

GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

February 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!

Concerts in the Park 2009

OK, so there is snow on the ground, its cold and I cannot remember the last time I saw the sun in the sky!!



Don't worry, the weather will change and soon we will be hearing the sweet sounds of music in the park.

YEP, it's that time of year again. You probably have received by now a request to help sponsor and support this series. Please don't throw away this request. Without your support our concerts would not be the "talk of the town".

Our series will begin the 2nd week of June and end the last week of July.

Why not consider having a customer appreciation day for your business and combine it with a concert?

Some of the venues include: The Mississinewa Valley Band, Ed Crawford and the Mystery Men quartet, and the Daddy'O's.

Happy 10th Birthday, Concerts in the Park.

Mark Storey, Chairman, Corporate Art Series

Important Dates

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

- 2/04/09 Board Executive Officers Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 2/10/09 Small Business Mentoring Group @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chronicle-Tribune Office** Conference Room – Meetings by appointment only; call the Chamber Office ph. 674-7545.
- 2/12/09 Board of Directors Meeting @ 8:00 a.m. – **Chamber Office** Conference Room
- 2/18/09 Director's Luncheon @ 12 Noon – **Eastview Wesleyan Church** (*Guaranteed reservations required by January 16. Call 674-7545 to make a reservation.*)
SPEAKER: State Farm, Dennis Roach -- MENU: Meat Loaf, Baked Potatoes, Corn, Layer Salad, Cookies / Jell-O, Drink – Cost: \$6.00 -- *First 50 Guaranteed Reservation will be paid by State Farm. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! (Reservation made and not cancelled will be billed.)*
- 2/20/09 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline

Work in Progress

Committee for *Boom Town 1892 / Hickory Shaft Golf Tournament / Dinner* is proceeding ahead for an event to come up on June 19 & 20, 2009. Exciting events are being planned! Stay tuned for more details.

Small Business Mentoring Group Seminar

February's topic will focus on *Taxes*. Watch your email for more details.

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.

Blockbuster, By Connie Nugent

202 West Main Street, Gas City, 674-7373



It's a lonely Friday night. You're just sitting at home with your mom, and you have no plans. So what do you do? Well, a good idea would be to go to Blockbuster and rent newly released movies and video games. Brittany Pile is the assistant manager at Blockbuster, located at 202 West Main Street in Gas City. She has worked at the store for four and a half years.

Blockbuster is a well known business that supplies the people of Gas City with a range of multi media entertainment, such as newly released movies and video games.

Pile's job requires her to maintain the store, work with customers to their satisfaction, be a people person, and know how to solve problems fast. Currently Blockbuster has six employees working. While Blockbuster employees may not get insurance benefits, they do get benefits of another kind: free movie and video game rentals to a certain point. "I like being a manger at Blockbuster because I'm kind of a control freak, so at least I can have partial control over the things that happen in the store, and it is really nice to be able to make your own schedule," said Pile.

Pile enjoys the Gas City atmosphere. "After living in Fairmount for so long, it's a great change of pace to work in Gas City. I love it, especially when I get to make people's day by providing them with the entertainment they want," she said.

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.

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.

3rd Annual Spring Fling The Primitive Inn

Leilani Gouchenouer
125 W Main St, Gas City, IN 46933
(765) 674-2466

Please join Leilani Gouchenouer, owner, for the 3rd Annual Spring Fling on March 21st from 10 am to 4 pm. Come enjoy refreshments and door prizes. Shop early for the biggest selection of back from market spring items! Watch for more details.



The 13th Annual Dream Ball “Celebrating 25 years....45 million pounds” February 21, 2009

At the historic Paramount Theatre Ballroom in Anderson
Reservations due by February 13, \$50 person
Contact Tiffany Jones, (765) 287-8698 ext. 100

An eight-county gala evening of dining, dancing, and live and silent auctions to benefit the programs of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana.



Dear Chamber Member:

Take a PASS on identity theft is a popular topic in the news these days. We've received several inquiries about it from our clients. As a part of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce community, we've made it our mission to be a source of information on topics such as this for the entire community. I came across the enclosed report recently and hope you will find it beneficial.

Sincerely,
Dennis W. Banks I Vice President / Banking Center Officer
STAR Financial Bank I 931 East Main Street, Gas City
(765) 673-6460, www.starfinancial.com

Take a PASS on identity theft

Identity theft—the fastest growing type of fraud—involves more than the misuse of a Social Security number. It also can include credit card and mail fraud. Fraudsters are continually developing innovative ways to steal consumers' personal information.

“The greater the public's awareness of identity theft, the greater chance we have at preventing it,” said Nessa Fedis, senior federal counsel for the American Bankers Association (ABA). “An educated consumer is the key to prevention.”

The ABA and STAR encourage consumers to PASS—protect, alert, shred and scan—to protect themselves against identity theft.

Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card with you or have your number printed on checks. Never give out your bank account or credit card number unless you initiated the

contact. Use firewalls, anti-spyware and anti-virus software to protect your home computer. Secure mailboxes with locks and protect mail before and after it gets into your home.

Be on the alert for signs that your identity may be in jeopardy, including: bills that do not arrive when expected; unexpected credit cards or account statements; denials of credit for no apparent reason; calls or letters about purchases you did not make; or telemarketing scams that trick customers into revealing personal account information.

Shred or tear up statements and other personal information that link your name to account numbers or your Social Security number. Criminals may be able to get access to your accounts and personal information by “dumpster diving” (retrieving canceled checks, deposit receipts or bank statements from dumpsters or trash bins).

Scan your credit report and accounts regularly. For your credit report, check that everything is accurate, all accounts are yours and closed accounts are marked closed. Check your bank and credit card statements online for unauthorized charges. To access your free credit report from the Federal Trade Commission, visit: www.annualcreditreport.com.

In addition to educating consumers, banks use encrypted systems, employee training, strict privacy policies and rigorous security standards to protect customers’ personal information.

Consumers generally are not responsible for fraudulent transactions or accounts they did not open. If you suspect that you are a victim of identity theft, contact your bank immediately, then file a complaint with the FTC by calling toll-free 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338) or visiting www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

As a local bank dedicated to the community, STAR Financial Bank believes it’s our responsibility to provide tips and advice for managing your finances. That’s why we developed Smart Money, a financial education initiative. We have compiled news and tips from the FDIC and other banking industry resources that we’d like to share with you.

STAR Smart Money Series Volume 1 Issue 1

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!*

Cancer Services of Grant County

305 S. Norton Ave. Marion, IN 46952



Hello everyone! I can't believe how quickly the New Year has slipped away! In celebration of our 50th year anniversary and increased cancer client needs, Cancer Services of Grant County is busier than ever! The need to add to our existing volunteer program has grown significantly within the past couple of months!

Would you consider a commitment of selfless giving to Cancer Services? As little as a few hours a month can make huge difference in the day to day operations and service to cancer clients in Grant County...

We are currently most in need of in town and out of town drivers, main office reception help, Progressive Cancer Care office coverage, and upcoming event support.

Take a look at the attached brochure for a more detailed look and let me know if there is an area you would sign up for!

Applications for volunteering are accessible online at www.grantcountycancer.org. Thanks so much for your consideration and time in this friendly plea for a few good people to join our team! Maybe you even know someone that is looking for a service opportunity! Please forward our information on to anyone you think may be interested in our volunteer program!

In appreciation for your continued support of Cancer Services,
Heather White, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, (765)664-6815



Contact: Stacy White at 765-662-4030 or
Randy Deffenbaugh at 765-662-4014

MGH CODERS NATIONALLY RANKED



Ingenix, a nationally recognized leader in solutions for streamlining hospital coding, regulatory, and reimbursement processes, has completed its fourth annual national study of inpatient coding performance.

The study is conducted to identify the top 50 hospitals in the nation, in four separate categories, which achieve the best combination of complete and confident coding.

Coders extract information from a patient's chart and apply numerical diagnoses codes which determine how a hospital is paid for their services. A Coder's job is important because patient charges are based on the codes and must be properly entered for the patient to be charged correctly.

With hard work and a team approach, Melody Ybarra, Coder 2 (*left in photo*), DeShell White, Coder 2 (*right in photo*), and the coding company, PCS, Desiree Stephenson and Kim Griggs (*not pictured*), were awarded a 46th place finish, out of a total of 708 hospitals nationwide, in regards to their ability to perform complete and confident coding.

"Melody, DeShell, Desiree, and Kim (*PCS*) bring a lot of quality coding to MGH. They all take pride in their work and this ranking validates how well they code for our patients," states Stacy White, Interim Director of Health Information Management. "They are well deserving of this honor."

PUBLIC RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE SET FOR NEW LOCATION OF MGH PHYSICAL THERAPY

Contact: Chuck de las Alas at 765-662-4854
or Randy Deffenbaugh at 765-662-4014

Marion General Hospital cordially invites the public to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony and Open House, on Friday, February 6 at 4:30 p.m., to introduce and celebrate the opening of our new 6,100 square foot facility.

The new location, which houses MGH Physical Therapy, is located at 1393 N. Baldwin Avenue. The facility offers many advantages over the old location including: more convenient parking, a more comfortable waiting area, a streamlined registration process, and larger treatment areas.

Plan to attend the events to see the advantages firsthand and meet the talented and experienced physical, occupational and speech therapy staff. Hope to see you there.

Access Reverse Mortgage Corp.

Jan Webster

A Reverse Mortgage allows seniors over the age of 62 to borrow against the equity in their home without repayment for as long as they live there.

Instead of making monthly mortgage payments, you can choose to receive them. That is the "Reverse" of a traditional mortgage.

The Reverse Mortgage is insured and regulated by the Federal Housing Administration and is a viable option for seniors looking to improve their quality of life. This new income stream will not affect Social Security benefits.

With traditional mortgages and home equity loans your income and credit rating are used in the qualification process. A Reverse Mortgage is available to you without any qualifying. That's right, your approval is based solely on the equity in your home.

The federally insured FHA Reverse Mortgage Program is easily the most misunderstood finance option available to seniors today. The number one reason more seniors do not look into Reverse Mortgages is that they assume that they will no longer own their property. This is completely false.

You will always retain ownership as well as the right to sell the property at any time. In this way, it is not different than a regular mortgage.

You can live in your home for as long as you wish or as long as you live.

If you decide to sell your property, the loan balance will be paid back from the proceeds of the sale, and you will keep all remaining funds.

You can access your funds from a Reverse Mortgage in a number of ways:

Line of Credit - This allows you to draw as much as you need whenever you need it. Lump Sum - Receive all available funds up-front. Monthly Income - Guaranteed for as long as you maintain the home as your primary residence.

Imagine that tax free income without the burden of monthly payments!

There are important things to look for when choosing a Reverse Mortgage company. With traditional mortgages your decision is based primarily on obtaining the lowest interest rate. Reverse Mortgages are a different story, as the interest rate does not vary from one company to the next.

With very few minor exception, the fees and expenses are the same as well.

At Access Reverse Mortgage Corporation, our knowledge and experience pays dividends when it comes to processing your Reverse Mortgage. Jan Webster, our Senior Lending Specialist for Indiana, can usually have your loan ready to close in three to four weeks. Jan understands that every client's financial needs and desires are different. At Access Reverse Mortgage Corporation, we will use our extensive knowledge and experience to analyze your specific needs and make sure that your loan will be the perfect fit.

Make home repairs, pay off your existing mortgage and/or other debts, purchase a new car, travel - or just make your life more comfortable and enjoyable. For Safety, Security, and Peace of Mind - Call Jan today at 1-866-236-3334 or locally at 382-0365

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.*
Dave Huffman, Secretary-Treasurer – *Via Credit Union*
Mark Sullivan, Ex-Officio – *Irving Materials, Inc.*

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Dawn Brown, *Community Foundation of Grant County, IN, Inc.*
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Aleta Goins, *Howe’s Financial Services, Inc.*
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