



# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Star Search 2005

Mantua Rotary is sponsoring a Variety Show called Star Search. It will be at the Hayden Auditorium in Hiram, on January 29, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. People of all ages with all types of talent are invited to participate. For details, call Helen Hazlett 274-2231 or Virginia Goodell 274-2376. This is the Rotary's primary fund-raiser for 2004-2005. Show off your talent or watch for information on ticket sales and show your support.

### The New Look of Bank One

The last phase of the remodeling of Bank One was the replacement of all the windows, which took place in October. Stop by and see the new fresh look!

### Keeping Portage County Strong

Get your copy of the Portage Area Chamber Directory - hot off the press! All Chambers of Commerce in the county worked together to publish this guide to educate others about our area. Each Chamber has a page listing all members. In addition, all Chamber members are listed by category and all businesses had the opportunity to place ads. Look for your Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce page in the directory and support our local businesses.

### Website Gets a Facelift

Check-out the new look of the Chamber website at: [www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org](http://www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org). The look is new, but the site is only as good as the information we provide to keep it updated. Submit your business profile and community events to [ekent@middlefieldbank.com](mailto:ekent@middlefieldbank.com).

### Food & Fun for Everyone

Don't miss the Chamber open house on Monday, December 13. Stop by Pastimes anytime after 6:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and friendly conversation. Cost is \$10 per person or free for paid 2005 members. The event was a hit with area residents and business people last year. Mark your calendar now and make sure you're part of the fun this year!

## A Message from the President

First and foremost I wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. Whatever you believe and however you celebrate, may the joy of sharing time with family and friends be all and more than you could ever wish for. Please remember those that may need some help to enjoy their holiday. Take advantage of our own toy and food drive with 4C's. There are over 100 families right here in our school district that need your help. It will make your holidays just a little better knowing that you Got Involved. And finally take advantage of all the community events going on around the area.

Two of our Chamber members have live trees for sale. Contact Ron Lance at 274-2984 or Marie Stehli at 562-7620 for information.

Santa's arrival to Mantua Village will be celebrated with refreshments at the mini park (next to Haylett's) at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 3. Santa arrives in Mantua Township for a tree lighting ceremony at the Center square on Sunday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Portage Faith UMC is holding their advent celebration on Saturday, December 4. A portrayal of Dorothy Fuldheim and a performance by the bell choir will be followed by a complimentary continental breakfast. Don't miss their Living Christmas Card on December 11.

Of course, there's our own Chamber gathering at Pastimes on December 13. I hope to see you there!

*Ed Kent*

### Upcoming Events...

**Monday, December 13 6:30 - ??? p.m.**

Open House at Pastimes

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

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

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

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

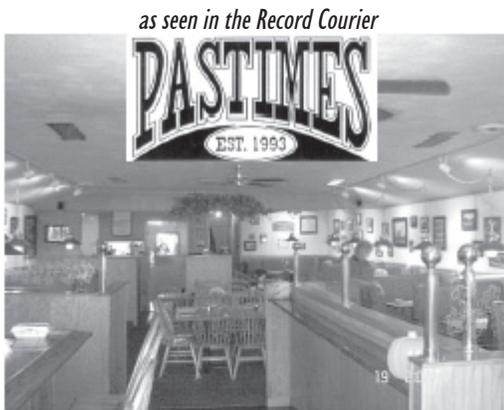
## News from Mantua Township

Mantua Center School now officially belongs to Mantua Township. An architect is working with the Township to bring the building up to code and make office space available for rent. The building will also house Township offices and a community center.

## News from Mantua Village

You may have noticed a fresh new look at the mini park on the corner of Main St. and Prospect. The Village installed white vinyl fencing on two sides of the park. To add a festive touch, the Chamber matched Village funds to purchase rope lighting, pine garland, and bows for the holiday season.

Village council recently approved the purchase of the old fire station from Mantua Township Trustees. This building will be renovated to house the police department, administrative offices, zoning, and water/sewer billing. In addition, the exterior maintenance code ordinance has finally passed after several community discussions and revisions.



### a little history here ...

Pastimes was established in October of 1993. A family restaurant located in the quaint small town of Mantua and owned by Cindy Janson. Old pictures of the surrounding area enhance the cozy atmosphere of oak and brass trim. Delicious breakfasts, lunches and dinners are served Tuesday thru Saturday, 8am-9pm. Featuring daily lunch specials, homemade soups and chili. Jumbo wings are featured on Tuesday night for 25¢ each. Mexican night is Wednesday evening. Thursday night, A.Y.C.E. crab legs. Friday enjoy A.Y.C.E. beer battered fish. On Saturday evening you can munch on the best BBQ ribs around the area or try the prime rib. Cocktails are available. Another nice feature is, call ahead and order for carry-out. Stop in and visit Pastimes at 4980 E. Prospect Street in Mantua, 330.274.9002.

## Spread Holiday Cheer with Goods and Gifts

As the holiday season approaches, we tend to think about those in need. Believe it or not, many area families have difficulty making ends meet and rely on the 4Cs for food from time to time. The 4Cs needs help this year, more than ever. Food banks nearly depleted their supplies, helping those who lost everything in this summer's floods and hurricanes. While the 4Cs can still purchase food at a greatly reduced cost from area food banks, supplies are limited and costs are rising due to the increased demand. And, they can only buy non-perishable food items. Without our donations, they are unable to provide needy families with other consumable household supplies...not to mention holiday gifts for the children. Here's how you can help:

- Look for 4Cs drop boxes in area businesses, including Middlefield Bank and Bank One, and donate cleaning supplies, paper towels, soap, toothbrushes, and other toiletries...items the 4Cs is not permitted to purchase outright.
- Make a cash donation for the purchase of food or donate non-perishable food items.
- Look for mini Christmas trees at Middlefield Bank, Mantua Station Drug, Portage Faith UMC, Mantua Township Hall, Best Little Hair Hut, Carlton Harley-Davidson, or Pastimes. Take an ornament, which lists a child's age and gender. Buy and wrap an appropriate gift and drop it off at Bank One.
- Make a cash donation at Bank One, for the purchase of gift certificates for teens.

Over 100 gifts are needed for children in the Crestwood School District. All donations will be provided to the 4Cs to distribute with holiday food to area families. For more information about gifts for children, contact Paulette Nichols at 274-2257. For information about 4Cs contact Pat Sargent at 274-2160.

### Welcome New Members:

Common Ground Kennel 995-9273  
Extreme Edge, Inc. 569-3159  
Skala Insurance Agency 274-2945  
Village of Windham 326-2622

## Top Awards Bestowed on One of Our Own

F & S Automotive, Inc. took 1st place for their 1969 Peterbuilt and 3rd place for their 2004 Peterbuilt at the Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio's annual show held at Saw Mill Creek in Sandusky October 1-3. F & S took five of their fleet of trucks and made quite an impression on everyone in attendance. This show is one of three that Dean Stebbins, Sr. and his crew attend throughout the year. The others are the Florida show in April and the Baltimore show in November. These shows bring trucks from all over the U.S. and in addition to the trucks on display, classes are held for up-to-date training and demonstrating new state-of-the-art equipment for an industry that prides itself on quality service. Congratulations to Dean and his crew.

## What is Workers' Compensation

By Don Knepper, RHU of Comprehensive Risk Management

Workers' Compensation was established in Ohio in 1912. Currently, the bureau of Workers' Compensation processes over 300,000 claims per year. Over 1.7 billion dollars was paid out last year.

Workers' Compensation was established for the purpose of providing relief to workers and their families from job-related injuries, diseases, or death. The bureau provides relief in the form of compensation for medical and time lost claims. Ohio is one of five states in the U.S. that has a state-run monopoly. Ohio requires all employers, with few exceptions, to obtain Workers' Compensation coverage. Sole proprietors, partnerships functioning as sole proprietors, clergy, and family-run farms are the main exceptions. Large companies in strong financial positions may request to be self-insured.

The state system allows for companies to access discounts in several ways. Group rating programs allow for substantially similar companies to "group together" and receive credit for their combined good claims experience. Programs encouraging a safe workplace and a drug-free workplace can lead to additional discounts. The bureau has historically allowed across-the-board discounts for all state fund employers when there is a surplus in the state fund.

Currently, a company can have access to three different entities to administer their program: The Bureau of Workers' Compensation that performs the underwriting and record-keeping functions, a Managed Care Organization that performs the medical review function, and the Third Party Administrator that performs the claim adjudication function. Claims can be contested at hearings overseen by the Industrial Commission.

For more information, contact Don Knepper of Comprehensive Risk Management at 216-901-0066.

## 10 Things You Need to Know About Workers' Compensation

- 1 It is Required – There are some exceptions, but in Ohio, if you have employees, it is your responsibility to have Workers' Compensation coverage.
- 2 It is Unusual – Ohio is one of the few states in the country that has a state-run monopoly. Most other states require private insurance.
- 3 It is Costly – If an employer is not in a group, they are paying "retail."
- 4 It is Based on Payroll – Employers report their payroll twice a year to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. This information is used to calculate the next billing.
- 5 It is Based on Industry – The industry classification is a major factor in rating a group.
- 6 It is Based on Experience – Claims from the previous five years (excluding the most recent year) are used in the calculation.
- 7 It is Paid in Arrears – The bill you pay is for the previous six months.
- 8 It is More Than Just Medical Claims – In fact, Lost Time Claims are of much more concern. These claims involve time off from work. There are also varying degrees of disability and wage loss compensation claims.
- 9 It is Constantly Changing – Workers' Compensation rules are not static. Employers are expected to keep up with the changes.
- 10 It is NOT Hopeless – Your Northern Ohio Chamber group saw 6.8 million dollars in savings last year. This was done through accessing group discounts, effective claims processing, and legal representation at Industrial Commission proceedings included in the administrative free paid by members.

## Available Property

The former Shalersville Elementary School is now the Shalersville Township offices and home to two educational entities (read about them in the September newsletter). A few offices are still available and groups may rent the gym for evening events, parties, and meetings. Contact the township at 274-3655 for more information.



## Thank You Sponsors!

The Potato Stop Committee thanks all Sponsors for supporting the 26<sup>th</sup> annual 15K race. Many runners return year after year, many are local citizens who use the Stomp as motivation to get in shape, there is even one walker/jogger who travels all the way from Alabama to participate in the race! One of the reasons for the Potato Stomp is to promote a positive image of our area. This year over 500 people came to run or watch. After the race, many of these people stay and enjoy the Potato Festival. Usually the race breaks even, but this year, a profit of \$500 was donated to the Portage County Park District for some sort of trail mile-marking system to benefit those runners who use the rail/trail system right in our backyard.

## Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

For Chamber  
information, contact  
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ekent@middlefieldbank.com

For newsletter inquiries, contact  
Michelle Barnauskas at  
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330-678-0684 x223

[www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org](http://www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org)



### 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 area ◁

**Officer Elections for 2005-2006** - If you want to keep our area strong so your business can thrive, the Chamber needs you! A nominating committee is currently seeking candidates for the Chamber's 2005-2006 executive committee. Please express your interest in serving the community by contacting:  
Virginia Goodell 274-2376 vgoodell@aol.com; Don MacLearie 296-5095 dtmaclearie@aol.com;  
Betsy Woolf 274-8776 mantuagv@raex.com; Dorothy Caldwell 274-2152; or Tom Aldrich 274-8649

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens  
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”**

Margaret Mead

**Mantua-Shalersville Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

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