

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

It's a little hard to concentrate right now. As we all know, our country is "officially" at war and, unfortunately, in some ways it is dividing our country. I haven't talked to very many people who have not been personally affected, either directly or through an acquaintance, by the call-up of our men and women who are fighting for our right to be free from threats to our safety and well-being. I find myself flipping back and forth between the news and work. I hope and pray that by the time you read this, the worst will be over.

At times like these it is more important than ever that we focus on two things, family and community. As you all know by now, I believe that the organizations in our communities provide us with numerous opportunities to do just that. I will have the opportunity on April 3rd to participate in the Rotary Club of Garrettsville-Hiram's Family Week. What a great idea, a week devoted to the family. I hope however that we don't need wars, 9/11s and formal "weeks" to remind us of the importance of "Family". If nothing else, gather them together tonight and say a prayer for our president, our country, our military and yes, our community and the families who live here.

As always, Get Involved and Stay Involved.

Ed Kent

NEWS BRIEFS

Stay in Touch and Receive the Latest News

Get on the Chamber e-mail list by submitting your e-mail address to ekent@middlefieldbank.com.

Managing Personal Finances Seminar

Free seminar, part of Garrettsville-Hiram Rotary's Family Week, will be presented by Ed Kent of Middlefield Bank on Thursday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m. at Garfield High School.

Summer-in-the-Park Art Fest

The first annual Summer-in-the-Park Art Fest, presented by Crestwood Band Patrons and The Western Reserve Art Society, will be held on Saturday, June 21 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Buchert Park in the Village. Artists - for information on displaying your creations, contact Chris Chaykowski at 330-562-0729 or WestResArtSoc@aol.com.

Potato Festival Committee Seeks Volunteers

Potato Festival volunteers meet on the last Monday of every month to plan the September event. Community support is requested. For details, contact Joan Sweet at jsweet@middlefieldbank.com or 330-274-0881.

Business Showcase to be Held in Garrettsville October 2

To participate, contact Joann Vance at jvance@middlefieldbank.com or 330-527-2121.

Rotary Sponsors Christmas Tour of Homes

Merchants in the Village are encouraged to decorate in early-November and plan extended business hours during the tour. For information, contact Virginia Goodell at 330-274-2376.

What Do You Want to Know?

Speakers at Chamber meetings keep us informed of happenings in our community and in the larger business-world. Who would you like to hear speak? What topics should be covered? Contact Ed Kent at 330-274-0881 or ekent@middlefieldbank.com with your suggestions.

Put Money Back in Your Business

Pay less for credit card processing, insurance, workers comp, web site development, business planning, and more. Visit www.noacc.org for details.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 16 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua Village Park Lodge

Featured Speakers:

Claude Hopkins, Mantua Village Mayor

Hear about what's new in the Village of Mantua.

Chris Craycroft, Portage Parks District

Learn everything you ever wanted to know about the Bike & Hike trail.

Wednesday, May 21 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Shalersville Town Hall

Speakers TBD

Wednesday, June 18 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

Speakers TBD

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



New Manufacturing Plant Produces Patented Good Ideas

Local Ad Agency, the Communications Factory, Is Open for Business

Northeast Ohio's economic outlook just got a little brighter today with the opening of a new advanced manufacturing facility in Mantua, Ohio. As a result, some of the region's most talented and skilled writers, designers and strategists will now be working together under one roof.

The newly formed company that has decided to make the Cleveland area its home and the location for its new plant is the Communications Factory — a marketing communications firm that produces creative ideas and measurable results for area businesses.

Brad Turner, founder and "plant manager" of the Communications Factory explains the unique name was chosen as a way to reflect what differentiates his group from typical advertising agencies. "When you bring together top creative talent, you can consistently deliver award-winning communication pieces to achieve a client's defined objectives," asserts Turner. "And like any well-run production facility, we're able to produce a quality product efficiently, on-time, and at a reasonable cost — values lost by most agencies today. We believe it's just a better way to do business."

Besides a passion for doing great work, the staff at "the Factory" all have one thing in common — experience. Most have worked in their particular areas of specialization for ten years or more. In addition, they each offer unique perspectives to communications, having come from agencies and corporations, and having worked on both business-to-consumer and business-to-business campaigns.

Another point of differentiation is the agency's client focus. While Turner and others at the company have in the past worked with well-known national and international clients, the Communications Factory was established to meet the needs of up-and-coming businesses. "We believe this group really has been underserved," notes Turner. "Breakout organizations typically can't get to the next level without strong brand and communications strategies. We can create these strategies within the budget expectations of these firms."

According to recent business studies, The Factory's strategy is right on target. Research has shown that nearly 100% of all new jobs are created by companies with less than 500 employees. Furthermore, these small enterprises have created 95% of all innovations since World War II.

The Communications Factory is a full-service agency. Along with assisting in strategic brand planning, it offers clients professional assistance in the areas of advertising, direct marketing, online marketing, media planning, public relations, identity, packaging and literature development.



Friends of Hattie Larlham

Don't miss the 17th Annual Sugar Bush Golf Classic

For over four decades, Hattie Larlham has been an innovator in the care and treatment of children and young adults with severe mental retardation and developmental disabilities.



It began simply—with one child. Registered nurse Hattie Larlham had been working in the special care unit of a hospital in rural Portage County when Alice, the child of a neighbor, was born with inoperable hydrocephalus; a condition resulting in an increase of fluid in the brain. After six months at the hospital, Alice was released. However, due to her condition, she would require intensive around-the-clock medical assistance.

Over the next several months, Hattie watched the family disintegrate. The family, unable to cope with the burden of caring for Alice, turned to her for guidance. Frustrated with the lack of assistance programs for children under the age of six, Hattie, her husband, and their three children took Alice into their home.

Over the next several years, Hattie continued to bring more children into her home. It wasn't long before Hattie had gained a reputation for caring for disabled children. At one point, 11 children with disabilities had come to live with her in the 3-bedroom farmhouse.

Medical professionals quickly took notice of Hattie's work and the Larlham home soon became the setting for early research intervention. In 1964, with over 100 children on the waiting list, the Hattie Larlham Foundation, Inc. was established. Shortly thereafter, a facility capable of housing 50 individuals was built.

Today, Hattie Larlham serves over 1000 children, families, and adults in a variety of residential and community settings.



The Hattie Larlham Foundation Sugar Bush Golf Classic is held annually to benefit the children and young adults living at the Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities. Thanks to the continued support of sponsors, this event has helped to improve the lives of children and young adults with profound disabilities. Since 1986, more than \$275,000 in proceeds from the event have helped fund the Hattie Larlham playground and sensory walk, therapy equipment, adaptive toys program, and the newly-constructed education center.

The 17th annual golf outing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 at Sugar Bush Golf Club in Garrettsville. Special guests for this year's event include Bob DiBiasio, vice president of public relations for the Cleveland Indians, and Bill Wills from WTAM 1100 AM's "Wills and Coleman" show.

You are invited to participate as a golfer or a sponsor. Donate a prize for the silent auction...become a "Friend of Hattie Larlham" with a donation of as little as \$25 or as much as you can offer...or choose one of the tax-deductible Sponsorship Packages from \$125 to \$1,500 with various promotional opportunities. Help reach this year's goal of raising \$30,000 at the event.

For more information call Matt Petrick at 800-233-8611 or send an e-mail to give@hattielarlham.org by May 9.

Local Company in National Spotlight

In a national press briefing on March 3, Ohio Airships, Inc. of Mantua presented to the public the Dynalifter hybrid aircraft concept. Aircraft design engineer Dr. Daniel P. Raymer, lead designer of the Dynalifter, reported his findings from the recently completed Dynalifter Phase II design & feasibility study. Raymer discussed Dynalifter design, feasibility, capabilities, and cost estimates.

Dr. Raymer's study reveals an aircraft that has high endurance and can carry over twice the volume of large, commercial freight aircraft. Consequently, Dynalifters have potential applications in commercial freight, homeland security, and national defense. Estimates indicate a low total development cost. Ohio Airships discussed in detail the technology that makes these features possible, and answered questions from the press.

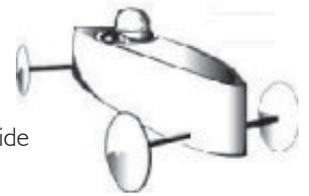


Ohio Airships, Inc. is a privately held corporation, owned by Robert Rist. The company's business is bringing breakthrough aircraft technology to the marketplace. Ohio Airships currently owns the Dynalifter aircraft's conceptual airframe design and the patent for its unique internal configuration. Dynalifters are being designed to carry large payloads great distances, inexpensively. The company has discovered that aircraft can achieve these features by supplementing the dynamic lift produced by traditional aircraft wings with reusable, helium lift. Thus, Dynalifters are a hybrid of winged aircraft and helium airship

Promotional Opportunities in Family Event

The Soap Box Derby is a family tradition, which originated in Akron more than 60 years ago. The program teaches children, ages 8 through 17, manual skills, perseverance, patience, responsibility, and sportsmanship.

Through the Portage County Soap Box Derby, local children have a chance at racing down Derby Downs Hill in Akron...but only with our help. As a non-profit, volunteer organization, the Portage County Soap Box Derby relies on sponsor donations to pay sanction fees and insurance as well as to provide trophies and prizes to participants.



Donations are tax-deductible and sponsors receive recognition for their support. Sponsorship packages range from the \$50-\$99 Trophy Sponsor to the \$1,000+ Golden Sponsor.

The local race, scheduled for Saturday, June 28, is sure to attract a crowd. Area businesses can benefit from visibility during this family event.



Chamber Members Save on Benefits

Have you received your brochure from the Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce (NOACC)? The brochure and accompanying letter introduce the many benefits available through Chamber membership.

Over 100 Chambers in Northern Ohio have joined forces for greater bargaining power. The result is lower benefit prices for individual members.

Local brokers of the companies who have negotiated rates with NOACC can offer these reduced prices to Chamber members... or members can find the name of an agent at www.noacc.org. For more information, visit the website or call 216-447-9900.



Get Involved!

Business entities, organizations, clubs, and individuals in and around the Mantua-Shalersville Area are invited to join the Chamber. For more information, contact one of the Chamber officers listed below:

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

You do not need to attend meetings to receive membership benefits. Participate at your own pace, on your schedule. We share a commitment to the community and we all hold a stake in the future of the area. Get involved!

Yearly Dues:

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

No charge for Village/Township Offices.

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

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. Business card size display ads are just \$25 and will be published first come, first served when space is available. Or, spotlight your business by writing an article for the Member Spotlight section of the newsletter (published when space is available, at no charge). Tell us what you offer...what's new...how you better the community.

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

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!

Welcome New Members:

Brad Turner, Communications Factory

Ron Lance, Diversified Mini Storage

Debora Misteloske, New Groove

Theresa Cutlip, Village Tavern

Pearl Austin, Crestwood H.S. Principal

*If you're not already a member of the
Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce,
join the 50 local businesses who are...and
experience the full benefits of Chamber membership!*

"The path of least resistance is what makes rivers run crooked."

Elbert Hubbard

Mantua, OH 44255

PO Box 648

**Mantua-Shalersville Area
Chamber of Commerce**