



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

Is it just me, or was it New Years last week? Can you believe Groundhog's Day was a month ago? I'm having trouble with it being March. So much to do, so little time.

As a dad, my only child graduates from college in May. I know I'm not ready for that!

As a banker, I think the economy is turning up again. Businesses are starting to spend again...and that's good for everyone.

As a Chamber we're talking about the Soapbox Derby, Oktoberfest, and a possible Business Showcase to celebrate the opening of the new school buildings. (The kids can't even imagine summer vacation yet.)

So where is this all going?

Two things:

- 1) If a member of Chamber who is working on one of the projects listed above asks for a little of your time, please get involved.
- 2) The sap buckets are going up and the daffodil shoots were peeking out as the snow melted, so let me be one of the first to wish you "Happy Spring"

Get involved...stay involved!!

Ed Kent



NEWS BRIEFS

Regional Chamber after Hours

Join Chamber members from all over the region at Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in Rootstown on April 21. The complimentary "Regional Chamber after Hours" will be held from 4:30-7:30 p.m. If you have not previously attended, you will be very impressed! The facility is beautiful and refreshments are delicious and abundant. This event is just one more bonus for supporting our communities by becoming a Chamber member!

Another Reason to Belong!

The February 17th Chamber meeting featured James Prout of Prout & Associates, an expert on Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce benefits. Low cost health care coverage and Workers Comp premium reductions are some of the benefits offered to Chamber members. If you know you can get better rates than you now pay, don't put it off - take a minute to contact James at 440-834-4344 and take advantage of his expertise.

New Businesses in the Village

The empty storefront at the corner of 44 and Prospect is no longer empty!! "Corner Antiques & Music Emporium" is now open daily. Dave Haylett and his son, Rick, will buy and sell antiques and musical instruments, offer music lessons, instrument and clock repair, and more! Contact them at 330-274-9095.

Denise Pasquarelli will open a dog grooming business on Main Street in March. The business fills the building previously occupied by Andcourt Rentals.

Bank One Gets a Face Lift

If you've been in Bank One lately, perhaps you've noticed a little construction dust. The 1950s-era building is being fully gutted and remodeled. The work is expected to be completed early this summer. Stop by and check out the new look!

Pancake Breakfast Dates Set

Don't miss the Goodell Farms famous pancake breakfasts every Sunday in March at the Shalersville Town Hall. Enjoy table service including country sausage, real maple syrup, and beverages from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Adults \$6, Children \$3.50)

Holiday Gifts for Neighbors in Need

The toy drive organized by Candy Young brought in \$1635 and gifts for 125 families serviced by the 4Cs! Well done, Candy!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 17 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

Featuring: Soap Box Derby - how can we get involved...bring more people to town...get those people to spend their hard-earned money at our local businesses?

Tour the new elementary school complex! (pending construction progress)

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

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

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

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

March Meeting

The 7:30 a.m. March 17 meeting will be held at the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department and will tentatively include a tour of the new elementary school complex! We are eager to see the continuous improvements in Mantua and Shalersville.

It will be especially exciting as we visualize our first biannual Business Showcase being held in the new facility!

A representative from the Portage County Soap Box Derby will also be at the March meeting. This event was a great success in 2003 and will be held again on June 19 of this year. The Chamber is encouraging even more community support for the 2004 event.

The Soap Box Derby brought lots of people into the area last year. We'd like to plan some additional activities, entertainment, food vendors, etc. to keep people here and busy for more than just a few hours. If you have an idea to make the Soap Box Derby even more of a community event, please contact Ed Kent at 330-274-0881 or email to ekent@middlefieldbank.com.

Don't miss the March Chamber meeting!



Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce Plans October Business Showcase

Chambers of Commerce in locations such as Streetsboro, Aurora, and Garrettsville have had great success showcasing local concerns at their annual or biannual Business Showcases.

Following in their footsteps, the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber is organizing their first Showcase for October 2004. The event will be held at the new elementary school complex at the corners of Bowen Road and Pioneer Trail in Mantua.

Restaurants, grocers, banks, realtors, schools, retail/service establishments, other Chambers and non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate. You don't have to be located in Mantua or Shalersville to be involved.

Fees are yet to be determined, but will be reasonable. Since we are in the planning stages, we would appreciate your input! Please complete the short questionnaire included with this newsletter.

Ours is a terrific area with lots of potential, so let's all get excited about this and work together for a successful Showcase!

If you aren't sure if you're interested, why not visit Aurora High School on March 13 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to see what a Showcase is all about?

Crestwood "Spirit Walk" Fundraiser

The Crestwood All Sports Boosters (CASB) is an organization dedicated to the betterment of all sports programs in the Crestwood School District in grades 7-12. Currently, Crestwood has 17 varsity sports, with over 25% of all high school students participating in a sport at CHS!

The main source of funds for CASB comes from the concession stands, membership dues, donations, and fundraisers. The Booster Club has helped pay for awards, uniforms, clinics, equipment, dugouts, youth camps, and are planning to pay for portions of the all-weather track, tennis courts, and other sports fields in the future.



The Crestwood All Sports Boosters (CASB) is now selling clay pavers that can be personalized with the names of individuals or families. These pavers will be part of a Crestwood "Spirit Walk" that will be laid as part of the new sports facilities at the high school.

What better way to show your spirit than by purchasing a brick that declares it?

Examples:

**Go Devils
The Jones Family**



**Good Luck
Liz Jones
2000 Drama**

Individuals can purchase a 4" x 8" brick for \$40 that has 3 lines with 20 characters each. Or you can purchase an 8" x 8" brick for \$75 that has 6 lines with 20 characters each. Spaces and punctuation are considered characters. This is available to individuals only.

8" x 8" pavers for each team or organization can also be purchased for \$75, listing the name, ex. "**Village School**". All bricks sold by your team or organization will be laid in the same section, surrounding your team or organization plaque.

Company pavers are being sold for \$125 for an 8" x 8" paver by the Crestwood Ladies Tennis Team and members of CASB.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Schrecengost at 330-297-5228, Barb Knopf at 330-297-9223, or Dean Hugebeck at 330-562-7834 or email dhugebeck@earthlink.net

CASB meets the 2nd Monday of each month in the High School cafeteria at 7 p.m. (while school is in session) and would love to see you there!

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Without Trucks, America Stops

TL Service Center has been in business since 1998, with a state-of-the-art facility in Mantua Township. What can you find at TL?

The center has four drive through bays and a safety inspection/service pit for full-service heavy duty truck and trailer repairs and preventative maintenance. Electronic diagnostics are used to pin-point mechanical problems. OEM Parts are available, as the TLSC is a distributor of TruckPro and Baldwin Filter. Steel and aluminum welding, A/C repairs, and fabrication is done on-site.

Road service is also available. TL's 11 mechanics, parts manager Eddie, VP & service manager Linda Carlton, VP Gloria Vechery, and administrative assistant Amanda Fedor work at the service center.

TLSC is also a Pennzoil Fuel stop with four pumps, 24-hour unattended fueling, easy access, and plenty of parking. For over-the-roaders - showers, washer/dryer, and vending machines are available.

Payment methods include Visa, MasterCard, American Express, ComData, Cash, and NTS and TransPlatinum Checks. Hours are Sunday 9:00 p.m. through Friday 11 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

TL Service Center was built to service the 150 truck/250 trailer fleet owned by TL Express out of Bedford Heights. The company will soon move those offices to the Village! TL Express recently purchased Village elementary school from the Crestwood School District and plans to move 30 jobs into town in late-2004.



TL Express can handle all over-the-road or local flatbed needs and specializes in hauling steel, precast, and air conditioners.

For more information about TL Service Center or TL Express, call 800-555-4859.



Worker Safety

Toby Weber, Portage County Red Cross Director visited the Chamber in January to discuss the services provided by the Red Cross. Many community members have benefited from swim lessons, water safety instruction, bloodmobiles, contacting military personnel with important personal information, fire or flood victim assistance, and much more.

Our local Red Cross chapter is also responsible for the Portage County Safety Council. Meetings are held at noon on the 2nd Tuesday of the each month at the Ramada Inn (St. Rt. 43 & I-76 in Kent). Any company that pays into the Bureau of Workers Compensation is invited to attend.

Small Business Development Center

The Chamber's January meeting featured Linda Yost, from the Kent Regional Business Alliance, located in KSU College of Business. They are a clearinghouse for small business growth and collaboration. Their mission is to lead, teach and serve Ohio small businesses in order to contribute to the growth and stability of Ohio's economy. Services offered:

- Web site development
- Training courses such as financial analysis, marketing, managing growth, starting a business, business plans.
- Small Business Development counselling
- Loan programs

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 330-672-1275 or visit: www.business.kent.edu/krba.



Sharing the History of Shalersville

The Shalersville School Historical Committee is collecting Shalersville School pictures and stories to be used to celebrate the school's history as it prepares to close in May. Anyone with pictures and/or stories they wish to share about the school can drop them off at the school between 9 a.m. and



The original Shalersville School

3 p.m. any school day. Or, they can be mailed to the school at:

Shalersville Elementary
4519 St. Rt. 303
Ravenna, OH 44266

Make sure all submissions, including pictures, are labeled with a name and address so they may be returned.

The Shalersville Bicentennial Committee is currently collecting pictures and stories regarding the township's history for a bicentennial celebration in 2006. Materials will be returned if they are labeled with a name and address. Anyone not wishing to let go of a treasured photograph can copy it using Kodak Picture Maker and send the copy to the committee. The committee is also looking for stories (histories) of the businesses in the township. These materials can be sent to:

Don MacLearie
8736 St. Rt.44
Ravenna, OH 44266

Questions? call 330-296-5095 or dtmaclearie@aol.com.

Welcome New Members:

David Brekaw, Portage County Mental Health
Gary Carlton, Jr., Carlton Harley Davidson
Kellie Aldrich, Woots Feed & Tack Supply
James Prout, Prout & Associates
Janet Esposito Michelle Stuck

Are Chamber Meeting Times Convenient for You?

The MSACC is not just for a chosen few! We see many of the same faces each month at our morning meetings. While we are more than happy to see them, what about you? Are you unable to come at these times? !

We want to encourage everyone to become members, attend meetings and possibly get more involved in the community. Have you neglected to join because of meeting times? Would a lunch meeting be better for you? Or perhaps evenings?

We realize that nothing will be good for everyone, but we would certainly like your feelings on this matter so we can meet the needs of more business in our area. Your input is requested! Contact Ed Kent at 330-274-0881 or email to ekent@middlefieldbank.com.

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	bennerrek@aol.com
Co-Secretary:	Becky Newell, Benner Masonry	330-274-3238	bbjnewell@aol.com

“Effective people are not problem-minded; they’re opportunity-minded.
They feed opportunities and starve problems.”

Stephen Covey

Mantua, OH 44255
PO Box 111

Mantua-Shalersville Area
Chamber of Commerce

**Mantua-Shalersville
Area Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 111 • Mantua, Ohio 44255 • 330-274-0881

Business Showcase Feedback

We're considering organizing a Showcase at our new Crestwood elementary school complex in October. 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 day of the week & time would be good for you?

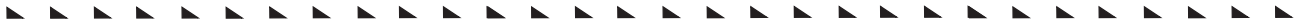
- ▶ If the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber sponsors such an event, would you rent a vendor table?

- ▶ Do you feel \$50-\$85 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 is 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 for your help.



Business Profile for Web Site

Don't forget to visit our Chamber web page at: www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org. If you haven't already submitted your business profile for the web site be sure to do it soon! Profiles submitted with new member applications are free...otherwise, please submit \$25 with your completed profile form.

Business Profile for Website

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**