

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

September 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.

Welcome New Members

Able Hands Homecare - 239 East Main Street, Gas City IN 46933
Traci Hearn, Community Relations; phone 677-1719

Katmandu Bar & Grill - 417 South Main Street, Jonesboro IN 46938
Owners: Linda Haskett or Jimmy Johnson; phone 674-9606

Karen Owen, Associate Member

Your Tech DR (formerly D.R. Ruth) - <http://www.yourtechdr.com>
David Ruth, PC Specialist; phone 765-668-3933 or e-mail David@yourtechdr.com

Introducing...

Linda Kline as our newest volunteer serving the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce office. She will be providing office support Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Stop by the office and introduce yourself. We value the services of our volunteers welcome Linda to our family.

Important Dates

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

- 09/06/07 Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - Gas City-Mill Twp. Library
- 09/11/07 Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. - Chamber Office Conference Room - Call the Chamber Office 674-7545 for reservation.
- 09/13/07 Board of Directors Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - Chamber Office Conference Room
- 09/19/07 Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon - Eastview Wesleyan Church (Guaranteed reservations required NLT September 14, 2007 - Call 674-7545 and leave message to make reservation.)
- 09/22/07 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

Rummage Facts

The Gas City Community-Wide Rummage will be held September 8, 2007. To register, contact Debbie Bishop at 661-8234 (cell) or 674-6714 (home).

18th Annual Jack Colescott Athletic Scholarship Golf Tournament

Arbor Trace Golf Club
2500 E 550 N, Marion IN 46952
(765) 662-8236

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Sponsored by
Indiana Wesleyan University
&
Mutual Federal Savings Bank
Charitable Foundation, Inc.

LUNCH 12:00 a.m. | PROGRAM 12:30 Noon | TEE TIMES 7:45 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Grand Opening

Katmandu Bar & Grill, located in Jonesboro at 417 South Main, will hold a grand opening ceremony on September 28, 2007 at 12 noon. Plans are to have two tents in front of their establishment to sell brauts, burgers and draft beer during the Across The River Motorcycle and Trike Show.

Golfcar Raffle - \$1.00 per ticket



4-passenger **2002 E-Z-GO TXT** gasoline golf car complete with: NEW black body, tan seats and standard tan sun canopy, 90-day full warranty from delivery (Professional Golfcar Corporation), headlights with recessed tail lights and brake lights, chrome wheel covers, chrome side rails, chrome pinstripes and dashboard. The drawing will be held at noon on Sunday, September 30 at the Ducktail Run Car Show (you need not be present to win). Contact the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce for more information or visit www.GasCity.com. Tickets may be purchased on-line.

Raffle - Before Choppers, There Were Bobbers

New street ready 2007 Hard Knock Old School Bobber, sponsored by Cycle Shop in Marion, will be raffled at the Jonesboro 2nd Annual Across The River Motorcycle and Trike Show on September 30 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets, \$1.00 per ticket or 6 for \$5.00, are available for purchase from Ride & Leather Shop, Jonesboro. Chrome & black Bobber may be viewed at Ride & Leather; must be present to win.



Announcing TRANSFORMING NEWS

www.projectleadership.org is Grant County's Volunteer Website where individuals can find volunteer opportunities and non-profits can list volunteer opportunities. Use your time, talents and treasures to transform Grant County. REGISTER NOW. For more information contact Project Leadership: Jack Brady - jbrady@projectleadership.org or Kerry Highley - khighley@projectleadership.org

Project Leadership Mentoring Program

Make a real difference in a youth's life today! Give a little and get so much more in return. It only takes a few hours a month to make a huge difference in the life of a child. Mentoring helps kids stay in school so they can fulfill their dreams. And the best part is, you'll not only see what it does for them, you'll feel what it does for you! For mentoring opportunities in Grant County, call Linda Lowe at 765-651-0650, e-mail: llowe@projectleakership.org or visit: www.projectleadership.org

Chanda K. Blair, CPA and Carrie B. Minnich, CPA Promoted to Supervisor

July 26, 2007-Fort Wayne, Indiana-Dulin Ward & DeWald, Inc., CPAs and advisors, announces the promotions of Chanda K. Blair, CPA and Carrie B. Minnich, CPA to supervisor. Ms. Blair joined the firm in 2003 and serves clients in the manufacturing, construction and service industries. Ms. Minnich joined the firm in 2004 and primarily serves clients in the nonprofit industry.

Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc. (DWD) is a certified public accounting and consulting firm that assists businesses and individuals in achieving their financial goals. The firm's services include accounting, auditing, tax planning and preparation, employee benefit plan administration, employee benefit plan audits, business valuations, estate planning and technology services. The CPA firm was established in 1939 and has fifty employees serving clients from its offices in Fort Wayne, Huntington and Marion, Indiana. DWD Technology Group is a Microsoft Certified Partner and a Sage Authorized Partner specializing in providing accounting software, fundraising software and networking solutions to businesses and service organizations. DWD Technology Group serves clients from its offices in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Toledo, Ohio. For more information call (260) 423-2414 or visit www.dwdcpa.com or www.dwdtechgroup.com.



Chanda K. Blair



Carrie B Minnich

Director's Luncheon Meeting

On Wednesday, August 15, eighty-four community leaders and business people gathered at **Eastview Wesleyan Church** for the monthly Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Director's luncheon. Attendees enjoyed a beef roast dinner followed by business of the Chamber presented by Janet Blake, President. Twenty DECA students were in attendance for their first luncheon this school year. The Chamber is proud of our future leaders and the opportunity to get acquainted. A special thanks is extended to IMPA for sponsoring the DECA luncheon cost this 2007-2008 school year. New members ISB Consulting Group, LLC and Able Hands Homecare were introduced and presented with their membership plaques. Katmandu Bar & Grill (formerly Pranksters) was also announced and members were invited to join their Grand Opening on September 28th at 12 noon.

"Building our Community...Building our Home" is the Chamber slogan which the Chamber is exploring to change. Current members are encouraged to have a part in the creation of the new slogan and may submit suggestions to the Chamber office.

Starbucks store manager, Ricardo Flores, spoke and presented five door prizes from Starbucks. He invited everyone to Starbucks to enjoy iced coffee and non-coffee summer drinks. He also announced that in October pumpkin spiced drinks would be introduced.

Neal Ronquist, **Chronicle-Tribune** Publisher, spoke about the mission of Paxton Media Group LLC, a private, family-owned media business. He said that the C-T would continue to provide the best hometown local coverage of any surrounding newspaper.

Karen Owen served as the Diplomat greeter at the luncheon.

BBB Update Brought To You By: Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana

Members: We have received calls from consumers and businesses about a company called Tornado Office Systems, Michael O'Keefe, Owner - (479) 229-2622, located in Dardanell AK who has been calling area businesses.

Businesses are being told that companies around the nation are relocating and they can give the business very deep discounts. One business purchased \$500, only to get an invoice for \$5,00 and received items they did not order.

Here is partial information from our Reliability Report: Based on BBB files, this company has an unsatisfactory record with the Bureau due to a pattern [BBB Definition: Pattern - More than 2 complaints involving the same allegations usually within 12 months that are significant in relation to the company's size and volume of business.] of complaints. The BBB has determined that there is a pattern [BBB Definition: Pattern - More than 2 complaints involving the same allegations usually within 12 months that are significant in relation to the company's size and volume of business.] of complaints from customers concerning this company's sales practices. The company is reported to call companies around the nation and tell them that they are relocating or going out of business and have a large office supply inventory to sell. They offer to sell the company deeply discounted supplies. The caller also may claim to have received advanced authorization from the company's president or controller. The pattern of complaints also indicates that the company may not be clear with their unit costs quoted. Some customers have complained that they received far more product than they ordered. When the order is received, the shipment is often much larger than expected and the invoice totals many times what the customer thought they were buying.

Additional company management personnel include: Alex Montana - Owner, Frank Funnel, Danni Collins, Carrie Brooks, Richard Holof - Incorporator/Organizer, Jamie Andrews, Brandi Mills, Drew Daniels and Erin Blake.

Revolving Loan Saves Gas City More Than \$1.5 Million

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - The City of Gas City closed a \$6.78 million loan today through the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)'s Wastewater State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, saving the City more than \$1.5 million in interest over the 20-year life of the loan. The funds will pay for improvements to the town's wastewater treatment plant and sewer system.

"To a relatively small city like Gas City, \$1.5 million in savings is an astronomical amount and we are so pleased to have gotten a loan through the SRF Program," said Mayor Larry Leach. "Our new

wastewater treatment plant will be state of the art and will allow us growing room for the future along with handling new development that is already happening, such as the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center that has added more than 800 jobs for local residents."

"Economic development always starts with sound infrastructure," said Sen. David Ford. "Providing for adequate wastewater treatment at the lowest possible costs means that residents of Gas City will be able to have jobs that pay better and lower water bills at the same time. Citizens win on both counts." The City has been working on correcting bypass issues, due in part to the age of the treatment plant and the location of the metering system, which would often give inaccurate readings during high river levels. IDEM had cited the utility several times for bypassing too much into the river.

"The project will allow us to treat more wastewater to alleviate our bypassing issues, plus our metering system will be more accurate so we can tell when there is a problem," said Mayor Leach. "We're also going to use Ultraviolet as our final treatment instead of chlorine, so there won't be any chemicals dumped into the river, which we're also happy about."

Governor Mitch Daniels created the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) in 2005 to more effectively manage State-related financial programs such as the Wastewater and Drinking Water SRF Programs under one entity. Since the inception of the IFA, the SRF Programs have loaned more than \$492 million to local communities at below-market interest rates, saving utility customers more than \$82 million in interest.

"The SRF Programs provide Indiana communities with a unique opportunity to save money while addressing much-needed wastewater and drinking water improvements," said Jennifer Alvey, Public Finance Director of the State of Indiana. "Governor Daniels is very focused on the health of Hoosiers. We are pleased to provide an economical way for communities to offer a cleaner environment and excellent quality of life for current and future residents of our State."

"This loan will bring tremendous savings to the people of Gas City," said Rep. Timothy Harris. "The city will now be able to maintain lower rates and still make the necessary improvements without transferring the cost to residents."

Communities can learn more information about obtaining a State Revolving Fund loan by contacting Bill Harkins at (317) 234-4862, wharkins@ifa.in.gov or by visiting www.srf.in.gov.

Business 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:

Pizza King by Paige Coppock

David Pyle and his family is now the owner of Gas City's Pizza King. "I wanted to be in the pizza business for a long time," said David. "We were customers here and heard it was for sale and bought it. We have owned it ever since Aug. 1, 2003. The reason why I like owning my own business is that I can run it the way I want, but the worst thing is being here all the time."

The Pyles try to look for ways to give back to the community. "We help with WE CARE, help with other children, and are involved with our church," said David. "We let some of the local kids use us for car washes. We look at it as giving back to the community."

Pizza, pizza, and more pizza, how does it all happen? "Our family special is a large pizza, bread sticks, and a 2 liter," said David. "I don't ever get tired of pizza, but I do get tired of always smelling like it and getting flour in my truck."

Work, family, then more work, so much to do so little time. "We have 12 employees including us and our two kids," said David. "It's good to work close to home, it ties in together by being my own boss. We have the same issues at home that are at work; sometimes it's good and sometimes not so good."

Knowing the community around you helps out the business. "Knowing what the customer wants makes them very happy," said the Pyles. "Like knowing what the Coppock family wants makes them happy and they always come back."

David's teenage children enjoy working in the family business. "Being around the employees, and having a way to make money, its fun," said employee/daughter Cassie Pyle.

"That working with all the beautiful women," said employee/son Devin Pyle.

The Pyles have several high school students working for them. "It's a fun place to work and is very enjoyable," said employee Kylie Jefferies. "The best part about working here is David, all my fellow employees working with me, and it's an easy job," said employee Amanda Bryant. "Clowning with David, that's my favorite, I also like to sing a lot in here," said employee Kevin O'Banion.

The Pyles appreciate the opportunity to serve the Gas City Community. "We've enjoyed our three and a half years being here with sales increasing and thank the community for that, the opportunity to serve them," said the Pyle Family.

Are you among those in the know?

The Gas City website, www.gacity.com, received over 111,000 hits in the month of July. Are you advertising on the website? If not, you are missing out on a lot of potential business opportunities.

Chamber Business Directory

Do you know that you can now print an up-to-date business directory from www.gacity.com? You have an opportunity to sponsor the on-line directory for \$200 a year. Sponsorship is being sought now, first-come first-served. Contact Penny Garrett if interested.

From the Desk of Penny Garrett, Executive Director

Superb! Insightful! Uplifting! Informative! Fun! These are adjectives to describe the workshop I attended last evening hosted by the Gas City Area Chamber Small Business Mentoring Group. Bill Sparks', of Gilead Ministries, presentation was Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way and was both enjoyable and informative. The workshop was held at Flores Mexican Restaurant on Wednesday, August 29, 2007. Guests were challenged to determine their style of leadership as well as others. They were shown the difference between management and leadership and there is a big difference. Handouts were provided and as attendees listened, many took notes for review at a later date. The handout asked attendees to identify where they were as a leader and to name the top 10 influencers in their organization. Can you? Bill generously offered his time and talent to the Chamber and I believe 19 people are grateful for the experience. Thanks, Bill!

I also want to thank David Penticuff, Chronicle-Tribune Managing Editor, for coordinating the Small Business Mentoring Workshop. David did a tremendous job of coordinating, keeping all parties in

the loop and publicizing the event. Thanks, David, your effort did not go unnoticed.

The Golf Car has been out and about all over town recently as a fundraiser for the Chamber. Now we need volunteers to sell tickets during the Ducktail Run weekend, September 27-30th. The winner will be drawn at Noon on September 30th. This is the first year the Chamber has attempted this fundraiser and we really NEED your help to make it successful. We are only stifled if the car is not visible and tickets are not available. Please call the office (765-674-7545) or e-mail gascity@comteck.com if you are willing to donate a couple hours during that weekend to man the car and sell tickets.

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Have a spouse with a couple hours on his or her hands...have a neighbor that might enjoy working in the public 3-4 hours...have a mother/father that needs interaction for fulfillment? The Chamber can enrich the lives of these individuals as a volunteer - it is definitely a win-win situation. The volunteer enjoys the interaction and the Chamber benefits, too. There are mailings to be done, telephone messages to take, filing to be done, proofing (that second set of eyes is invaluable), computer work that can be assigned (if computer literate) and so much more. Ask interested persons to contact us or give us their number and we'll call them.

**2nd Annual Across the River Motorcycle and Trike Show
September 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2007
Jonesboro, IN**

Thursday 7 p.m. - Hangout at Ride N' Leather Shop
Friday 5 p.m. - Main Street closes for show / Registration starts
Friday 5 p.m. - Saturday 4 p.m. / Burn out contest 8 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - Poker Run Sign-up, Bikes out at 10 a.m.;
2 p.m. - Rodeo Events;
5 p.m. - Live Band Admission \$1
Sunday 9 a.m. - CMA Church Service; 2 p.m.-Parade; 3 p.m.- Awards

Contest Events - Come and Go Bike Show, Poker Run, Awards, Burn-out Pit, Neon Light Contest, Hang-out, Rodeo Games, Dyno Contest.

Chances to win for ALL - Door Prizes, Raffle, Awesome Trophies, Gifts from Sponsors, Special Awards.

Things to see and do - Lots of Bike parking, Venders, Food, Ducktail Car Show, Parade

Letters to the Editor

Temporary Room and Board during Ducktail Run as follows: Private Residence, 419 East Main Street, Gas City IN - Rent will be \$50 a room for one person plus \$5 for each additional person. There are 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a ballroom and renters may have use of the kitchen and must provide their own linens (towels) and sleeping bags. Basically it is luxurious camping. For more information contact Linda Kline, ph. 928-380-2378

So You Think You Know Everything?

Palindromes are words such as 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' spelled the same whether they are read left to right or right to left.

Board of Directors 2007-2008

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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.
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