

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

December 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

SMITTY'S TRUCK WASH INC.

James M. Smithson, Owner
6050 E 500 S, Gas City - ph. 508-7584

BLACKFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Steven West, CEO
410 Pilgrim Blvd., Hartford City - ph. 765-348-0300

INDIANA BUSINESS COLLEGE

Richard Herman, Executive Director
830 N. Miller Ave., Marion - ph. 765-662-7497

Important Dates

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

- 12/06/07 Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. - **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 12/11/07 Small Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. - **Chamber Office** Conference Room - Meetings by appointment only; call the **Chamber Office** ph. 674-7545.
- 12/13/07 Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. - **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 12/19/07 Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon - **Eastview Wesleyan Church**
(*Guaranteed reservations required* NLT December 14, 2007 - Call 674-7545 and leave message to make reservation.)
SPEAKERS: Great Deals Magazine & Howe's Financial Service
MENU: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Chinese Cole Slaw, Jello Cake and Drinks
GREETERS: Brian Rice and Mark Storey
- 12/22/07 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

Penticuff and Murphy Elected to Board

At the November 8, 2007 Chamber Board of Directors meeting, David Penticuff, Chronicle-Tribune Managing Editor, and Scott Murphy, Wal-Mart Distribution General Manager, were elected to fill the remaining two vacancies on the Board. New member Dorine Ward, Administrator York House, was introduced and welcomed. Also seated on the Board are Interns Nichole Schroeder, Indiana Business College, and Beth Alston, Mutual Federal Savings Bank.

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).



Dorine Ward an Oak Hill graduate pursued her RN degree at Vincennes University. In 2000, Dorine obtained her Indiana Health Facility Administrator's license, since the elderly became her passion when she moved back to Indiana in 1984. Before that time, she lived in South Carolina and worked in an Open Heart Surgery Unit. Today, she lives in Sweetser with her husband of four years Rick and has two children, daughter Maria (26) and son Travis (18). She has a beautiful granddaughter, Colbie who is 5 and a miracle since her daughter has been confined to a wheelchair with muscular dystrophy since age 12. Dorine is a member of Kappa Delta Phi, a community sorority, where she has held most positions and is currently holding a Regional position. She is also active with MDA fundraisers and her Mt. Olive United Methodist Church as a Parish Nurse. She is the **York House** Assisted Living Administrator and has been there for four years, which is also when she joined the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce. Her involvement with the Chamber includes three years on the Perfect Attendance Committee and recent past Chairperson. She looks forward to becoming even more involved in Chamber events and invites everyone to stop by York House to get acquainted; she'd love to show you around.

Scott Murphy was born and raised in Peoria, Illinois. He graduated from Western Illinois University with a BS in Law Enforcement Administration. He is married to "a super wife", Kathy. He has a son, Michael, 22, and three daughters, Erin, 20, Emily, 10 and Katie, 8. Prior to coming to Wal-Mart he held positions with John Deere, Ace Hardware, Service Merchandise and Amazon.com. Scott started his career with Wal-Mart Stores in May 2000. In his capacity as General Manager, in addition to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Gas City, he has opened Distribution Centers in Garrett, Indiana and Brundidge, Alabama. Scott is very active in the community with volunteerism high on his priority list. Since moving to Grant County in June 2006, he is already actively involved with United Way as campaign co-chairman. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement in addition to the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce. He coaches soccer and softball at the PAL Club and is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Marion.



Time Gets Better With Age

(Words of wisdom from all ages!)

- ◆ I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night". - Age 5
- ◆ I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. - Age 7

Monthly Workshop sponsored by the Small Business Mentoring Group

On January 23, 2008 the SBMG will hold a workshop at Jackie's Restaurant regarding preparing tax returns, cost of meal \$10, time 6 p.m. The Chamber must guarantee 15 meals; call 674-7545.

Director's Luncheon Meeting

The monthly Director's Luncheon was held at Eastview Wesleyan Church on Wednesday, November 14. The date was changed from the original 3rd Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. There were 72 members and associates in attendance. First time attendees were Jonesboro Mayor-Elect Jay Akers and wife, Jonesboro Council member Robert Couse and Jill Morphew, Mississinewa Community School Business Manager. New members EmbroidMe, Smitty's Truck Wash, Inc. and Indiana Business College (not present) were introduced. New Chamber Board members introduced and recognized were Michael Powell, Mississinewa School Superintendent elected as Chamber Vice-President; Dorine Ward, Administrator York House; Scott Murphy, Wal-Mart DC Manager; and David Penticuff, Chronicle-Tribune Editor (not present). Able Hands Healthcare was recognized for having five or more in attendance and received a framed picture of their recent ribbon-cutting ceremony as a commemorative. Announcements included tomorrow's upcoming workshop sponsored by the Small Business Mentoring Group entitled "How to get ready for your first employee" presented by Dulin, Ward & DeWald at 6 p.m. to be held at Flores Restaurant. Due to the holidays there will not be a seminar in December. Mark your calendar for the next workshop "Preparing Tax Returns" scheduled for January 23 at 6 p.m. to be held at Jackie's Restaurant.

Carol Rush, **Mary Kay Cosmetics Beauty** Consultant was the guest speaker and introduced some of the latest skin care and color products and to more convenient ways to shop. She is ready to meet your beauty needs for a lifetime with personalized service.

Allstate Insurance Company has a 75-year tradition of being there when people need them. Rusty Jack Allstate has innovative insurance for your life's needs, financial solutions to help you save and dedicated representatives to help you sort it all out. Are you in Good Hands? Contact Libby Knapp, Licensed Sales Associate.

Thanks **Mary Kay Cosmetics** and **Basic Systems USA** for the door prizes donated.

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

Thanks Caleb Crandall for serving as Diplomat greeter.

Stocking Stuffer for Christmas

Businesses may purchase Chamber Director's luncheon coupons for their staff and or associates. Contact Penny or Celeste at the Chamber office, ph. 674-7545.

Indiana Business College Announces New Service for Employers

IBC CareerLink at www.myinterfase.com/ibc-mar/employer

Created with you in mind, this new site provides participating employers with the ability to:

- ◆ Visit one centralized online location to post and manage an unlimited number of jobs
- ◆ Set parameters for your job openings
- ◆ Receive email reminders when a student applies for jobs and when a posting is about to expire
- ◆ Conduct a student search for qualified applicants
- ◆ Register online for career events like career fairs
- ◆ Much more!

This new service is available now so please create your new profile or login to your existing profile by using the link above. (Keep in mind your company may already be listed in our system.) We would be happy to speak to you to start using IBC CareerLink today. Thank you for your time and continued support in helping to make this a huge success and also assisting us in our mission to change lives.

For more information contact: Nicole Schroeder, Director of Career Services, ph. 765-662-7497

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

Excerpt from RegionalFocus The Magazine for East Central Indiana

"Indiana is the #1 State for Economic Development" - Site Selection Magazine (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

"One of the Top 10 States for New or Expanding Businesses" - Plants Sites and Parks Magazine (January 2006)

"Indiana Ranks 3rd in the Nation for Education" - National Policy Research Council

"Indiana has the 2nd Lowest Worker's Compensation Costs in the Nation" - Actuarial & Technical Solutions, Inc.

"Indiana Ranks in the Top 10 for Entrepreneurs" - Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

"Indiana has the 2nd Lowest Electrical Energy Costs in the Nation" - CCH, Inc.

"Indiana Ranks 6th in the Nation for Top Business Climate" - Site Selection Magazine (November 2005)

"Indiana Ranks 3rd, after Ohio and California, in Terms of Japanese Direct Investment through Job Opportunities" - Japan - America Society

"Indiana Ranks 9th in the U.S. in the 2005 Version of the Small Business Survival Index"

"Indiana's Work Force Development Programs Ranked 9th Best in Nation" - Expansion Management (August 2004)

"Indiana Ranks 8th in Biopharmaceutical Jobs and has the 2nd Highest Concentration of Biopharmaceutical Jobs in the Nation" - Milken Institute (October 2004)

"Indiana Ranks 7th in the U.S. in Terms of the Quality of its Workplaces" - University of Massachusetts, Political Economy Research Institute (October 2005)

"Indiana has the 9th Best Climate for Small Business" - Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council (October 2005)

"Indiana has the 5th Best Workforce Development Training Programs in the U.S." - Expansion Management (October 2005)

"Indiana Won Site Selection Magazines 2003 Competitiveness Award - Site Selection (May 2004)

"Indiana has the 2nd Shortest Commute Time in the U.S."

"Indiana is One of Only 7 States to Receive an 'A' for State Academic Standards in Science for Primary and Secondary Schools" - Thomas B. Fordham Foundation (December 2005)

"Indiana Ranks 14th in the Nation in the Total Number of Insourcing Jobs, or Jobs Created by Foreign Companies" - U.S. Department of Commerce

What is MRSA?

Marion General Hospital strongly believes in education and communication to the community the important message of prevention and knowledge ~ which is essentially to maintain healthy hygiene and hand washing.

To calm the fears of those concerned, MRSA has been around for a very long time, health care workers are VERY knowledgeable about the topic. And unbeknownst to the media which has chosen this topic to be their "healthcare scare" of the month, MRSA is likely to be found everywhere in some form and fashion.

Methicillin is a drug (antibiotic) used to treat infections caused by staphylococci. If a germ is resistant to Methicillin that means that Methicillin and many related antibiotics will not get rid of the infection. When this happens it is called Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA for short. YOU can avoid passing MRSA to others by: Washing/cleaning your hands!

- ◆ Hand washing/cleaning is the most important thing you can do to avoid spreading MRSA to theirs.
- ◆ Remind others to wash/clean their hands.

Everyone can work to prevent infection! For more information, contact:

Marion General Hospital, Infection Prevention & Control Department, ph. 765-662-4744

Social Security Improves Service and Expands Outreach to Wounded Veterans

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, today highlighted the agency's efforts to improve service and reach out to wounded veterans. "On Sunday, we honor America's veterans whose love of country, willingness to serve and sacrifice ensures the many freedoms we enjoy today," Commissioner Astrue said. "While we can never fully repay them for their sacrifices, we can be sure we provide them with the quality of service and the respect they so richly deserve."

Commissioner Astrue highlighted a number of activities Social Security has undertaken in the last several months to improve service and expand outreach to wounded veterans and their families. These include:

- ◆ Expedited processing of disability claims for men and women serving in the U.S. military who become disabled while on active duty. The expedited process is for military service members disabled on or after October 1, 2001, and is applicable regardless of where the disability occurs. Social Security also expedites survivor's claims.
- ◆ Development of an easy-to-use website - www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors - that provides information about Social Security and military service. The website also includes a link to apply for disability benefits online.
- ◆ An agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the VA to electronically provide Social Security with the medical records of veterans applying for disability benefits. This agreement enables us to get medical records quicker and more efficiently and helps us expedite the disability determination.
- ◆ Assigning Social Security liaisons throughout the country to work closely with VA's Transition Patient Advocates (TPAs). Social Security's liaisons provide TPAs with Social Security information and ensure that the application for benefits is expedited.
- ◆ Instructions and extensive training for our disability examiners -- the people who make the medical decisions on our disability claims -- on how to properly identify and evaluate Traumatic Brain Injury, the signature injury of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- ◆ A fact sheet that provides information about Social Security and military service and explains how to apply for Social Security benefits. The fact sheet has been distributed to all branches of the military service, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and other interested groups.
- ◆ An active presence at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Evans Army Medical Center and numerous other treatment facilities throughout the U.S. For example, Social Security employees are onsite every week at Walter Reed, Bethesda, Brooke and other facilities to take disability applications and ensure expeditious handling of the case.
- ◆ Coordinated efforts with organizations such as the Severely Injured Marines and Sailors and Wounded Warriors Project to address concerns and facilitate open communications regarding the processing of Social Security claims.
- ◆ The Social Security Administration is proud to have within its ranks many people who have honorably served -- or are presently serving -- their country in uniform," Commissioner Astrue said. "Let me assure veterans and their families that the dedicated men and women of Social

Security stand ready to help them in any way they can, and that we will continue to look for ways to improve our service to those who have given so much in defense of our freedom."

To learn more about Social Security benefits for wounded veterans go to www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors. For general information about Social Security, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.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:

Twin City Healthcare by Chantel Mart

Twin City Healthcare located at 627 East North "H" St. is all about their patients. "I had to go to Tucker for one year and take nursing classes," said Patte Leach, who has worked there for 10 years. There are a lot of other people that help out with patients and with each other. "I do get along with most everyone here but we do have our problems every once in awhile," said Leach.

Everyone at Twin City Healthcare has different jobs to do. "I pass medication out if the elders need them, but my main job is Public Relations and Marketing," said Patte Leach.

People who work at Twin City Healthcare are caring and it is a clean place, according to Leach. "Twin City Healthcare is one of the cleanest and caring facilities as well as secure because we have alarms on all the doors in the building and all the residents are cared for and their rooms are kept clean and I wouldn't change anything about the place," said Leach.

Many families send their parents to nursing homes because they can't take good care of them and when they are there they get treated well and have a lot of activities. "I do get along with the workers and the elders here because everyone is different and come from different walks of life," said Leach.

"Many patients have done unexpected things while they are in the nursing home like try to leave or walk up to the TV and change it while others are watching it. Some of the residents have tried a couple times to leave but they don't get far because of our alarms on the doors. At the front door you have to put in a code to leave," said Leach.

The workers have gotten a lot of thanks from the residents' family because of their work. "Twin City Healthcare is a caring and satisfaction of a good working environment," said Leach.

Letter to the Editor...

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Main Street Beautification Committee. As you may know, Chap & Betty Hutchins left a wonderful endowment to Gas City specifically earmarked to aid in the beautification of the Historical Main Street. Our charge as citizens of Grant County is to capitalize on this growth period and continue the progress by some fundraising of our own.

We are contacting you because of your leadership roles in your professions and the community. The state and federal government have many programs where they will match funds raised by a town with

relations to restoration of historical areas as well as general improvement grants. We welcome any knowledge you may have on these programs or grant writing.

The re-development of the street from the river bridge up to Tenth Street as well as lighting to the interstate will help with needed esthetic changes as well as infrastructure to lure new business.

As people who benefit by the renaissance in our county, we are asking for 100 citizens to give \$1,000 to the community fund earmarked for the revitalization of the main street in Gas City. The money raised could potentially be multiplied up to \$1,000,000. Using the Hutchins endowment, we hope to attract a grant double that amount.

The county and city has experienced remarkable growth during the past two plus years. However, **THE BEST IS YET TO COME!!!!!!** The time to capitalize on that growth is now.

Let's embrace this opportunity to reinvest in our community so that we can eventually lure more jobs to our fair city. Investment in our city's future is an investment in an investment in our children. Our goal as a committee is for a tasteful revitalization as well as some needed growth. Personal and Corporate Sponsors are welcome.

Crandall office has pledged **THREE** \$1,000 investments and we hope that with all your help, we can invest and use it to land a large redevelopment grant to give Main Street a face-lift! Checks should be made out the Community Foundation with Gas City Main Street on the Memo line. Please pass this along so that the campaign reaches it's maximum potential.

Any help and input from public is welcome. This is our community; together let's make it grow economically.

WE ONLY ACHIEVE WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER!!! Let's make it happen.

Update: Ball State University Urban Planning & Architectural Design class has accepted the Gas City Project and will be proposing a plan next spring.

Caleb Crandall, Mississinewa Management Inc.
236 E Main Street, Gas City IN 46933
765-677-0996 office, 765-677-0997 FAX
caleb@crandalloffices.com

Rumor Control...

McDonald's does not, and has never, imported any beef into the U.S. from South America. McDonald's is the world's largest purchaser of U.S. beef - and that will NOT change. Each year, McDonald's purchases nearly one billion pounds of beef from U.S. producers. Our commitment to the U.S. agriculture industry stands stronger than ever. -McDonald's USA, LLC

Opportunity...

Chamber Members: Please be reminded that the on-line Community Calendar is an opportunity for you to post your upcoming events for the over 2,200 web visitors monthly. If you do not have access to a computer to post your events you may mail, FAX or drop off your notices and we will post them for you.

Personal...DECA students say thanks!

Thank you IMPA - DECA sponsor

"Dear Chamber Members: I would like to thank you for having us at your monthly chamber luncheon. I think putting influence on the younger generation will pay off in the end when we are the chamber members contributing to tomorrow's community." Sincerely, Josh Kennedy

"Dear Chamber Members: Thank you for letting me and the other DECA members join you for lunch and the meeting. I enjoyed sitting in with all of the different businesses represented there. Coming to the Chamber of Commerce luncheon helped me realize all of the people who make this county work together. Thank you once again for letting me be a part of your time. I hope I will be able to join you next month." Sincerely, Allison D. Planck

"Dear Chamber Members: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting this month. This gives all of us DECA students a chance to attend a valuable meeting to the community. I hope to see you all again soon." Sincerely, Wesley Mills

"Dear Chamber Members: Thank you for allowing the MHS DECA class to participate in the luncheon. It was an experience learning about the businesses and meeting the people we did. I especially wanted to thank Janet Blake for guiding us through this." Sincerely, Zach McVicker

Similar Thank You notes were also received from Megan Williams, Katelin McCollum, Theresa Davies, John Pearson, Abby Goodpaster, Alyson Arrendall and an anonymous author.

Kudos...

Julie & Fred Herron are learning a new business at their newly opened business, **EmbroidMe**, a silk-screening and embroidery franchise located in Muncie. Not ready to retire, Fred finished his career as Madison-Grant Schools Superintendent last year and is learning plenty about operating a business from wife Julie, who ran her own hair salon for 18 years.

Community Events...

- ◆ November 22-December 31 - Take a leisurely drive through the Gas City Eugene "Beaner" Linn Memorial Park and view the "Best Christmas Lights Ever!" Displays are sponsored by area business, friends of the community and groups taking pride and investing in their community. Donations gratefully accepted.
- ◆ December 1 - Santa Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. @ Gas City Fire Station, 111 South 3rd Street - Adults \$4.00, Children \$3.00, Pictures with Santa \$3.00 per picture. Sponsored by Gas City Firemen & Auxiliary



- ◆ December 1 - Gas City "WE CARE" Children's Bazaar, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. @ West School Gym - Bring your child and let them do their own Christmas shopping. Adults not allowed in shopping area. Christmas gifts under \$2, wrapping free-of-charge.
- ◆ December 1 - Gas City Park Carriage Rides (\$1.50) 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Craft Show & Soup Supper @ Hontz Hall, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by Gas City Historical Society
- ◆ December 1 - Enchanted Luminaria Walk at Minnetrista, 1200 North Minnetrista Parkway, Muncie from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. FREE ADMISSION! Carriage rides - Luminaries - Holiday Decorations - Food & Music - House Tours & Shopping at The Orchard Shop at Minnetrista and The Center Shop at Minnetrista. Don't miss the Luminartist Market: A variety of local vendors offering food, crafts, great gift ideas and more!
- ◆ December 15 - WINTER MARKET, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon, Farmers Market at Minnetrista, 311 W. St. Joseph St., Muncie - Baked Goods, coffee, meats, eggs, cheese, honey, winter vegetables and holiday greenery. Ginger Bread Demonstration 9:00 a.m. at the Winter Market!

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

Scott Murphy
Wal-Mart Distribution

David Penticuff
Chronicle-Tribune

Denny Smith
2 B Personalized

Larry Terwillegar
Masonic Lodge #645

Dorine Ward
York House

Interns

Beth Alston
Mutual Federal Savings Bank

Nichole Schroeder
Indiana Business College

Executive Director

Penny A. Garrett