

# GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

November 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

**EMBROIDME** - Fred Herron, Owner  
4315 West Clara Lane, Muncie  
Rick Atkinson in Sales: Ph. 765-281-8870

**PATRIOT INSURANCE** - Brian Condon  
607 N. Western Avenue, Marion Ph. 668-3135

**PRE-PAID LEGAL** - Neil A. Farr, Sr.  
819 West Third Street, Marion Ph. 662-9575

## Important Dates

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

- 11/01/07 ..... Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - **Chamber Office Conference Room**
- 11/08/07 ..... Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. - **Chamber Office Conference Room**
- 11/13/07 ..... Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. - **Chamber Office Conference Room** - Call the Chamber Office 674-7545 for reservation.
- 11/14/07 ..... Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon - **Eastview Wesleyan Church (Guaranteed reservations required NLT November 9, 2007** - Call 674-7545 and leave message to make reservation.)
- 11/15/07 ..... Small Business Mentoring Workshop @ 6:00 p.m. - Flores Restaurant - Call the Chamber Office 674-7545 for reservations. Topic: How to get ready for first employee - Tax and Accounting Issues - Shelly Obenchain, DWD Accountant
- 11/22/07 ..... Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

Schedule a Director's Luncheon Presentation NOW for 2008  
Cost: \$25 (Includes One Meal) - Optional: Business may provide handouts, door prizes  
To schedule: Contact Penny (ph. 765-674-7545) for preferred month

**Note:** The date of the November luncheon has been rescheduled to the second Wednesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

**What is a Veteran?**

A veteran - whether active duty or retired, national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for the amount of, "up to and including my life." That is honor and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it. -Author unknown.

**Veteran's Day is November 11 - Thank a veteran for his or her service to our country and for protecting our freedoms.**

**Changes to Board Membership**

Due to the recent resignation of two members on the Chamber Board of Directors and one member of the Executive Board the following changes are in effect: elected by the Board of Directors (meeting held 10/11/2007) Janet Blake, current President will fulfill the vacancy created by Susan Knapp (President Elect who resigned) and will serve as President through April 2009; Scott Nicholson, current Vice-President will advance to the position of President Elect and Mike Powell was elected to the Executive Board to fulfill the term of Vice President. Dorine Ward was elected and accepted to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors. At the time of this publication two vacancies remain.

*Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce, By-Laws, Article 3 - Board of Directors, Section 4 Vacancies Vacancies occurring among officers or board members shall be filled by majority vote of the board members for the uncompleted term (Rev 8/95).*

**Indiana Business Rankings**

Excerpt from *RegionalFocus* The Magazine for East Central Indiana

**The State Received Widespread Recognition for Its Success**

**Indiana's Favorable Business Environment Provides Strong Foundation for East Central Indiana**

"Indiana is the #1 State for Economic Development"

- Site Selection Magazines (Spring 2006)

"Indiana has been 1st in the Midwest and 9th in the Nation on Job Growth for the Past Two Years"

- U.S. Department of Commerce

"Indiana Ranks 1st in the Midwest and 11th in the U.S. for Most Business-Friendly Tax Climate"

- The Tax Foundation, 2005

**Population**

Grant County .....	73,403
Marion .....	30,644
Gas City .....	5,819
Upland .....	3,735
Fairmount .....	2,814
Jonesboro .....	1,759
Swayzee .....	935
Van Buren .....	870
Sweetser .....	842
Matthews .....	558
Fowlerton .....	290
Converse .....	201

**Largest Area Employers**

1. General Motors (M) .....	1724
2. Marion General Hospital (M) .....	1242
3. Wal-Mart Dist. Center (GC) .....	850
4. American Woodwork (GC) .....	715
5. Veteran's Hospital (M) .....	704
6. Indiana Wesleyan University (M) .....	600
6. Dollar General Dist. Center (M) .....	600
7. Grant County (M) .....	502
8. Taylor University (U) .....	474

## Q&A with Larry Leach, Mayor of Gas City

Excerpt from *RegionalFocus* The Magazine for East Central Indiana

### 1. What makes Gas City special?

"Gas City is a community of caring people. The lifeblood of our community is the volunteers that make things happen. We Care is a twelve-month a year organization that helps people with various problems. We have a highly trained 24-man fire department. We have a 35-person rescue squad, which not only responds to emergencies, but mans a country ambulance that is housed in our rescue building. Last year we made over 700 runs. Our park board and historical society are all volunteers and they get things done."

### 2. Why should businesses expand, invest, or relocate to your community?

"Gas City owns its own water, sewage, and electric distribution system. All of these services are state of the art. Our water treatment system, including 2 well sites and treatment plants, has been refurbished in the last 5 years. We just completed building a new electric substation, which will service our entire city plus expansions for years to come. We are currently rebuilding our sewage treatment system. Our utility rates are very reasonable and competitive. We have tax incremental financing and abatement programs in effect to help new and existing businesses. Property taxes in Gas City are as low as any comparable sized city in Indiana."

### 3. 2006 Success Stories

"A one million square foot, Wal-Mart Distribution Center is being built in Gas City, that will employ at least 850 people. This is a project that has taken a few years to put together, but it is now coming to fruition.

Packaging Corporation of America, a corrugated paper manufacturer is undergoing a major expansion within.

Franklin Electric, the world's largest submersible pump manufacturer, is currently up modernizing their electronic control plant in Gas City.

American Woodmark, a major manufacturer of kitchen cabinets, is beginning an expansion that will cover 2 years.

With these existing companies in our community showing growth and progress, the future is very bright for Gas City."

### 4. What makes your community different from others?

"Gas City is pro-active rather than reactive. We look ahead and prepare for the future. We are a proud community that will not give up. Our official motto is 'The City With a Future'. There are many sayings that fit Gas City. egs. 'The Home of Community Pride', 'Our Only Limitation is Our Imagination' and 'You Cannot Hide Gas City's Pride.'"

## Audiocassette Library

Due to a generous donation, our Chamber now has an extensive library of motivational tapes encompassing a wide variety of topics. Presenters include Dr. John Maxwell, Jack Canfield, and Lee Milteer. Plans are to make these audiocassettes available to our members free of charge. Schedule a "lunch and learn" in-service for your employees and use the tapes to spark enthusiasm, change attitudes and maximize

performance. If you do not have an adequate place to hold such an in-service, consider scheduling the chamber conference room. If you do have a staff room, conference room or suitable location, we will be glad to loan the tape(s) to you. A listing of the tapes available for loan from the Gas City Area Chamber is available at [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) or by calling the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce.

*Note:* Member must provide cassette player.

### Have you enhanced your membership directory listing with the Gas City Area Chamber?

Currently your business/organization is listed free-of-charge at [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com) and the listing includes the name of your business, the contact person, address, phone, fax #, e-mail address and website address.

One of the easiest and most effective way you can improve your business is to "enhance" your business listing on the chamber website. Simply provide us, in writing, a description of your business (255 characters maximum) and we will place it on your listing for people to see every time they access our website. Describe your business, your services, the type of food you serve, your hours of business, anything you think would help people choose your business for their individual needs. Text can be changed four times a year and the cost for this enhancement is a low \$100 per year. Over 25,000 individuals visit our website each year - shouldn't they be finding out more about your business?

### So You Think You Know Everything?

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

### Director's Luncheon Meeting

The monthly Chamber of Commerce Director's Luncheon was held October 17 at 12 Noon at **Eastview Wesleyan**. There were 61 members and associates in attendance. Speakers were: Tim Eslava, Milliner Printing Company and Celeste Draher, Outreach Coordinator, Gas City Area Chamber. Menu: Pork Loin, Potato Casserole, Vegetable Blend, Creamy Slaw, Fluff dessert and drinks.

Tim Eslava, **Milliner Printing Company, Inc.** informed everyone of his business... "If you can imagine it... We can print it!" Milliner Printing is a new member and has provided Quality Custom Printing Since 1950 and may reached by calling 260-563-5717, 260-563-0866 (fax) or [mpcoinc@comteck.com](mailto:mpcoinc@comteck.com).

Celeste Draher, Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Outreach Coordinator presented members with Advertising opportunities and answered questions.

The **United Way** campaign is underway reported Scott Murphy. Their mission statement is: Identify current and emerging human needs and serve as a catalyst for progressive solutions to community problems. Give to the Grant County United Way today!

DECA students: Megan Williams, Katelyn Simpson and Kandace Gulley invited members to either donate or participate in the "Rock-Around-the-Clock" for Cancer Services of Grant County fundraiser to be held at **Mike Anderson Chevrolet**, Gas City November 2-3 from 3 p.m. Friday afternoon until 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon. For further information contact Mrs. Kammeyer, 674-2248.

Thanks **Energize ECI** and **Basic Systems USA** for the door prizes donated.

Thanks to Diplomat Greeters: Anita Rice and Dennis Banks

Thanks to **IMPA** for their sponsorship of DECA student lunches.

*Note:* The Director's Luncheons are a very valuable and popular monthly event. The luncheon is an opportunity for Chamber members, community leaders, area business associates and friends of the

community to conveniently gather in a comfortable and friendly setting to visit, learn something of interest from a guest speaker and enjoy a wonderfully prepared meal...all of this for only one hour of your time and only \$6.00 out of your pocket. However, there in lies the problem. Reservations are guaranteed; however, many attendees are arriving without making a reservation, which causes logistical problems. This luncheon is not held at a public restaurant but is rather a catered event. A guaranteed attendance number is required in order to assure an adequate quantity of food and table settings are available. Your cooperation in honoring our request for guaranteed reservations is requested. We apologize to those who made reservations and were not satisfied with the catering services due to the lack of available prepared food on the menu. This is no fault of the caterer or Chamber. For those of you who always make and honor your reservation, thank you.

### 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:*

### Banks Leads Bank On Main Street by Mikaela Stenfalk

The **STAR Financial Bank** office on Main Street has served the people in Gas City since the 1960s.

Right now, the office, led by Mr. Dennis Banks since March 2003, has seven employees, "six full time and one part time," said Banks.

Banks requested a transfer to the Gas City office to get more involved in the community, and he said that helping people is what he likes the most about working at the bank. "The best part is helping people meet their financial goals." The customer service is also what sets STAR Financial Bank apart from other financial institutions. "Building Relationships through Superior Service," is their motto.

Currently, the office processes about 10,000 teller transactions and 3,000 ATM transactions each month. The bank is open six days per week. Drive-up hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and open until 6:00 p.m. Friday and 12:00 noon on Saturday. The bank lobby is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

In November 2006, Banks was elected to the Mississinewa School Board. Banks does not seem to be worried about having time for both the School Board and the bank. He even said that, "STAR Financial Bank encourages community involvement of its employees" and that being a member of the School Board will aid him in helping people. "It also offers my availability to the people of our community to help answer any questions they may have."

Banks enjoys his work at the office because, "working for STAR Financial Bank is an opportunity to provide a valued service and build relationships with the people in our community."

### Chamber New Business Spotlight

- ◆ Our business spotlight of the month is new member Cathy L. Becraft who is the Indiana Sales Representative for **Cathy's AVON, Indiana** cosmetics. If you like to shop from a catalog for cosmetics, gifts, home décor and incidentals, you need to contact Cathy (ph. 674-9442). She chose this field of business because of the product quality and reputable company name. She enjoys most the Fourth of July community event and while sewing is her hobby she says raising

her boys to be good citizens is her greatest accomplishment. *Welcome, Cathy, as a new member of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce!*

- ◆ **Patriot Insurance Group**, representative Brian Condon, hopes to meet your commercial and business insurance needs. A very good friend who was working in the claims area recommended him after graduating from college in 1987 and guided him to the Insurance Agency. Brian enjoys all sports, supporting children and their activities, family, friends and peaceful relaxation at Lake George. He also likes to travel and hopes to visit Australia.
- ◆ **Pre-paid Legal**, Neil A. Farr, Sr., provides legal and identify theft protection and chose this field of business because it provides a much-needed service to the public. Originally from Swayzee, Neil enjoys fishing; therefore, vacationing in Florida due to the climate. Leisure time activities include photograph, art, reading short stories and building models.



### **Congratulations**

#### **Herman Shirar**

Golfcar Winner

Ticket #0097046

The first held Chamber golf car raffle was a huge success netting \$4,096.85. The Chamber is 'owned' and financed primarily by its members through membership dues but fundraisers are necessary. Working together, taking action on community issues and opportunities is exactly what is needed to keep "Building our Community...Building our Home!"

### **Natural Wellness Reopens November 1 in New Location!**

The new shop located at 344 East Main Street will have so much more to offer. With the additional space, new services will be available including Toning Beds and a Far-infrared sauna. The new facility and expanded opportunities will give Natural Wellness Massage Therapy ways to better serve your alternative health needs. For more information or to make an appointment, call 677-9355.

### **Industry Data Crucial as 2007 Economic Census Nears**

In December, more than 4 million American businesses will receive 2007 economic census forms, including 1,000 businesses in Grant County, underscoring the importance of their participation in the nation's most comprehensive measure of business and industry taken every five years.

"Economic census forms that businesses receive in December will tell us how we are changing as a nation," said Thomas Mesenbourg Jr., the Census Bureau's associate director for economic programs. "Important economic indicators, such as gross domestic product, are directly related to the quality of the data we get from businesses in every industry and every locality."

The Census Bureau has launched a new Web site - [business.census.gov](http://business.census.gov) - to help businesses understand the economic census and how it benefits them. The site includes economic snapshots of selected industries and significant facts about every industry.

Economic census data provide the hard figures that businesses need when they consider expanding into new regions or markets.

"I'm constantly advising entrepreneurs to consult economic census information before making decisions," said Rhonda Abrams, small business adviser and syndicated columnist. "It helps business people make informed decisions."

Businesses can look at benchmark values from the economic census to assess where they stand in the marketplace and to research market shares, salaries, product and sales trends, and site locations.

Firms in more than 1,000 industries will receive forms in December. They will be asked to report information such as employment, payroll and the value of goods and services sold. Forms must be returned to the U.S. Census Bureau by February 12, 2008. Businesses that receive forms are required by federal law to respond. Information about individual firms is kept confidential, and only aggregate industry data are published.

For businesses that would like to get a head start on preparing for the census, the new web site - [www.business.census.gov](http://www.business.census.gov) - provides links to sample forms, answers to frequently asked questions and a secure way to communicate directly with the Census Bureau. The site also has tips to help businesses use the data.

### Farewell...

With regrets, the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently accepted the resignations of Susan Knapp, Kelly Snyder and Susan Miller. Ms. Knapp was on the Executive Board and the current President Elect. Her resignation was particularly difficult to accept because of Susan's position of responsibility. Kelly Snyder has served on the Board of Directors periodically for several years and her knowledge and history with the Board is irreplaceable. Susan Miller was a new member elected for the first time this year. The Chamber will miss the input of these elected officials and thanks each of you for your individual contributions.

### Condolences...

Our sympathies are extended to Executive Director Penny Garrett and family due to the recent passing of her youngest sister, Connie.

### Personal...

Thank you for all your kindnesses expressed whether it was cards, gifts, visits or words of encouragement in regard to my beloved sister Connie's unexpected and premature death. I felt your presence, which sustains me. God bless each of you.

- Penny Garrett & Family

### Kudos...

- ◆ Tonya Miller and Lindsay Howell, Nicholson Realty, have both completed the required courses and passed the state exam to receive their Broker's License. **Congratulations, Tonya and Lindsay!**
- ◆ The Wellness Center was voted Grant County's Greatest Fitness Center according to the Chronicle- Tribune survey results.

### Community Events...

- ◆ Canten's Floral Company, Inc. open house will be held on November 4 from 1-5 p.m. They are located at 1015 South Nebraska Street in Marion. There will be refreshments, special discounts, door prizes and a special tree honoring Fallen Heroes.
- ◆ Rock-Around-the-Clock, DECA and the community joining together to "rock" for at least one hour time periods, will be held at Mike Anderson Chevrolet, Gas City from Friday, November 2 at 3:00 p.m. through Saturday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m. All proceeds go to Cancer Services of Grant County. Your support, pledges and/or donations are welcome. Checks should be made payable to Cancer Services of Grant County. For more information contact Mrs. Kammeyer, ph. 674-2248, ext. 263.

### Board of Directors 2007-2008

#### Officers

Janet Blake, President  
*Next Level Communication*

Scott Nicholson, President Elect  
*Mutual Federal Savings Bank*

Michael Powell, Vice-President  
*Mississinewa School Admin*

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*

Denny Smith  
*2 B Personalized*

Larry Terwillegar  
*Masonic Lodge #645*

Dorine Ward  
*York House*

Two Positions - Vacant

#### Executive Director

Penny A. Garrett