

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

November 2008

The Chamber Mission Statement: To Promote, Nurture and Develop the Community and Character of the Gas City Area through cooperative efforts from Business, Industry and Education.

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!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following new members. We encourage members to do business with other members and shop locally.

AAA Auto Glass

Steve Galbraith - Owner

1021 N Washington St, Marion, IN 46952

Phone: 765. 671.9044 ~ Email: aaaautoglass4163@sbcglobal.net

EcoCounter Tops USA

Mike Vetor - Exclusive Dealer

Phone: 765. 674.2837 ~ Cell: 765. 618.8707

Email: mike.vetor@ecocountertopsusa.com ~ Website: www.ecocountertopsusa.com

Gas City Bait & Tackle

Gene Faunce – Owner

113 S Harrisburg Ave, Gas City, IN 46933

Phone: 765.674.7643 ~ Email: genefaunce@yahoo.com

Reflexion Photography

Charles Duke – Owner

501 S Main, Jonesboro, IN 46938

Mailing Address: 200 W 9th St, Jonesboro, IN 46938

Phone: 260.228.0259

Website: www.memoriesbyreflexions.com

Important Dates

Visit www.gascity.com to link to the online Community Calendar sponsored by IMI.

- 11/05/08 Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 11/11/08 Small Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chronicle-Tribune Office** Conference Room – Meetings by appointment only; call the Chamber Office ph. 674-7545.
- 11/13/08 Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room

- 11/19/08 Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon – **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (*Guaranteed reservations required by November 14. Call 674-7545 to make a reservation.*)
SPEAKERS: Pro Prints & Hoosier Burn Camp
MENU: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas or Carrots, Chinese Cole Slaw, Pumpkin Roll, Drink
Cost: \$6.00
- 11/21/08 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

Free Seminar on Franchises

Thursday, November 13, 6 pm

Gas City-Mill Township Public Library, 135 E Main Street

The Marion-Grant County chapter of SCORE and the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Counselors will sponsor a seminar on how to investigate and buy a franchise.

Jim Gleason, the general manager of FranNet of Mid-America, will conduct the program. Topics covered will include what is franchising, why does it work, what are the pros and cons, what are the costs associated with owning and operating a franchise, how to select and investigate a franchise and what traits are important to be a successful franchisee.

The two-hour seminar is open to interested entrepreneurs. Reservations are necessary. Call SCORE at Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce at 664-5107 or Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce at 674-7545 by November 10.

Boutique 125 Open House

Monday, November 3, 11:30 am

238 E Main Street, Gas City, 765.618.8465

Please join Lisa Schoolman, owner of Boutique 125, during her Anniversary Open House. Join us at 11:30 am to celebrate Boutique 125's 1st Anniversary and congratulate Lisa on a successful first year in Business. In celebration, Boutique 125 will be running a sale all week. Light Refreshments will be served.

Taste of Texas / West Texas Steak House

Grand Re-Opening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thursday, November 6, 11:30 am

East of I-69 on St Rd 22 at Oasis 22 Shopping Center, 765.998.7000

Stop by and sample new menu items. Refreshment will be served.

November Specials: Steak & Shrimp Kabobs or 8oz New York Strip for \$9.95.

November & December Special: Whole Smoked Turkey for \$29.95. Please order turkey 1 week in advance. "Chamber Members Only" receive a \$5.00 discount off Smoked Turkey.

Chamber members may also take advantage of a 10% discount daily until April 30, 2009. Stop by the chamber office to pick up a "Chamber Member Only" Smoked Turkey \$5.00 off coupon and a 10% off discount coupon. Coupons will also be available at the November 19th Director's Luncheon.

RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE

Custom Comfort Heating, Cooling & Plumbing
20th Anniversary Celebration & Open House
6210 S Lincoln Blvd, Marion
765.674.1511



Director's Luncheon

Don't miss out on a great opportunity to promote your business. Be a speaker at the Director's Luncheon. The cost is only \$25 and includes 1 meal. Speakers receive 10-15 minutes to address a very captive audience. As an added benefit, you may provide a door prize. This opportunity is available for speakers as well as attendees. Hurry, space is filling up fast!

Thank you "Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc." and "Canten Floral Company, Inc." for speaking at our October Director's Luncheon. Everyone appreciated learning more about your business. Also, thank you "Canten Floral Company, Inc." and "Balloons, Flowers & Gifts" for donating the fall flower arrangements for door prizes. We want to thank our volunteer working check-in, Gwen Black and our diplomat greeters: Darin Webb, Great Deals Magazine; Dennis Banks, STAR Financial and Garon Losure, Carey Services.

FREE Promotion through the Chamber Welcome Bags

The Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce is putting together welcome bags for newcomers to the area. Would you like to promote your business by putting promotional items, business cards, flyers and/or brochures in these bags? Discount coupons would be a great way to get newcomers in your business. We will be putting together 25 bags to start and ask that you have at least 25 of each item you would like included. Items for the bags should be dropped off at the chamber office. Please contact the chamber office at 765.674.7545 with any questions.

Chamber Spotlight on Business

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 submitting articles for publication in the Chamber Notes. Students, freshmen through senior grades, are using skills they are learning by making contact with area businesses, making their request, interviewing and writing "Business Spotlight" articles for publication. Following is a feature article submitted by Mississinewa High School.

Gas City Mayor H. Larry Leach, by Mache Simpson



Gas City was formerly known as Harrisburg. It all began as a "boom town" due to an abundance of natural gas that was found approximately in 1887. The settlement took place Harrisburg (Gas City) on May 25, 1867. The founder Noah Harris was a known fur trader. By the time 1892 came around, a census showed a population of 150 and Harris had already passed away. The Gas City Land Company was formed and changed Harrisburg to Gas City. Today, Gas City has a population of 6,400 and is governed by Mayor Larry Leach.

Leach's responsibilities are "to oversee all departments of the city; which include the electric, water, waste water, street, police, fire, and parks departments are running as smoothly as possible, and to contact and keep in contact with officials from businesses that are currently in Gas City and to contact new companies that are possibly looking at Gas City as their potential home. The numerous duties of the mayor are listed in the Indiana codes, under Title 36," said Leach.

Leach has been the mayor for over seven years. He got involved in politics when he was in high school.

"I have been interested in politics since I was in high school. I was president of the National Honor Society. I first ran for Gas City council and won that election when I was 25 years old. At that time, a great friend of mine, Neil Wood persuaded me to run for the council and that was the beginning," said Leach.

Being a mayor has many benefits. “The best thing is just being able to serve the people. When I can interject my ideas and take the ideas of others and use them to make Gas City a better place to live, I get great satisfaction. I love this city and want to make it a place that everyone else loves,” said Leach.



The job, however, can be demanding and challenging. “I am not able to satisfy everybody. Many times I have had to make decisions that others do not agree with. This is hard, but not everybody wants the same thing. The truly worst thing I have had to do is terminate people from employment. It is hard to tell someone they no longer have a job. I have had to do that on several occasions and it is not pleasant,” said Leach.

Mayor Leach has been able to travel to such places as the nation’s capital, South Korea, and Japan. “My travel is limited. I only travel when I think it will really help benefit the community. I have been to Washington, D.C. several times. I have been to Japan, and South Korea, and naturally I spend quite a bit of time in Indianapolis dealing with the State Legislature,” said Leach.

Leach has achieved much while in office. “The biggest accomplishments of my tenure as mayor are having been a part of the team that convinced Wal-Mart to build a distribution center in Gas City. This has created nearly one thousand good paying jobs. We have built a new electric substation which will supply power needs for the city for several years to come. Also, a state of the art wastewater treatment facility has just been finished. It will utilize ultraviolet purification rather than chemicals so there will be absolutely no contamination of the river. We will be starting a new water treatment plant on the eastside of our city, soon. We have made improvements in our park and mini zoo. This is just a few of the things that we have accomplished.”

Leach looks forward to his future in politics, helping the people of Gas City. “I have 3 years left in this term of office. If my health is good, in all probability I will run for re-election as mayor. If I am defeated, I will go into retirement and my wife Patte and I will travel when we can to see our children and grandchildren,” said Leach.

The opportunity to serve has been one Leach treasures. “I have been with the city for over 40 years. I was a policeman for 24 years (18 of those as chief) I was elected to the city council 3 times and was clerk treasurer for 2 years. I have loved every bit of it,” he said.

Time Gets Better With Age (Words of wisdom from all ages!)

*I learned that whenever I decide something with kindness,
I usually make the right decision. – Age 66*

COMMUNITY AND MEMBER NEWS ...

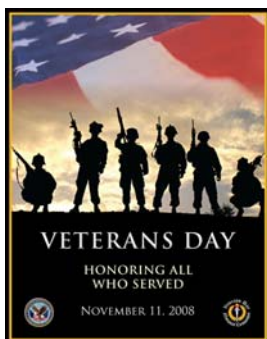
Local Gas Prices Drop



We all enjoyed the gas drop in October and hope it will continue and last! Shown is the price of gas on October 10 & October 27.



Fourth Annual Veterans Parade
VA Northern Indiana Health Care System, Marion Campus
Friday, November 7, 2008 at 1:00 pm



The VA Northern Indiana Health Care System (VANIHCS) annual Veterans Parade in the Marion Indiana community is paying tribute to our nation's Veterans. Please join us at VANIHCS on November 7th 2008 at 1-4pm.

This event is something that all of us at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System are very excited about. The parades from the last three years were met with tremendous support from patients, staff and outside veteran organizations. This year we anticipate another successful parade to recognize our Nation's heroes. The parade route is set up so that those in the community can view it as well as the hospitalized veterans.

Historic Thompson-Ray House

407 E Main Street, Gas City

Private Parties and tours are being scheduled at the Historic Thompson-Ray House. Contact the Chamber office at 765.674.7545 to schedule you tour or event.

For information on the Thompson-Ray House visit www.leadinc.us. LEAD Inc, in partnership with the city of Gas City and local visionaries, is working to preserve this Grant County historical home. Donations are currently being accepted to refurbish the historic landmark. Donation boxes are located at STAR Finacial, Via Credit Untion, Mutual Bank, Owen's Hardware, Mike Anderson Chevrolet, Blockbuster Video, CVB, and the Gas City Chamber Office. *For additional information visit www.leadinc.us or call (765) 251-3546.*



2nd Annual Art Auction
Saturday, November 15
 Community School of the Arts

Enjoy an evening with the arts at the Mill. Purchase art from new budding artists as well as local professionals. 5:00 pm Preview, 6:00 pm CSA Performances, 6:30 pm Auction begins. For additional information call 765.662.6263 or visit www.csa-marion.com.

Help Students Witness History in the Making



The eighth grade class at RJ Basset Middle School has the unique opportunity to go to Washington D.C. They will be seeing many of the national monuments and famous places that up to this point, they have only read about. They will also witness the Presidential Inauguration in January. This would be a great opportunity to see history actually happen and witness either the first black president or first female vice president be sworn in.

The trip will cost about \$1,000 per student. The majority of the expenses for this week-long trip will be covered. Joel Sommer, RJ Basket Teacher, is helping organize the trip through Smithsonian Student Travel. To help keep the cost down the group will be traveling by bus.

The school has put on fundraisers and have others planned but still need your help! The students are very excited to be able to see, feel, touch and experience history up-close and personal in Washington D.C. and would appreciate any help you can give.

To help contact R.J. Baskett Middle School at 765.674.8536 or make checks payable to Mississinewa Activity Fund and mail to the middle school, 125 N. Broadway St., Gas City, IN 46933. Please write “D.C. Field Trip” in your check memo.



Contact: Ann Vermilion at 662-4849 or
Randy Deffenbaugh at 662-4014
October 24, 2008

MGH WELCOMES AREAS NEWEST OB-GYN

Dr. Hena Tewari joins Obstetrics Gynecology, Inc.

Marion General Hospital is pleased to welcome Hena Tewari, M.D. to its medical staff. Tewari graduated from and completed here residency at King George’s Medical College in Lucknow, India.

She is board-eligible and recently completed 4 years of practice at Chicago’s internationally acclaimed Mount Sinai Hospital before relocating to Marion.

Tewari joins Obstetrics Gynecology, Inc., located at 1419 W. Bella Drive. Patients may call 765-664-5134 to schedule an appointment.



Flood Victim Project “the Payton Family”

B	I	N	G	O
9	27	41	59	68
14	26	43	57	70
5	23	FREE	55	66
7	30	36	56	67
6	29	42	58	64

The Upland Chamber of Commerce is planning fundraisers to benefit victims of the southern Indiana floods earlier this year.

“Game of Chance – Bingo” - Thursday, November 6, 6:30–9:00 pm

Upland Community Building, 411 W Washington St

\$10 per pack – Prizes for every game!! Must be 18 yrs. Old to play. Food & Snacks available

Chili Supper - Saturday, December 13, 4:30-7:00 pm

Upland Lions Club, 328 N Lake St

Meal includes: Chili, Hot Dog or Peanut Butter Sandwich, Dessert and Drink. Adults - \$5.00, Children 12 & Under - \$3.00. Carry-out Available. *Meet the Payton Family*

Anderson University Professional Development Services presents...

Spotlight Seminar Series: Project Management (for Real Life)



Spotlight Seminars are full-day, in-depth workshops designed to help you improve your effectiveness in the workplace. Spotlight Seminars include a continental breakfast and lunch.

When: Tuesday, November 11, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Where: AU Flagship Center (Exit 22, I-69), 2705 Enterprise Drive, Anderson, IN 46013

You Will Learn To:

- Complete a thorough and accurate project plan including task identification, scheduling and budgeting
- Evaluate likely project risks and develop appropriate response strategies - Assemble, manage and motivate a project team - Monitor the key project issues of schedule, budget, and performance deliverables and develop problem responses - Deliver effective project reports

Cost: \$99 includes continental breakfast and lunch

Register by November 4, 2008: <http://www.anderson.edu/pds/spotlight.html>

For More Information: Please contact Kerrie Aborn by phone: 765-648-2889, toll-free: 877-428-2765 x2889, or email: kmaborn@anderson.edu.

Upcoming Brunch+Learn Seminars – 1/29/09, 9 am to 11 am, Team Building

Upcoming Spotlight Seminar Series – 12/9/08, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Customer Service

For Sale or Exchange – Industrial Building

Jonesboro Industrial Center

618 S Main St, Jonesboro, IN

34,570 Sq. Ft. Divisible on 1.56 Acres of Land

Total Area 34,570 Sq. Ft. - Includes: 19,376 sq. ft. of Manufacturing Area, 12,150 sq. ft. Warehouse Space, 3,224 sq. ft. of Office, 5 Overhead Doors, Covered Dock Area, Sprinkler System, 460 – 3 Phase Electrical, Conrail Rail Service, 7' – 12' Ceiling Height, Men & Women Clean Bathroom Facilities. For additional information please call Jonesboro City Hall, 765.674.1196

Websites of Interest



Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce – www.gascity.com

Grant County Growth Council – www.grantcoindevelopment.com

Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau – www.showmegrantcounty.com

Indiana State Chamber of Commerce – www.indianachamber.org

Indiana Workforce Development – www.hoosierdata.in.gov

Indiana Polling Places - www.indianavoters.com

Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce – www.marionchamber.org

State of Indiana – www.indiana.gov

The Taxpayers Network – www.taxpayersnetwork.org

United States Small Business Administration - www.sba.gov

United States Department of Commerce - www.commerce.gov

The Official Business Link to the U.S. Government – www.business.gov

We encourage members to do business with other members & shop locally!

**Board of Directors
2008-2009**

OFFICERS:

Janet Blake, President
The Cellular Connection-Gas City
Scott Nicholson, President Elect
Mutual Bank
Michael Powell, Vice-President
Mississinewa School Admin.
Candace Eck, Secretary-Treasurer
Dulin, Ward & DeWald, Inc.
Mark Sullivan, Ex-Officio
Irving Materials, Inc.

MEMBERS:

Dennis Banks
Star Financial
Dawn Brown
Community Foundation of Grant Co., IN, Inc.
Nancy Bryant
Gas City-Mill Twp. Library
Aleta Goins
Howe's Financial Services, Inc.
Scott Murphy
Wal-Mart Distribution Center
David Penticuff
Chronicle-Tribune
Denny Smith
2B Personalized
Larry Terwillegar
Masonic Lodge #645
Dorine Ward
York House

CHAMBER STAFF:

Nancy Hoover, *Marketing/Office Administrator*
Celeste Draher, *Office Manager*