



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

It is with a heavy heart that I write this column. The Mantua-Shalersville area has lost an icon of the community. Woots Feed, Tack, and Supply (formerly the retail arm of Mantua Grain and Supply) has closed its doors after 100 years of operation. Two other retailers have also expressed concern about the future of their businesses in the community.

Are you having similar concerns?
Do you like to see empty storefronts on our "main street"?

Maybe this is a wake-up call to each and every one of us...wake-up before the tumbleweeds blow into town...or the strip malls, cluster homes, and unmanageable traffic.

Why do you live or work in the Mantua-Shalersville area? Doesn't it have something to do with the quaint charm of our communities? Is it the history? The friendliness and concern of neighbors?

Mantua Village is one of only four "downtown" or "main street" areas in Portage County. Let's not lose that! Support your local merchants. Shop for goods and services in the area. Recommend area businesses to friends and colleagues. And look to your Chamber and your neighbors as resources when your business is struggling. That's what "community" is all about and that's why the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce exists!

In addition to the Chamber, local businesses have several resources, including:

- The Portage County Office of Economic Development
www.portageworkforce.org 297-3470
- Portage Manufacturing Alliance
www.madeinportage.com 297-3470
- Kent/Portage Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
www.business.kent.edu/Sbdc 672-1275
- Ohio Dept. of Development's 1st. Stop Business Connection
www.odod.state.oh.us/Onestop/ 1-800-248-4040
- Small Business Administration
www.sba.gov/oh/cleveland/ 216-522-4180
- SCORE Cleveland
www.SCORECleveland.org

Get involved...stay involved...and support your community!

Ed Kent

NEWS BRIEFS

Memorial Day Breakfast

Join friends and neighbors for a pancake breakfast at Crestwood High School from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 31. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mantua and the Chamber, tickets are just \$6 (\$3.50 for children 4-12) with proceeds benefiting the new tennis, track and football facilities.

Garrettsville Bicentennial Celebration

Saturday, June 19 is not only "Deby Day" (see Soap Box Derby article inside)...it's day of celebration in Garrettsville. Watch children age 12 and under as they show their bicentennial spirit (dressed in costume, riding decorated bikes, wagons, skate boards, etc.) in the Children's Parade at 11:00 a.m. The Middlefield Bank in Garrettsville has applications and will award a \$200 gift certificate for a bike! Festivities continue all weekend and include a "Moving Through the Years" parade beginning at 2:00 p.m. on June 20.

Events to Fit Everyone's Schedule!

Do you find it difficult to attend 7:30 am meetings? Are you looking for a change of pace? Well, grab your calendar and mark these dates. You won't want to miss our next few events

Wednesday, June 16 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Luncheon Meeting at Bank One
Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of lunch and learn about the new concealed weapons law from Chief Harry Buchert

Wednesday, July 21 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

After-Hours Picnic at Camp Hi with Mantua Rotary
Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner and hear from Mantua Village Council members and Mayor Claude Hopkins

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

Monthly Meeting at F&S Automotive

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

Monthly Meeting TBD

Monday, October 4 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Oktoberfest
Brats & Beer with lots of good cheer...watch for details

What Are YOU Doing Memorial Day Weekend?

With gas prices at the \$2 mark, you should be looking for activities close to home...and the Mantua-Shalersville area has plenty to offer!

Starting Friday night, you can have a great dinner at Pastimes restaurant then go to Sargiovanni's for ice cream.

On Saturday, have a hearty breakfast at the Village Tavern or Kicam's. From there, head down the road to watch the Shalersville Township Memorial Day parade starting at Riverside Cemetery on Route 303 at 10:00 a.m. After the parade, head back into town for a great sandwich at K&K Meat Shoppe or Haylett's foods or a pizza at Italiano's or Extreme Pizzeria. You can then do some shopping at the Finishing Touch gift and floral shop, Hunters "3" fireplace and craft shop, Corner Antique and Music Shoppe or head up to Carlton Harley Davidson to look at all of the new motorcycles and accessories. While you're at Mantua Corners, check out the Garage Sale Store, then pick-up some plants at Mantua Garden Center and see what Andcourt Rentals has to make your landscaping and spring clean-up a bit easier!

Find some time to relax with nature on Sunday. Rent a canoe at Camp Hi and enjoy the scenic Cuyahoga River...or take a hike or bike-ride down the Headwaters Trail.

The Village of Mantua parade kicks off at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, leaving the Village School and traveling south to Hillside Cemetery. Immediately following, is the Mantua Township parade from Mantua Center to the West Lawn Cemetery. Before or after the parades, be sure to eat a hearty pancake breakfast from 7:30 am - noon at Crestwood High School, sponsored by the Rotary and Chamber of Commerce, with proceeds benefitting the new tennis, track and football facilities!

Although some businesses may not be open Memorial Day weekend, please support all of our area merchants...and in particular our Chamber members:

2003-2004

- Need a tow? Call F&S Automotive 274-8525
- Car repair? Geauga Lake Auto Body 274-3520
- If you need veterinary services call Alger Veterinary Clinic 274-3463 or Mantua Veterinary Clinic 274-8211
- Sprained your ankle or hurt your back? Advanced Rehab 274-2747
- Eyesight not what it used to be? Go to Mantua Eye Center 274-0502
- Maple Syrup for your pancakes? Goodell Farms 274-2376
- Did lightning zap your wiring? Call Aurora-Mantua Electric 274-4714 or Rapid Electric 274-3267
- Did the wind damage a tree? Yarnell Tree Co. 274-8551
- Need gravel for your driveway? Call Solon Sand & Gravel 274-8241 or Lakeside Sand & Gravel 274-2569
- Why not put in a concrete drive? Stamm Contracting 274-8230
- Get a new look at New Groove 274-8755 or Shannon's Styling 274-3114
- Need a place for storage? Contact Diversified Mini-Storage 274-2069
- Have you tracked mud on your rug? Call Marshall's Carpet Cleaning 274-8411
- For hydraulic hose assemblies, go to Industrial Connections 274-2155 or On-Site Hydraulics comes to you 730-0327
- Are you house-hunting? Call Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty 274-0644, English Realty 274-2746, or Smythe Cramer 440-247-8900
- Portage Faith United Methodist Church welcomes you for worship 274-8987
- For signs and banners, contact RK Vinyl Graphics 274-0867
- For all of your advertising needs, call the Communications Factory 274-8812
- For your Mantua banking needs, contact Bank One 274-2257, Middlefield Bank 274-0881, or Cortland Savings Bank 274-3111



Members

Contact these other fine chamber members...or better yet, join them in the Chamber!

- Benner Masonry 274-3238
- Camp Hi Canoe Livery 569-7621
- Carlton Harley Davidson 274-2700
- Finishing Touch 274-5550
- Green Funeral Home 274-3145
- Hunters "3" 274-8956
- K&K Meat Shoppe 274-5322
- Mantaline 274-2264
- Mantua Family Health Care 298-9222
- Mantua Hardware 274-2500
- Mantua Oil 274-0230
- Mantua Rotary 274-2376
- Mantua Township 995-2640
- Crestwood Schools 274-8511
- Maxum Mortgage 274-2001
- Pastimes of Mantua 274-9002
- Portage Co. Mental Health Bd. 673-1756
- Tiger Tech 274-8818
- United States Plastic Equip. 297-9285
- Village of Mantua 274-8776
- Village Tavern 274-8201
- Wolf & Pflaum Accounting 274-3182
- Pearl Austin
- David Benjamin
- Henry Cabot
- Janet Esposito
- William Guegold
- Robert Ludwig
- Don MacLearie
- Jim Rodgers
- Marie Stehli
- Michelle Stuck
- JoAnn Vance

Join us in
2004
2005

Shalersville Historical Society is Born!

The Shalersville Historical Society recently held an organizational meeting to outline objectives of the organization. The futures of the Gladys Luce home and the Peppercorn Place were discussed and interim officers Don MacLearie, President; Ron Kotkowski, Vice President; and Robert Campbell, Secretary were elected.

The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 3 at the Shalersville Town Hall. Although other subjects will be discussed, that meeting will be mainly a work session on the bylaws.

Did you know—

- At least part of the first log cabin built in the township 198 years ago still exists?
- A European princess is buried in Shalersville's Hillside Cemetery?
- In the 1880s, Shalersville ranked third in the county in the production of cheese?
- Shalersville had its own post office?
- A small town, Feeder Dam, used to exist in the township near the Streetsboro border; and it also had a post office?
- There is an unmarked cemetery on the grounds of the old County Home?



A Look at All We Have to Offer

The Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce will be printing its first area map! The map will include the streets and roads in Mantua, Mantua Township and Shalersville Township, as well as a schedule of community events for 2004. It will be available at advertising merchant locations and area events (like the Soap Box Derby).

The purpose of this map is to create a sense of what the area has to offer. The only way this project is going to be a success is with your support. Advertising spaces, approximately business card size, are available at \$80 each. This cost will cover the layout of each ad, printing and distribution. Each advertiser will also be indicated on the map so that customers will know exactly where you are located. A sample of the map was presented at the last Chamber meeting and ad spaces began filling quickly. There are only a number of spaces available and the deadline for reservations is June 9th. Call Christine Pitsinger at 330-527-3271 or 330-414-6486.

2nd Annual Portage County Soap Box Derby - June 19

Last year's inaugural event drew 300 spectators and participants to the area for an action-packed day of racing. This year promises even greater crowds. With 35-40 racers, family, and friends, the town will be swarming with people. How can your business make the most of the Portage County Soap Box Derby on Saturday, June 19?

Businesses Downtown:

- Decorate your storefront with a race theme (checkered flags, pennants, lights...)
- Display your wares in a sidewalk sale (dueling instruments, food, popcorn, ice cream, soft drinks...)
- Advertise a special "Derby Day" offer

Out of Town Businesses:

- Advertise in the Mantua-Shalersville Area Map (see related article) or the Derby program
- Volunteer at the event (call Joe Hull at 297-7805 or Ed Kent at 274-0881)
- Partner with a downtown business to help with the sidewalk sale and/or distribute your literature/promotional material

One highlight of this event is the talking timers and lights at the finish line, to give everyone a clear indication of each heat's winner. Stop by to watch local racers Cole Brugman, Emily Turner, Huntre' Bates, Tyler Gallagher, Robert Templeton, Mallory Lorence, Anna Heritage, Jacy Watson, Rickilea Murphy, John Major, Melanie Fiorille, and others as they compete in our local rally! Be sure to check out the storefront to the left of K&K for a "Salute to the Derby" display.



Set-up begins at 7:00 a.m. and the race starts at 9:00 a.m. Don't miss the final heat as racers battle for first place around 5-6:00 p.m. An awards ceremony will take place at Buchert Park immediately following the race.

In the event of bad weather, the race will be held on Sunday. (Please note that High Street, between Main Street and Peck Road, will be closed from approximately 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the day of the race.)

You can still help to make this event the best that it can be. The Portage County Soap Box Derby still needs:

- 300 bales of hay or straw (will be returned)
- Volunteers to put out hay bales, sell raffle tickets, and help direct contestants
- Sponsors for next year. It costs \$5500 to put on an event. All money is raised locally and used to provide cars for kids who wouldn't otherwise be able to participate, workshops to teach racers about the sport and share tips for building their cars, prizes, and all supplies need to put on a race. Watch for news of Portage County Soap Box Derby fundraisers throughout the year.
- Support of future events. Our rally is just one of many regional events. Visit www.aasbd.com to learn all about this fun family sport and locate other rallies.

Now is the time to start thinking about how you can make the most of the increased consumer traffic attracted to the area by the St. Joseph's Ox Roast Fair in July and the Mantua Potato Festival in September. Test your ideas in June for the Soap Box Derby, then perfect your initiatives with each upcoming event. Need ideas? Contact Michelle Barnauskas at mlbarnauskas@hallrich.net or Edie Benner at bennerek@adelphia.net 274-2747 or Kathy Benjamin at 274-5550.

Don't Miss Out!

Being a member of the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce is an integral part in supporting the community. Don't miss out on the many events we have planned for the remainder of the year.

If you have not yet paid your 2004-2005 membership dues, please consider this your invoice .

Membership dues received by June 30 ensure your inclusion in Chamber benefits, mailings, discount programs, and more. Please complete the form on the back and send your check today. Upon request, a receipt will be mailed to you for tax purposes. Please contact Betsy Woolf at 274-8776 if you have any questions.

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 111
Mantua, OH 44255
330-274-0881

Crestwood Senior Earns Communications Factory's 2nd Annual College Scholarship

The Communications Factory is proud to announce that the recipient of the firm's annual \$1000 college scholarship is Crestwood High senior, Lauren Ilenin. Chosen from a field of highly qualified applicants from across Northeast Ohio, Lauren, earned the \$1,000 award based on her academic and extracurricular achievements. Lauren ranked in the top 5% of her class earning high honor roll for every academic grading period – despite her involvement in gifted and honors-level courses. She attended the Pre-Professional Academy of Medicine at Maplewood, served as a delegate to the National Youth Leadership Conference on Medicine, earned honors as a four-year letterman on her Varsity Girls' Soccer Team, and found time during her busy schedule to volunteer with the Hattie Larlham Foundation for the past six years. Lauren is planning to study nursing at Kent State University.

Brad Turner, founder and “plant manager” of the Communications Factory was thrilled by the turnout “Since our program is relatively new, I tried to maintain realistic expectations for its success. But I was totally blown away by the caliber of talented young adults that applied. We're very proud to support future leaders, like Lauren, with our scholarship. She's an exemplary young woman.”

The scholarship will be awarded again next year. Watch local papers and the firm's web site, communicationsfactory.net, for the early-2005 announcement.

The Communications Factory is a full-service ad agency that provides creative solutions and measurable results for up-and-coming companies. Along with assisting in strategic brand planning, the Factory offers clients professional assistance in the areas of advertising, direct marketing, on-line communications, media planning and PR, as well as identity, packaging and literature development.

Why Should You Join the Chamber?

Free advertising

As a Chamber member, you have several avenues to publicize your business at no cost:

1. Give a 2-5 minute highlight speech at a Chamber meeting
2. Write a spotlight article for the Chamber newsletter
3. Post your company profile on the Chamber website
4. Volunteer...get involved in Chamber activities...take advantage of networking opportunities

Discounts on services

- 3% discount on Health Insurance
- 10% discount on Life & Disability Insurance:
- Up to 90% discount on Workers Compensation
- Retirement Plan Administration
- 30%-70% savings on Credit Card Processing
- Up to 50% discount on Freight Delivery
- Up to 30% discount on Overnight Delivery
- Employee Testing Discounts
- and more! Contact Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce www.noacc.org 1-866-466-6222

Why haven't you taken advantage of everything the Chamber has to offer?

Too busy?

That's a valid reason! We're all very busy trying to get caught up on our current business, while still trying to maintain a steady stream of future business. The problem is...when you DO have time, it may be too late! Let's face it; we'll never be as “caught up” as we hope to be. Everyone needs to take a break from the daily grind. If you are familiar with Stephen Covey, you've heard about taking time to “sharpen the saw” (read his book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*). If you put it off too long, you'll burn yourself out or end up with NO customers, and plenty of time! Joining the Chamber is one step in the right direction.

Not only are you too busy, but you're sure that everyone already knows what you do, right?

Don't count on it. There is always something that you can pass along to others. For example, did you know that New Groove offers massage therapy...or that Finishing Touch does silk floral arrangements for weddings...

Okay, so you're too busy...and this area really isn't your target market.

Now, that's quite possible. However, a little networking never did anyone harm! In fact, the single-most effective way to promote your business is word-of-mouth...and it's FREE! If you take advantage of the Chamber's avenues of free advertising, you will educate others about your products and services and keep your name top-of-mind so they think of YOU when a friend, relative, or colleague asks, “do you know anyone who...?”

Don't put it off any longer. Join the Chamber today. For more information, contact any Chamber officer (see list on back) or talk to a current Chamber member (see list on page 2).

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

New Membership Application

Individual Patron \$25 6-20 Employees \$100

0-5 Employees \$50 21+ Employees \$150

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Web Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Please limit use.

Phone Number: _____

Alt. Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____ Please limit use.

Business Description: _____

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

**Return to:
Membership**
PO Box 111
Mantua, OH 44255

Business Profile for Web Site

Don't forget to visit our Chamber web page at: www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org. Submit your business profile for the website with your 2004-2005 membership dues and get your listing on the web for FREE!

Company Name: _____ Location: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Business Phone Number: _____ Business Fax Number: _____

Primary Business Contact: _____ Email Address: _____

Chamber Contact: _____ Chamber Contact Phone: _____ Chamber Contact Email: _____

25-Word Summary of Business: _____

Link to Business Website: _____ fax to 330-274-0883 or email to ekent@middlefieldbank.com

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

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!

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

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

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

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@adelphia.net
Co-Secretary:	Becky Newell, Benner Masonry	330-274-3238	bbjnewell@adelphia.net



“What is the city, but the people?”

William Shakespeare

**Mantua-Shalersville Area
Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 111
Mantua, OH 44255