for young children," said Hensley.

There is more education involved than a high school diploma. "You need a high school diploma and a Child Development Associate," said Hensley.

Hensley enjoys her job. "I love to work with children," said Hensley. Hensley liked the location of her business; she calls Gas City home. "I choose to live in Gas City because I love the small community and my husband grew up here and he wanted our son to go to Gas City Schools," said Hensley..

### The Restaurant Life by Qing Zheng

Yong Hua Zheng is owner/manager of **China One Restaurant**, located by I-69 and open seven days a week with the help of his family. Zheng started his business so that he could support his family. He has a wife named Fang Lian and three kids. Ling, the oldest who is attending Purdue University, myself, Qing, attending MHS and my little brother Min attends Northview Elementary. With the help of a few friends and family members, China One has been up and running since 2002.

‘Having a background in cooking made it easier to open a restaurant,’ said Zheng. He has been working in the restaurant field ever since he first came to America. Starting from the very bottom and working his way to owning his very own business. ‘Some of the enjoyments are working with my family and knowing that my kids are safe and out of trouble. One of the downfalls is practically working in the restaurant everyday. It’s a lot of hard work owning your own business and it tires you out easily,’ said Zheng.

Zheng plans to work in the restaurant field for a few more years, enough to put his children through college and to make sure they are well on their way. He had a restaurant in downtown Gas City on Main Street a few years ago. ‘We still have many of our loyal customers from the old restaurant come out to eat at our new one,’ said Zheng. Business life really doesn’t affect Zheng’s personal life all that much. He has the help of his kids as well as his wife. ‘It would be nice just to take a break and have some down time with the family though,’ said Zheng. In a normal day, Zheng is usually at the restaurant along with my mother who handles take out, dine in, and buffet orders. It may get busy sometimes, but it’s usually not that bad. He and my mother cook as well as clean. After a hard day of work, they usually get home around 10 p.m. and fix dinner for the family.

### 2007 Concert Schedule Gas City Park - Tuesday Evenings, 7:30 p.m.

- June 12 MISSISSINewa VALLEY BAND (Big Band) – Free Ice Cream Social hosted by Needham-Storey-Wampner before the concert.
- June 19 NDIANAPOLIS JAZZ ORCHESTRA (Big Band)
- June 26 HOWARD LIVINGSTON & MILE MARKER 24 (Jimmy Buffet Style/South Florida Music)
- July 10 KELLAM & DEAKYNE (Variety Duo)
- July 17 ED CRAWFORD & THE MYSTREY MEN QUARTET (Gospel)
- July 24 TUXEDO JUNCTION (Big Band)
- July 31 RICK HOWARD, JR. (Country)

Chamber activity event sponsorships are always welcome. Checks may be made payable to the Gas City Area Chamber, earmarked ‘Concerts’. If donation is to be tax-deductible, make payable to Community Foundation and earmark ‘Concerts.’ All checks are to be mailed to 316 E. Main St., Gas City IN 46933.

### Performance Partner

Harvey Barnes, representing Fairmount Round Robins, presents Mark Storey, Corporate Art Series Chairman, with a check in the amount of \$1,500 making them the largest supporter thereby acknowledged as a



“Performance Partner.” Round Robins cares about the community and has been generous in their giving in order to provide fine music for the entertainment of our community.

### So You Think You Know Everything?

“Dreamt” is the only English word that ends in the letters “mt”.

### Board of Directors 2006-2007

#### Officers

Janet Blake, President  
*Next Level Communication*

Susan Knapp, President-Elect  
*Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home*

Scott Nicholson, Vice-President  
*Mutual Federal Savings Bank*

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

Mark Sullivan, Ex-Officio  
*Irving Materials, Inc.*

#### Members

M. Kelly Ailstock  
*Renbarger Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.*

Dawn Brown  
*Community Foundation of Grant Co., IN, Inc.*

Nancy Bryant  
*Gas City-Mill Twp. Library*

Fran Cheney  
*Good Neighbor Pharmacy*

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