



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

NEWS BRIEFS

Recognition for Enhancing the Area

Mantua Village Mayor Claude Hopkins recently presented proclamations to Dave & Mary Haylett and Mike & Becky Pender for Home Beautification. The Penders added a large addition to their century home and gave it a face-lift. The Hayletts added wrought iron fencing, a garage, and have completely remodeled the former home of his parents. A Small Business proclamation was given to Dean Stebbins for his contributions to the work force, years in business, and economic value to the Village.

Community Pancake Breakfast

Come to a Community Pancake Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Crestwood High School on Sunday, January 30. Pancakes, sausages, and beverages will be served for \$5 per adult and \$3 per child 5 and older (under 5 are free). Put down your spatula and let prominent Crestwood citizens cook your Sunday breakfast! Proceeds benefit the Crestwood Levy Committee.

Questions About the School Levy?

If you have questions about the upcoming levy for Crestwood Local Schools, you may find answers at www.crestwood.sparcc.org. New questions are welcomed by emailing levyqa@crestwood.sparcc.org. You can even get information about small Q&A sessions throughout the community or schedule an individual meeting by contacting Superintendent Joe Iacano at 274-8511 or Treasurer Carol Corbett at 274-8311. Be sure to get all the facts and make an informed decision.

Upcoming Events...

- Wednesday, February 16 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station
- Wednesday, March 16 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station
- Wednesday, April 20 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

A Message from the President

I hope this newsletter finds you well on your way to a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Our January meeting marked the official start of the Chamber's third year since reforming in 2002. The last two years have gone by quickly and I thank everyone for their support over those first two years, especially those retiring from the officer positions they have filled so diligently. They have all agreed to head up or work on new committees for 2005. The fact that we had people ready and willing to step into those positions says a lot about how far we have come as an organization. People truly are "Getting Involved and Staying Involved."

This community needs your help! The Chamber is officially on record in support of the school levy in February. This is not just about the schools. EVERYONE benefits from a strong and vibrant school system. When people who are thinking of moving into the area call me as chamber president, to ask about the community, their number one question is, "tell me about the schools." The success of our students both academically and athletically has been remarkable. That means the teachers and the administration continue to do a great job. Lets make sure they have the resources to keep the standards high.

As always, I ask that you "Get Involved and Stay Involved" and VOTE YES for OUR Schools.

Ed Kent

Generous Response to Area Gift Trees

Thanks to the work of Paulette Nichols and the generosity of the area businesses and residents, the children of every family served by 4Cs received wrapped gifts for Christmas. A special thank you goes to Mantaline, Lakeside Sand & Gravel, Aurora Animal Care Center, Rev Douglas & Joyce Riley, Cortland Bank, Middlefield Bank, Bank One, Sheila Rodgers, Solon Excavators Sand & Gravel, TL Service Center, Geauga Lake Auto Sales, Carol Daczko, Karen Jackson, Benner Masonry, Best Little Hair Hut, and Yarnell Tree for their cash donations, which allowed children from 13 to 18 to receive \$15 gift certificates. It's wonderful when a community supports local non-profit organizations and the area residents it serves.

Available Property

If you have commercial property, don't let it sit vacant! List your property here, on our website, and at www.portageworkforce.org/pcoed Empty lots and buildings are a missed opportunity for you and for the entire community!



Meet the New Chamber Officers

The Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce would not be here today without the dedication of the Chamber's first slate of officers. Please thank the following individuals for their service in bringing the organization to life and directing it through its first two years.

Ed Kent
President

Paulette Nichols
Vice President

Cindy Janson
Treasurer

Edie Benner
Co-Secretary

Becky Newell
Co-Secretary

These outgoing officers will help our new officers, elected at the January meeting, transition into their roles and fulfill the duties of those positions for the next two years. Please welcome:

Ed Kent
President

Marie Stehli
Vice President

Betsy Woolf
Treasurer

Pam Raines
Secretary

Ed's commitment to the community and involvement with several other Chambers make his second term as president a natural fit. Ed moved to Northeast Ohio in 1990 from the Buffalo N.Y. area. He and his wife currently live in Twinsburg and he commutes to Mantua where he is Vice President, Commercial Lending Officer for Middlefield Banking Company's Portage County Offices. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty for Capital University's Cleveland Adult Degree program and in Hiram's Weekend College. Ed graduated Leadership Geauga County, is a former board member and division chair for Geauga United Way, and a former chair of the Community Advisory Board Geauga County Co-operative Extension.

Marie and her husband, Bob, bought Wintergreen Tree Farm on Winchell Road in Mantua Township in 1986 and moved to the Township from Cleveland in 1989. She was raised in Westerville, Ohio. Her two daughters attend Crestwood High School and her son is at OSU. Marie holds a BA in Accounting from Miami University, and MBA from Case Western Reserve University, and is a CPA and Certified Municipal Finance Administrator. She worked in the audit department for Sohio (now BP) 8 years until 1985 and has been a self-employed CPA since then, as well as Clerk of Mantua Township since 1992, and Clerk of Mantua-Shalersville Fire District, 1992-2004. She is a member of the Ohio Township Association, Association of Public Treasurers of US and Canada, and Mantua Center Christian Church.



New Officers
Ed Kent,
Betsy Woolf,
and Marie Stehli (Pam Raines, not pictured)

Betsy has been a Mantua Village resident for 54 years. You may know her husband of 13 years, David; daughter, Libby Savel; or her son, Scott. Betsy worked for Hiram College for 5 years, has been a Certified Dietary Manager since 1988 and is a Certified Sanitarian, Notary Public, Caterer, and also the Clerk-Treasurer for the Village of Mantua for 5½ years. She is a member of the Portage County Clerks Association of Ohio, Ohio Municipal Clerk Association, Ohio Public Finance Officers, Ohio Municipal Treasurers Association, Ohio Public Investment, and International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

Pam and her husband live in Auburn Township and have three grown children. She holds an Accounting Degree from the University of Akron and has been employed by Solon Sand & Gravel for 11 years. She is also the Secretary/Treasurer of the Holmes Safety Association Northeast Ohio Council (an association of aggregate producers to promote safety in the industry), and is responsible for planning and organizing their annual educational seminar attended by 125 producers and vendors.



George & Helen Hazlett



Ruth & Tom Aldrich

Despite a treacherous winter storm, the Chamber open house at Pastimes was warm and inviting for the diversified group of brave souls who turned out there to enjoy refreshments and networking near the end of 2004.

Calling All Members...

Watch for your renewal paperwork in the mail. This is your opportunity to update your business profile and provide other information to help the Chamber help your business! Not only do Chamber members enjoy networking with others from the area, being “in-the-know” about happenings in the community, and cost savings on a variety of services, Chamber members are recognized and promoted as often as possible.

The Chamber sponsors ads in publications like the Portage County Directory, the Record-Courier, and programs for area events. Members get free promotional exposure...and 2005 promises even more opportunities.

This newsletter and the Chamber website are also forums for promoting your business. The newsletter reaches businesses, residents, and visitors in our immediate area and throughout Northeast Ohio. Also, our new website is taking shape. Check it out at www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org and be sure to submit your profile to ekent@middlefieldbank.com.

If you're not yet a member, contact any of the officers listed on the back for information on joining the Chamber and reaping all the benefits of membership!

Yearly Chamber Dues		Visit www.noacc.org for a list of cost-saving benefits including health care, credit card processing, freight delivery, business planning, and more!
0-5 Employees	\$50	
6-20 Employees	\$100	
21 + Employees	\$150	
Individual Patron	\$25	

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Flowers, Décor, and More at Finishing Touch

In need of a unique gift, custom floral arrangement or fresh flowers? Stop by Finishing Touch, located at 4668 Prospect Street in downtown Mantua. Finishing Touch is the place to find that something special.

Kathy Benjamin, owner and lifelong Mantua resident, has been in business since 1996. After 14 years of working and managing a well-known florist and garden center, she decided it was time to try it on her own. Kathy holds a degree in floral Design and Marketing from OSU's Agricultural Technical Institute and in 1991 became a certified FTP Master Designer.

The focus of Finishing Touch has been on providing custom designed silk and floral arrangements for home and office. You may have recognized Kathy's work in other retail shops. She provides floral pieces for five other area businesses. Holiday decorating is another service she offers. From selecting your Christmas tree to hanging the mistletoe, Kathy is always willing to offer suggestions for any decorating dilemma you have. Unique gifts in a range of prices are displayed at Finishing Touch, to give you decorating ideas. Candles, clocks, hand-painted slates, and floral decorations are just a few of the many items available. For do-it-yourselfers, just ask for any supplies you may need.

The most recent addition to Finishing Touch is fresh flowers. Kathy has always kept her hands in this area, designing floral arrangement for weddings and parties and doing free-lance work for area florists. With the

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Star Search 2005 - January 29 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss Star Search 2005 at the Hayden Auditorium in Hiram, on January 29 at 7:30 p.m. Mantua Rotary is sponsoring this variety show of dancers, cloggers, pianists, singers, guitarists, and other performers for your enjoyment. Admission is just \$8 per adult and \$5 for each child under 12. Proceeds will be used for a Centennial Clock, in honor of Rotary International's 100th year. The clock will be installed in front of the new Mantua Village administration building (the former fire station). Star Search tickets are available at Middlefield Bank in Mantua, from any Rotarian, or at the door. For more information, call Helen Hazlett at 274-2231 or Virginia Goodell at 274-2376.

International Foods and Talent on Display

The Hiram Collage Intercultural Forum's (IF) Dinner and Talent Show is a family event, celebrating diversity and intercultural harmony. Students create delicious meals from all over the world and entertain with performances in music, poetry, and dance. In light of the unfortunate events that have occurred world-wide recently, the IF reaffirms its intention to make this annual event a monument to all who seek world peace. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 5 at the Kennedy Center and will be followed by the Talent Show in Hayden Auditorium. Semi-formal attire is recommended. For more information, email if@hiram.edu or call 569-3211 and ask for Ashraf, Simi, or Swara.

Finishing Touch *continued*

encouragement of family, friends, and customers, she recently moved the “hidden” display cooler from the back design room to the front showroom. Finishing Touch offers fresh flowers for all occasions including anniversaries, birthdays, funerals, weddings, as well as simple “pick-me-up” bouquets to help chase away the winter blues.

Kathy reminds you, “Don’t forget your sweetheart on Valentine’s Day, February 14th.” Local delivery will be available on Sunday, February 13th and Monday the 14th. Stop in to select a gift or call 274-5550 for suggestions. From wrapped bouquets and vased roses to a special heart-shaped box filled with candles, candy and flowers, you’re sure to find the perfect gift.

Stop in soon to browse the selection at Finishing Touch.



Get Involved!

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

President:	Edward Kent, Middlefield Bank	330-274-0881	ekent@middlefieldbank.com
Vice President:	Marie Stehli, Mantua Twp/CPA	330-562-7620	mlscpa@alltel.net
Treasurer:	Betsy Woolf, Mantua Village/Fire Clerk	330-274-8776	mantuagv@raex.com
Secretary:	Pam Raines, Solon Sand	330-274-8241	solonsand@aol.com
Membership Chair:	Becky Newell, Benner Masonry/Advanced Rehab	330-274-3238	bbjnewell@adelphia.net



**“To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing,
be nothing.”**

Elbert Hubbard

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

www.mantuashalersvillechamber.org

**Mantua-Shalersville Area
Chamber of Commerce**

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