

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

January 2009

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.

Brookdale Senior Living/Sterling House of Marion

Lori Hale - Director of Marketing
2452 W Kem Rd, Marion, IN 46952
Phone: 765.384.4500 ~ Fax: 765.384.4502
Email: lhale1@brookdaleliving.com ~ Website: www.brookdaleliving.com

Buds to Blossoms

Patricia Adkins - Owner
2196 W 50th St, Marion, IN 46953
Phone: 765.674.0418
Email: pat.adkins@att.net

Gas City Historical Society

Jerry Long - President
PO Box 192, Gas City, IN 46933
Phone: 765.674.1892
Email: gascitymuseum@hotmail.com

Important Dates

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



- 1/07/09 Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 1/13/09 Small Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chronicle-Tribune Office** Conference Room – Meetings by appointment only; call the Chamber Office ph. 674-7545.
- 1/15/09 Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 1/21/09 Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon – **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (*Guaranteed reservations required by January 16. Call 674-7545 to make a reservation.*)
SPEAKER: **Salin Bank** -- MENU: Soup-Chili or Creamy Vegetable, Creamy Slaw, Ham Sandwich, Carrot Cake, Drink – Cost: \$6.00
- 1/22/09 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

1/22/09 Small Business Mentoring Group Seminar – “**Managing a small business in hard times**”

Concerts in the Park 2009

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CONCERTS IN THE PARK!!!!



This year we celebrate our TENTH BIRTHDAY!!!!!!

It is hard to imagine that we have come so far in TEN years. I'm sure that you hear positive comments from our community about this concert series and in fact, our community (as well as the county) anticipates these concerts as part of their summer activities.

Last year's attendance was well over 6000. I'm sure the increase was partly due to the economy and people staying closer to home. Our **average** attendance increased from 700 to 800+ per concert. 1200+ programs were printed and distributed to our patrons, thanks to the Diplomats. It is also noteworthy that many people in attendance traveled from outside Grant Co. I had individuals tell me they were from cities such as: Hartford City, Montpelier, Noblesville, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Anderson, Wabash, Muncie, as well as several Grant Co. communities.

Another interesting note, we are beginning to see more young adults and more families who are bringing their children to the concerts. Our audience has always been the “over 55” crowd, and again we see the average age moving downward!!

Unfortunately, last year we saw a dramatic decrease in the number of corporate and private sponsors (20+ fewer donors) and thus our income was off by \$2000.00 +

As we celebrate TEN years, Thanks to all who give year after year, and I invite those who have not, please consider supporting this series.

Thanks, Mark Storey

Chamber Welcome Bags

The Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce has “Welcome Bags” for newcomers to the area. “Thank you” to all the businesses that included information. If you did not give an item and would like to, please contact the chamber office. Promotional items, business cards, flyers and/or brochures may be included. Discount coupons would also be a great way to get newcomers in your business.

The Chamber Welcome Bag is not connected or affiliated with any other area welcome bags. Please contact the chamber office at 765.674.7545 or gascity@comteck.com with any questions.

Director's Luncheon

Promote your business or organization – There is still space available to speak at the monthly chamber luncheons. The cost is only \$25 and includes 1 meal. Speakers receive 10-15 minutes to address a very captive audience.

Members may also provide a door prize. If you plan to donate a door prize, please contact the chamber office by end of business the Monday before the luncheon.

Thank you “*Carey Services*” for speaking at our December Director's Luncheon. Everyone appreciated learning more about your programs and how Carey Services can save their business money while helping the community. The Bird Feeders were a big hit!

Thank you “*Anderson University School of Adult Learning*” and “*Taylor University*” for donating a door prize. Also, we want to thank our volunteer working check-in, Gwen Black and our diplomat greeters: Mark Storey, Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service and Bill Rock, Carey Services.

Member News and Updates

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. We also encourage members to visit www.gascity.com and verify their membership listing is current. Please send your information and updates to the Chamber office – Phone: 765.674.7545; email: gascity@comteck.com; Fax: 765.674.1152.

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.

Starbucks Coffee, By Cydney Costner

4970 Beaner Blvd, Gas City, 677-0905



Starbucks is a very fast growing franchise. Many couldn't image trying to go get a nice cup of coffee during the mornings.

Starbucks, located in Gas City at 4970 Beaner Blvd and opened in February of 2007. The busiest hours are in the mornings from nine until about eleven and in the afternoons from around two until about four. On the drive to work and after a long day at work, many think a nice cup of coffee hits the spot.

There are a total of 18 employees that work for Gas City, so they are always busy. "The worst times to work for myself are when we are shorthanded," said store manager Melissa Newman.

Starbucks is a homey place to have a treat and coffee or so to visit with their friends. "I love working at Starbucks, the employees are really cool, and sweet and do for each other. I really enjoy the costumers and like to make them feel at home whenever they come in." Newman said.

"The reason why I work here at Starbucks is because at first it was new, I love coffee, and it's an interesting job," said Newman. "I started in Bluffton IN, which was a lot of a slower pace compared to here in Gas City. It was an opening job at the time, and I knew I had to get a job because of the prices that have been rising, and that continue to raise each day," Newman said.

If you like coffee, you should try Starbucks. It's a small indulgence that can make your day.

COMMUNITY AND MEMBER NEWS ...

Arbor Education and Training is seeking Grant County employers to participate in our network center. Every Friday, we host a group of individuals from 8:30 - 10:30 AM that are job seeking. These are people that are on public assistance, but need encouragement and job searching advice. We are enlisting employers from our area to come and speak to these fellow citizens for 15-20 minutes and give them practical advice on how to make themselves more marketable and successful in their quest for employment. You are not obligated to stay the entire two hours. You may schedule a slot and attend for your portion of the program. The group size may vary from just a handful to as many as twenty, but any assistance and help you can give these individuals would be greatly appreciated. We meet at 1800 Kem Road in Marion. If you wish to participate, please contact Bill Westafer at 765-860-0948 or email: wkwestafer@arboret.com.

Gas City Kiwanis Club Tenderloin Fry**Saturday, January 17, 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

All You Can Eat Hand Breaded Tenderloin

Mississinewa High School Cafeteria

Tickets: \$7.00 Adult & \$5.00 Children 6-12, 50 cent Deserts also available

All proceeds from Kiwanis of Gas City fund raising events support the youth and community service projects in the Gas City, Jonesboro and Mill Township community. Kiwanis Club of Gas City is celebrating 82 years of continuous service – Chartered on April 1, 1927.

Passionate About Singing?

Radiate your passion for singing and become a part of something extraordinary. Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of female singers who meet regularly to practice, socialize, perform and sing a cappella, four-part harmony, barbershop style. We are looking for singers to join the thousands of members in countries all over the world who value the joy of singing chord-ringing, fun-filled music.

A sweet offer: Free 4 week starter membership. Contact: Linda at (765) 677-SING for more information or come to rehearsals on Mondays, 7-9:30 pm starting January 5 at Barry Bunker Chevrolet Community Room, State Rd 15 (North Wabash Rd) in Marion. Email: christmascitychorus@yahoo.com.
Sweet Adelines International – real women, real harmony, real fun!

Miller's Merry Manor Partners with Ball State University***Innovative RN Training Program***

Indiana, along with the rest of the nation, is in the midst of a nursing shortage that is expected to intensify as Baby Boomers age and their need for health care grows, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. In an innovative new program, Miller's Health Systems has partnered with Ball State University to encourage the company's licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to apply for the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's degree in Nursing while still working their regular schedule at Miller's.

Through Ball State's School of Extended Education, now in its second year, the program has more than seventy students registered in twenty-seven of the thirty-two Miller's locations around the State of Indiana, including four students at Miller's Merry Manor – Marion. The program is the first of its kind in the nation, and prepares LPNs to pass the National Council licensure exam for Registered Nurses (RNs).

With no up-front cost to students, much of this non-traditional learning program utilizes a virtual classroom through online courses completed at home or on designated computers at work. Minimal travel is required for a small segment of classes in a traditional setting, and while many of the required clinicals are completed on-site, a limited number must be taken at alternate locations.

According to Patrick Boyle, President and CEO of Miller's Health Systems, in addition to offering convenience for employees, the program allows Miller's to promote its employees in-house, and brings more registered nurses to the rural areas where many Miller's facilities are located. "We have a strong focus on education for our employees at all levels, and the Ball State program provides another avenue for them to take the next step up the professional ladder," Boyle stated.

The fact that graduates from the School of Nursing had a 100 percent pass rate on the most recent state exams helped affirm the choice to engage with Ball State University, Boyle added. "We want the best education for our employees, and knowing that Ball State's passing rate is consistently at the top definitely factored into our decision to partner with the university," he said.

For more information about the education program offered at Miller's Merry Manor – Marion, contact John Velasquez, Administrator, at 765-662-3981 or MarionAdm@millersmerrymanor.com.

Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Receives 2008 Best of Marion Award

U.S. Local Business Association's Award Plaque Honors the Achievement

Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral has been selected for the 2008 Best of Marion Award in the Funeral Homes category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA).

The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2008 USLBA Award Program focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties.

U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA) is a Washington D.C. based organization funded by local businesses operating in towns, large and small, across America. The purpose of USLBA is to promote local business through public relations, marketing and advertising.

The USLBA was established to recognize the best of local businesses in their community. Our organization works exclusively with local business owners, trade groups, professional associations, chambers of commerce and other business advertising and marketing groups. Our mission is to be an advocate for small and medium size businesses and business entrepreneurs across America.

Source: U.S. Local Business Association. Contact: U.S. Local Business Association, Email: PublicRelations@USLBA.net, URL: <http://www.USLBA.net>.

Anderson University's Professional Development Services presents...

Spotlight Seminar Series: Team Building

"Teamwork... is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." — Andrew Carnegie



When: Thursday, January 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

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

Description: Although working as a team can sometimes be a challenge, the benefits are worth the extra effort. A high performance team can help improve productivity, quality, and job satisfaction within your organization. During this seminar our Corporate Training Analyst, Laurie Judge, will show you powerful ways to bond with and motivate your co-workers in order to form a cohesive unit that can effectively respond to any situation and consistently deliver excellence. Bring your team!

Cost: \$29 includes hearty breakfast buffet.

Register by January 23, 2009: <http://www.anderson.edu/pds>

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



Upcoming Brunch+Learn Seminar – Thursday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Communication

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 our members to support “OUR” local economy by doing business with other members & by “Shopping Locally”. We can do together what we can not do alone!

2008-2009 Board of Directors

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.*

Directors

Dennis Banks, *STAR Financial Bank*
Dawn Brown, *Community Foundation of Grant County, IN, Inc.*
Nancy Bryant, *Gas City-Mill Township Library*
Aleta Goins, *Howe’s Financial Services, Inc.*
Scott Murphy, *Wal-Mart Distribution Center #7055*
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*