

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

The Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce is getting involved in community activities. For example, we've taken over the annual arrival of Santa Claus at the mini-park in the Village. Volunteers from the Chamber arranged for Santa, a fire truck for his grand entrance, and refreshments for guests. Thanks to everyone who helped. It's great to see community spirit!

Speaking of community spirit, the November Chamber meeting included a presentation on the 4C's emergency food cupboard that operates out of the basement of Hilltop Christian Church on Prospect St. in Mantua. This is a wonderful service for people who find themselves down on their luck and in need of some help. The organization is accessed through Portage County's "First Call for Help" at 330-297-4636 or 800-961-0191. Donations of money or non-perishables are constantly required.

We also received an interesting progress report on our community's new Fire Station. Chief, Matt Benner, invited all who will be attending the January Chamber meeting for a facility tour. We're all looking forward to seeing what will have been accomplished by then.

I'd also like to continue to hand deliver newsletters so that I can meet representatives from our area businesses. If I haven't stopped in yet and you would like to meet me, please call Middlefield Bank at 330-274-0881 and I'll set a time to visit. We're up to over 35 members and welcome more.

Ed Kent

Good Food & Good Cheer

The first Business Social & Holiday Gala on December 9 was a huge success. Everyone had a great time visiting and enjoying the delicious appetizers and desserts. Kudos to Cindy Janson for opening her restaurant and providing the refreshments for more than 50 guests! Don't forget – Pastimes is now open Sundays. Breakfast is served from 8am-1pm and Dinner from 1pm-7pm.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 15 7:30 - 9:00 am

Monthly Meeting at Shalersville Town Hall

Northeastern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce

Learn about benefits available to members:
 Worker's Compensation premium reduction • Credit card processing
 Group health, life, and disability insurance • Package delivery discounts...

Tour the new Fire Department
 immediately following the meeting

Wednesday, February 19
 7:30 - 9:00 am

Monthly Meeting at
 Mantua Center Town Hall

Wednesday, March 19
 7:30 - 9:00 am

Monthly Meeting
 (location to be determined)

Future programs:
 New School Construction
 Portage Co. Regional Planning Commission
 Park District/Headwaters Trail

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Business Solutions from RK Vinyl Graphics

Started in 1996 as a custom vinyl sign and motocross apparel business in Ravenna, RK Graphics has gone through significant growth over the past several years. In 1997 RK discontinued the motocross clothing line becoming a full service vinyl graphic company.

Recognizing early that any business wanting to survive in today's competitive business market, change was necessary. Ken and April Collier, owners/operators moved the facility to Mantua in 2000.

Utilizing their 20 years of experience in the graphic field, Ken and April can provide help from concept to design to finished product. Due to the tremendous growth, RK Graphics can provide virtually any type of graphics a company may require. Products include; banners, magnetics, vehicle graphics and lettering, yard signs, screen printed T-shirts, company shirts, golf shirts, company signage, large format printing, offset printing and digital copy services.

In the last 6 months RK Graphics has added a new Graphtec vinyl cutter and a new 6-color screen printing press to its list of equipment to better serve their customers. RK graphics has built a reputation on quality and customer service at a fair price. Please feel free to contact them at 330-274-0867 or 800-509-5552 if you have any graphic needs or questions.

"We're there when the customer needs us."



Benner Masonry Contractors From Wheelbarrow & Trowel

Benner Masonry Contractors (BMC), located on Main Street in Mantua (across from Dairy Mart), was founded by Jeff Benner 27 years ago. Starting out with just a wheelbarrow and a trowel, he has created an excellent reputation for quality workmanship and is well

respected by other contractors. BMC is a small company that concentrates mostly on public & commercial brick and block work. Some larger jobs have been the Streetsboro, Aurora, and Mantua Sewer Plants, Aurora Fire Department, and the Streetsboro and Aurora Police Departments. His men are currently working on the new Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department.

One of the most interesting repair jobs was Old Baldy Lighthouse at Cape Fear on Baldhead Island in North Carolina. Old Baldy is the oldest lighthouse in North Carolina, which sustained damage when Hurricane Hugo went through the area. None of the local contractors were able to handle the job because they were too busy with other restoration, so Jeff & his crew spent 21 days bringing the lighthouse back to a safe condition and restoring its original beauty. They went to work by boat every day and anything needed for the job went to the Island by barge, including a huge crane.

Jeff lives on Coldbrook Drive along with his wife Edie, son Broc, 2 dogs, and 2 cats in the new home his family has dreamed of building for over 15 years.

The Chamber invites anyone who would like to spotlight their business in one of the newsletters or at a meeting to prepare a written or oral presentation explaining what you do, etc. Contact Michelle Barnauskas for the newsletter and Ed Kent to give a short speech at a Chamber meeting.

Also, any news that pertains to the Mantua-Shalersville Area is welcome in a basically printable format with only minor revisions required. Let's work together to promote our community!

Join Now & Save!

Mantua-Shalersville area businesses and residents are taking advantage of this year's 1/2 price dues; you should too! Join by December 31 and pay half the yearly dues! Business entities, organizations and clubs, and individuals are eligible for membership. You do not need to attend Chamber meetings to receive membership benefits. Participate at your pace, on your schedule. We share a commitment to the community and we all hold a stake in the future of the area.

For more information, contact:

Ed Kent, Middlefield Bank	330-274-0881	ekent@middlefieldbank.com
Paulette Nichols, Bank One	330-274-2257	
Edie Benner, Advanced Rehab	330-274-2747	
Becky Newell, Benner Masonry	330-274-3238	bbjnewell@aol.com
Cindy Janson, Pastimes	330-274-9002	past9002@aol.com

Yearly Chamber Dues:

0-5 Employees	\$50
6-20 Employees	\$100
21+ Employees	\$150
Individual Patron	\$25

**LAST
CHANCE!
1/2 OFF until
12/31/02!**

No charge for Village and Township Offices.

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Application

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Web Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Please limit use.

Phone Number: _____

Alt. Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____ Please limit use.

Business Description: _____

Return to:
Ed Kent
PO Box 648
Mantua, OH 44255

In addition to using U.S. mail, the Chamber communicates with members via email and fax. If you prefer not to receive correspondence via email or fax, please check the appropriate box above.



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

For Chamber
information, contact
Ed Kent at 330-274-0881
ekent@middlefieldbank.com

For newsletter inquiries, contact
Michelle Barnauskas at
mlbarnauskas@hallrich.net
330-678-0684 x223

Advertising Opportunities

Spread the word about your services; advertise in the Chamber newsletter. Provide 250 copies of your 8.5" x 11" flyer to be inserted for only \$30 or provide art to be copied for \$60.

Spotlight your business by writing an article for the Member Spotlight section of the newsletter (no charge, published when space available). Tell us what you offer...what's new...how you better the community.



HEADLINES

Tune in to Adelphia cable Channel 9 and watch the information sign on the south end of the Village for dates & times of area events.

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce Welcomes New Members:

Helen Hazlett, Smythe Cramer Realtors
Laurie Metzko, Alger Veterinary Clinic
Kathleen Benjamin, Finishing Touch
Bill Dick, Rapid Electric Inc.
George Hazlett, Camp Hi
Mark Trushel, Mantaline
Roberta Gallagher, Mantua Oil
Hal Stamm, Stamm Contracting
Pam Raines, Solon Excavating Sand & Gravel
Patsy Deskins, Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty

Chamber Goals

The goals of the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce are:

- To advance the commercial, industrial, educational, agricultural, and civic interests of the area
- To work together to support and promote local businesses and their products
- To work with elected officials to promote proper planning and growth
- To support and work toward local harmony for the betterment of citizens and businesses in the Mantua-Shalersville Area

Whether you are a main-street merchant or a mom & pop business on a back road, you need the Chamber and the Chamber needs you!



**“You must learn from the mistakes of others.
You can’t possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.”**

PO Box 648
Mantua, OH 44255

Mantua-Shalersville Area

