



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

Fall was definitely in the air on Monday Sept 28 at the "First Annual Chamber Oktoberfest" (Note the words "first" and "annual", because due to the tremendous response, I think we'll do it again next year).

Neither rain nor snow nor sleet, nor gloom of night, kept the over 90 people from staying outside, under what eventually turned into a beautiful starry night, enjoying some wonderful food, refreshments and good conversation. There were people still dancing past 10:00 p.m. to the great music provided by Tim Wojtas. I've been to a lot of business-after-hours events over the years, and believe me, there are Chambers all over northeastern Ohio that would love to have an event go so well.

"Mega Thanks" to Cindy Janson and Betsy Woolf for the hours preparing the wonderful food, to Becky Newell for all the little and big things that make an event possible and enjoyable, and to Jeff and Edie Benner for the wonderful venue. Jeff started a fire in the pit at about 3:00 p.m. and kept it roaring all night.

It was nice to see Janet Esposito, County Auditor, Maureen Frederick, County Commissioner, David Benjamin, Village Solicitor, Mayor Claude Hopkins, Township Trustee Vic Grimm, and Mayoral candidate, Ralph Gregory along with Chamber members & visitors from the area. I would like to thank everyone else who helped or just came and enjoyed. It's all about that "involvement" thing I always talk about.

We had a picture displayed that night that had been printed in the paper just about the same time last year when the Chamber was in it's infancy. It's been a real learning experience for me as we have grown and developed into a cohesive group. We have accomplished a lot in a year by organizational standards but there is much more we can do as a community/business organization.

Stay tuned as we work together in year two. This is your Chamber! Got an idea? Share it. Get Involved, Stay Involved!

Ed Kent

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 15 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

Featuring: Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County with an overview of services provided by organizations in the network and an explanation of Issue 27.

Wednesday, November 19 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

Featuring: Larry Kotkowski of Lakeside Sand & Gravel with an introduction to one of our area's primary industries, sand and gravel mining - how it's done, why it's done, end products and their uses. Also: Mary Cabot - from Mantua, Ohio to Mantua, Italy.

NEWS BRIEFS

MSACC at the Mantua Potato Festival

by Edie Benner, Co-Secretary

A special thank you to Betsy Woolf for her efforts during the Potato Festival. Betsy not only gathered information to be distributed at the booth, but purchased a nice blue tent that can be used for future Chamber events. Thank you Betsy and other Chamber members for taking the time to work the booth and help promote our Chamber.

Welcome to Mantua

by Betsy Woolf, Membership Committee

Jan Abram, daughter of long-time Mantua residents John & Ethel Berg, is donating a Village entrance sign on the South side of town. Most of her childhood memories are here and she feels Mantua will always be in her heart, so she wanted to give something back to the Village. The brick sign is still in the design phase and will be constructed by her nephew, Greg Benner.

Crestwood Coalition for Community Care

by Pam Raines, Program Committee

The 4Cs has been helping families in the Crestwood School District (exclusively) for over 20 years. This year, they will provide holiday food baskets to 120-130 area families. You can help by attending their Annual Holiday Craft Show Fundraiser, donating on Youth for Hunger Day or at drop boxes around town (Cortland Bank, Middlefield Bank, Advanced Rehab, Woots), or collecting food or money at your business. Contact the food cupboard at 330-274-3310.

F&S Take Home the Trophies

by JoAnn Vance, Communications Committee

The Ohio Towing and Recovery Association show was recently held at Saw Mill Creek Resort. F & S Automotive took first place for their 1969 Peterbilt "Dragon-Wagon" Tow truck, second place for their 1999 Tri-Axle "Task Master" and third place for their 2002 6500 series truck. Congratulations Dean Sr. and Crew.

Mantua Around the World

by Becky Newell, Co-Secretary

During their visit abroad, Henry and Mary Cabot met with the Deputy Mayor of Mantua, Italy. They presented a gift of Mantua mementos including a key to the Village, a book about the history of Mantua, Ohio, a copy of old currency from the area, and old postcards with photos of our town. In return, they received a symbol of the city of Mantua, Italy, a calendar showing castles in the city, and a book about towns named Mantua in other parts of the world. Be sure to attend the Chamber's November 19 meeting to hear Mary Cabot talk about the visit!

Garrettsville-Hiram Area Business Showcase

by JoAnn Vance, Communications Committee

The 6th Business Showcase held by the Garrettsville-Hiram Area Chamber of Commerce was a huge success. There were approximately 82 vendors and an estimated 1500+ attendees.

This was the first year for vendors to be able to sell their services or products and many survey sheet responses from them indicated that the contacts they made were well worth the price of the booth space.

Sales of the scholarship tickets have not been totaled yet, but we estimate that we again were able to cover the cost of the four \$500 scholarships (one each to benefit a student from Crestwood, Garfield, Windham, and Hiram College) as well as a \$500 cash prize.

It was noted that the variety of booths and the caliber of products and services made it a "classy" showcase. Door prizes were plentiful and well worth winning. The displays set up at the Crestwood, Windham and Garfield High School booths were especially informative and showed the public how worthy our students are of this benefit that creates scholarships for some lucky seniors. Food was plentiful throughout the entire evening and samples of everyone's specialty items made you want to come back for more.

The Garfield Student Council and the Hiram College football team made set up and tear down a breeze. These students are to be highly commended on their efforts. The Garrettsville-Hiram Chamber wants to thank everyone who participated and we look forward to working with all of you again.

Welcome New Member:

Yarnell Tree Service, William Yarnell, Sr.

Hall of Fame Recognizes Achievement

Dean Stebbins, owner of F&S Automotive, is one of four recent inductees into the Crestwood School District Hall of Fame. He was honored for his accomplishments in business.

Last year, Edie Knowlton-Benner, co-owner of Advanced Rehabilitation and Health Specialists, received this honor when she, along with two others were inducted.

Other Chamber members in the Hall of Fame are Frank Goodell, honored in civic activities and agriculture and Virginia Black Goodell, honored in civic activities and education.

The Crestwood All Sports Booster Club created the Hall of Fame to recognize achievements of Crestwood graduates, showcase the results of the quality education provided by the school system, and provide role models for area students.

To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, submit a summary of his or her accomplishments to Crestwood All Sports Booster Club, PO Box 411, Mantua, OH 44255.

MSACC at the Business Showcase

by Becky Newell & Edie Benner, Co-Secretaries

The Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce participated in the Garrettsville-Hiram Area Chamber's 2003 Business Showcase on Thursday, October 2. Becky Newell designed our booth for the showcase and typed a membership directory that was distributed along with small "Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce" notepads (printed by Chamber member RK Graphics).

Becky, Edie Benner and Ed Kent set up the booth and had a great time passing out the notepads and promoting our Chamber. We enjoyed visiting with Chamber members Ruth and Tom Aldrich and Michelle Barnauskas, as well as several other members of our community who attended.



This was the first endeavor of this type and we believe it was very successful. Many people stopped by our table and noted they have been reading the articles in the papers about us and watching us grow. Several officers of the Garrettsville-Hiram Chamber also stopped to thank us for our participation. The event was well organized and we should thank JoAnn Vance and her committee for all of their efforts toward the showcase.

We offered a Chamber tee-shirt as a door prize at our table and many people filled out entry forms. When the name of the lucky winner, Patty Huggins, was announced over the PA, it just so happened that she was standing right in front of our booth! Her husband is an employee of the "Buckeye Pipeline" in Mantua.

A survey is enclosed with this newsletter to determine interest in a 2004 showcase for our area. Please take a few minutes to respond.



Happy Anniversary!

The Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce officially celebrated its first anniversary in September. Can you believe it? In just one year, we have over 55 members (approximately 25% of the businesses in the area) with average meeting attendance of 20 people (about 40% of our membership)! Well-established Chambers in larger communities can't boast that level of support. You should be proud to live, work, and play in the Mantua-Shalersville area. If you're not already a Chamber member, join today. If you are a member, watch your mailbox for your renewal notice.

Yearly Dues:

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

Village/Township Offices - No Charge

Mail to:
MSACC
PO Box 648
Mantua, OH 44255

Crestwood Local School District News

by Joseph Icano, Superintendent

Crestwood Local School District is in the process of developing a master plan for both instructional programs and support programs. In Ohio, this process for public school planning is known as Continuous Improvement Planning (CIP).

Crestwood's CIP for instruction will include efforts to align what is taught to state educational standards in order to help our students continue their success on state tests such as proficiency tests and achievement tests.

Crestwood's CIP for support programs will include a variety of strategies designed to improve support services such as transportation, food service and maintenance and construction of buildings. One key component of the support CIP is to establish a long-range "master plan" for construction of district facilities based upon the vision of the Board of Education. Project Manager Tom Dean recently prepared a draft of how the district might look in the year 2010. This draft was presented at the September Board of Education meeting and was intended to stimulate input and discussion by employees and members of the communities we serve. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this draft please contact Mr. Dean or me at 330-274-8511.

If you would like an update on the current construction of our two new elementary schools please see Crestwood's website at www.crestwood.sparcc.org/.

At the bottom of the home page you will find a link to recent aerial photographs of the construction site.



Professional Development Days at Crestwood

by Pearl Austin, High School Principal & Chamber Member

In order to create time for staff to work on redistricting plans and academic plans, Crestwood Schools has received permission from the Ohio Department of Education to modify our school calendar for the 2003-2004 school year. As a result, the four days listed below will be used for district-wide planning and school will NOT be in session for Crestwood students.

- Monday, October 20, 2003
- Friday, January 16, 2004
- Monday, April 26, 2004
- Friday, May 21, 2004.

Membership Benefits

Sure we have fun, but networking isn't the only benefit of Chamber membership! Don't forget about advertising opportunities. Members can spotlight their business with a free article in the Chamber newsletter or by giving a brief presentation at a meeting. For a small fee, ads and inserts can be included with the newsletter. Hosting meetings or after-hours events also gives you the opportunity to showcase your business.

Through our association with Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce, members receive discounts on several business services, including insurance, overnight shipping, credit card processing, business planning, and more. For a complete list, visit www.noacc.org or call 216-447-9900.

Christmas Tour of Homes

by Virginia Goodell, Rotary & Chamber Member

Lots of activity surrounds the plans for the third biennial Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mantua. Four beautifully decorated homes will be ready to be viewed Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, and 23. Friday and Saturday hours are 10:00 to 5:00 and Sunday hours are 12:30 to 4:00. Tickets at \$8 may be purchased all tour days at the Caboose at Mantua Station Drugstore on Main Street.

Besides the decorated homes, Hilltop Christian Church will be serving lunch on tour days and will welcome visitors to their decorated sanctuary with hosts giving visitors brief highlights of the long-established place in the community.

The craft show featuring over 20 crafters will also be open during tour hours both weekends. Visitors may just find that special gift or two for someone on their Christmas gift list. The craft show will be housed at the Masonic Temple.

A very special feature of the tour agenda happens on Thursday evening, November 13, at the home of Helen and George Hazlett on First Street. A buffet of luscious hors d'oeuvres and pastries will be awaiting guests at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00. Guests will have time to visit the four decorated homes on the tour and the craft show at the Masonic Temple on John Edward Drive. Those wishing to participate in the Thursday evening Candlelight Tour must make reservations by calling Virginia at 330-274-2376. Cost of Candlelight Tour is \$15.

Ed Trego and village personnel will have the Village decorations up downtown and merchants are being asked to decorate their windows or entrances and welcome guests during tour hours. There is still space for a few more ads from merchants who would like to advertise in the Tour Booklet (which is the visitor's ticket for the day). Joan Sweet will be happy to include your business card or larger advertisement. Thank you for helping to make this a significant event for our area.

Shalersville School

Shalersville Township is in the final stages of negotiations with the Crestwood School District for the purchase of Shalersville Elementary School. The School Board recently authorized the sale and lawyers are simply reviewing the wording of the contract.

The Township does not currently have office space, so the building will provide much needed facilities.



Chamber Goals

- 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

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

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!

For more information, contact any Chamber officer:

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Christmas Tour of Homes – Nov 14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23

Tour beautifully decorated homes on these Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on Sundays from 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

4Cs Holiday Craft Show Fundraiser – November 22

Stop by Shalersville Town Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. for this annual event. Free admission, door prizes, great gift ideas.

4Cs Youth for Hunger Day – December 6

Youth from the area will go door-to-door collecting non-perishable food and/or monetary donations for area families in need.

Santa's Arrival in Town - TBD in November

Chamber Members' Holiday Social - TBD in December
Watch for news of these festivities!

"Effective people are not problem-minded; they're opportunity-minded.
They feed opportunities and starve problems."

Stephen Covey

Mantua, OH 44255

PO Box 648

Mantua-Shalersville Area
Chamber of Commerce



***Mantua-Shalersville
Area Chamber of Commerce***

PO Box 648 • Mantua, Ohio 44255 • 330-274-0881

Dear Friends,

The Garrettsville-Hiram Chamber has been sponsoring a very successful Business Showcase every other year on a Thursday in October from 5-8pm.

We're considering organizing a Showcase at our new Crestwood elementary school complex in 2004. In order to decide if this would work in our community, we'd like your comments. Please take a few minutes to give us your opinion & offer suggestions.

Do you feel this event would be beneficial?

What month, day of the week & time would be good for you?

If the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber sponsors such an event, would you rent a vendor table?

Do you feel \$50-\$60 for a vendor table would be reasonable?

Would you like to be able to sell products at your table?

What additional suggestions would you make?

Your response would be greatly appreciated. You can mail this form to our Chamber President, Ed Kent, at the above address or **fax it to 330-274-0883**. If it is more convenient, call him at 330-274-0881 or **email to ekent@middlefieldbank.com**.

Thank you so much for your help.