

# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Calling All Vegetable Gardeners...

Mantua Rotary's farmer's market will be here before you know it. Whether you grow crops for a living or as a hobby, plan to sell your extra produce on the third Saturday of July through October at Buchert Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Vendors and anyone with ideas to expand the market, please call Virginia Goodell at 330-274-2376 or Jim Rogers at 330-274-8738.

### Community Flea Market & Yard Sale

The Village will be swarming with activity on Saturday, May 13 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. as the Rotary and Neighborhood Watch join forces for a community-wide sale. Vendor permits for home sales and flea market booths at Buchert Park are \$10 each. Provide your own table for the flea market and pay only \$5. Permits include your sale listing on maps to be distributed in the morning at Mantua Station Drug Caboose and at the Park Lodge as well as all home locations. Contact Diane Hura at 330-274-8737 by May 6 for information and reservations.

### Upcoming Chamber Meetings...

Mark your calendar - there's much to learn, the information, food, and friendship is FREE!

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

Hilltop Church/4Cs, W. Prospect St. Downtown

**Topic:** The Ravenna Arsenal Today - Resource Drain, or Good Neighbor to Small Business Owners? Hear about the current state of the Ravenna Arsenal and its impact on the local economy from Training Site Commander Lt. Col. Tom Tadsen.

#### Wednesday, June 21 5:30 -7:00 p.m.

Mantua Village Hall (former Fire House)

**Topic:** Get Your Money Faster - Practices for Improving Check & Credit Card Processing Improve your cash flow with these tips on processing credit cards and checks. Tour the new Mantua Village Hall.

#### Wednesday, July 19 NOON

Main Street Place (across from Circle K)

**Luncheon:** Sponsored by Portage Community Bank Join Chamber members, neighbors, and friends for an informal luncheon and networking, with an update on Chamber events and area activities

## A Message from the President

It sure looks like spring out there!

This month's issue is full of things that remind us that spring is here and we can safely wander out into the streets again.

We're talking about the farmer's market so it must be time to think about planting a garden. The spring flowers and blooming trees are beautiful, so take a walk, re-introduce yourself to the neighbors, catch a ball game at a local field, see what's changed in town (Prospect Street has some new faces) and just enjoy the warmth!



The Community Yard Sale is only two weeks away. Time to clean out the garage and basement and while you're at it, won't you spend a hour or two with the Chamber and our new Beautification Task force on May 13th for a little spring cleaning in the Village and Townships?

The information we gathered at the Comprehensive Plan meeting pointed out many of the wonderful aspects of the area. Please take advantage of them. Check the Chamber website for a listing of upcoming events and as always. "Get involved and stay involved."

Sincerely,  
 Ed Kent

Chamber Golf Outing  
 August 3 at Sugarbush  
 Details soon!

## Available Property

Commercial space on the corner of Main and High Streets (former gas station). Testing shows no ground contamination. Front 66'x96' parcel and building listed at \$79,900; 66'x88' parcel behind, with house is \$94,900. Contact Bill Sontag at 330-274-8244.



## News from...

### *Mantua Township*

Spring clean-up is 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. Unwanted items, including refrigerators and tires, may be dropped off at the Township garage on Mantua Center Road. Northbound traffic *only* will be permitted on the road during clean-up.

### *Shalersville Township*

Shalersville residents may drop off items between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. May 4-6 at the Township garage on St. Rt. 303 west of St. Rt. 44. Up to six tires will be accepted and hazardous materials such as paints and oils are restricted.

Program ads for the bi-centennial celebration are being accepted. Contact Dorothy Caldwell at 330-274-3655.

### *Mantua Village*

The Village invites property owners to put unwanted items at the curb a week prior to spring clean-up on May 6 (this reduces the amount disposed by 1/3!); remaining items will be picked-up beginning at dawn.

## **MSACC Membership Exceeds 80! Welcome New Members:**

Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer ~ 330-274-8501  
[bjackpot@adelphia.net](mailto:bjackpot@adelphia.net)  
Dawn & Ray Boleyn

Troy Construction ~ 330-274-2424  
[dantillett@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dantillett@sbcglobal.net)  
Dan Tillett

## Free Advertising Opportunity

The initial supply of welcome packets, with area business information, was distributed at the community visioning meeting in March. New packets are being assembled now. Be sure to get your business card, brochure, flyer, coupon, or other promotional items to a welcome committee member so the Chamber can promote YOUR business to those new to the area: Edie Benner, Advanced Rehab, 330-274-2747, [ebenner@adelphia.net](mailto:ebenner@adelphia.net); Virginia Goodell, Goodell Farms, 330-274-2376, [vgoodell@aol.com](mailto:vgoodell@aol.com); John Metzko, Teresa's Pizza, 330-274-3000, [jmet64@yahoo.com](mailto:jmet64@yahoo.com); or Helen Hazlett, Howard Hanna, 440-247-8900, [hhazlett@juno.com](mailto:hhazlett@juno.com).

## Nominate Your Shining Stars

The hard work of employees out on the "front lines" is often overlooked. Goodwill Industries of Akron offers a way to recognize those key individuals. Portage County's annual Employee of Distinction Luncheon will be at the American Legion in Kent on September 8. For only \$25, you may nominate an employee who will receive lunch at the event, be listed in the commemorative program, receive special recognition, and be in the running to be chosen as one of five winners, selected by a panel of judges. Sponsorships of the event range from \$250 to \$3000 and include one to three nominations, lunch for others in your organization, advertising in the program and other recognition at the event. Program ads are \$50-\$450. Contact Rachel D'Attoma at 330-724-6995 ext. 122 or [rdattoma@goodwillakron.org](mailto:rdattoma@goodwillakron.org) for more information.

Goodwill Industries is the region's largest non-profit provider of workforce development services to both employers and job-seekers. Goodwill's Vocational Services division assists individuals with disabilities in their employment endeavors. They work with companies in the community to allow people to try out jobs with the hope of future placement. Their Industrial Services division provides a valuable outsourcing resource for area businesses, specializing in assembly, packaging, collating, knitting, and sewing. Last year alone, over 5,000 people received services, logging over 80,000 hours of work.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **Local Banking, Local Decisions**

Established in 1892, Cortland Banks serves Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania with 13 community branches.

Commercial Loan Officer Pat McElhaney and Regional Business

Development Manager Shirley Root hosted the April Chamber meeting at their Mantua Corners location. Pat discussed financing options for businesses including those supported by the SBA and the state of Ohio, which reduce down payment requirements, streamline application processes, and ensure affordable rates making it easier for small businesses to obtain funds. Cortland Banks offers Internet banking, business checking with debit card, and personalized service. Their business services kit explains it all.

Call 330-274-3111 for your copy or visit [www.cortland-banks.com](http://www.cortland-banks.com).

Business financing options through Cortland Banks include:

- Commercial Real Estate Loans
- Construction Loans
- Lines of Credit
- Letters of Credit
- SBA 7(A) Loan Guaranty Program
- SBA LowDoc Program
- SBA Express
- Ohio 166 Program
- Ohio Link Deposit Program

## Survey Says...

Of the 43 surveys distributed to *businesses* within the Village limits, as part of the Village Comprehensive Plan, two-thirds were completed.

Overall responses were positive, with concerns expressed about water costs, taxes, and parking.

More than 80% of respondents agreed that the downtown area should be aggressively promoted to investors, entrepreneurs, consumers, and tourists.

Over 85% agreed that the Village should pursue renovation and a streetscape plan.

Improving the riverfront was a key issue for over 90%.

Specific suggestions for businesses to enhance the community included a coffee/bagel shop, fresh fruits and vegetables, music and arts, a senior center, and a library.

Results of the Village resident survey will be compiled and reported soon.

A future element of the Comprehensive Plan includes a community seminar conducted by an expert on revitalization. The presentation, to be held in late-summer, will include information about how to fund revitalization efforts. Watch for more information on this important event!

***Put your best foot forward this spring! Clean up your facade now before warm-weather events bring visitors to town!***

***Need help? Call a "Beautification Task Force" member. Read more about the task force on the back page of this newsletter.***

## Perception Matters

To supplement feedback from the surveys completed by Village residents and businesses, the Chamber invited members of the surrounding communities to share their thoughts. These neighbors are also troubled by the appearance of downtown and hope that buildings can be renovated to preserve the historic charm. They appreciate the rural character of the area and overwhelmingly encourage preservation of natural areas and open spaces. Cooperation among the Village and Townships is seen as crucial. Open-ended questions provide the best insight into people's opinions. These are printed, verbatim, below and on the next page...

*What do you think are the most important issues facing the Village?*

- limited businesses, no growth
- having the surrounding area grow enough to support a downtown
- need more businesses
- revitalizing & cleaning up the buildings & infrastructure of downtown; attracting tourists, visitors, and investors
- maximize current attractions, benefits and then add more
- filling in the gap on Main St. where the hardware store used to be; replace the Mantua Grain/Feed buildings with apartments, excellent view of river and wetlands, make sure the housing stock is maintained
- the image of when you drive through, it looks like an old ghost town in a western movie, let's keep the historical buildings, match paints, design to keep it historical, but bring it back to life in the future
- Have the Village support the businesses, rather than run them out of business, by making them pay for everything. ie, the water rates
- Cooperation among property owners, Village Council & cooperation among Townships & Village.
- Getting the Main Street looking decent. Making the entry to the Village and Townships more presentable.
- People need to let go of the past and open their minds to new possibilities (work together to CREATE those possibilities). The Village is not an economically viable place to do business (for most). It's not attractive to visitors, customers, or investors. Buildings are not maintained. Parking is not convenient (back lots are hideous). Businesses cannot afford utilities (high rates AND inefficient old buildings). Some property owners are willing to upgrade, but cannot afford to do so (or don't know how). A few property owners do a great job of keeping their places up, but are not recognized for it (or are even "punished" by haphazard enforcement of "rules"). Gov't officials are unavailable/unresponsive/unconcerned (creating a lack of trust). Longtime residents want to preserve the rural atmosphere, but don't understand what is necessary to do that. Cliques and factions exist; a concerted effort to treat everyone equally and open the lines of communication MUST become a priority!
- Lack of quality, convenient parking. Lack of a "destination" anchor in the village be it specialty retail, restaurant or natural attraction. When you think of Mantua, nothing stands out. What niche does the village hope to fill and what are its plans for economic growth?
- Small minded government. We need to elect new faces with no conflicts of interest.
- Communication -- it's the biggest issue facing everyone.
- Urban sprawl
- keeping businesses that open in the village from going out of business, maintaining what they got like businesses nice appearance
- Downtown appearance is hideous. That building burnt down in 1984 and the lot still sits vacant.
- Income, growth and preservation of historical character
- we need more businesses like a grocery store, department store. Also, we need more recreation--movies, a rec center (swimming pool, exercise room, etc).
- keeping our small town safe, and friendly for its current residents
- Troubled School System
- the police harassing people

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*Is there any information that you would like to share?*

- the hole or the old mill (grain & supply) building: convert (or build) into a semi-historic, modern, public building with food courts (ex. restaurants, Starbucks), and small tourist-oriented businesses; if done right, this could be the #1 tourist attraction to Mantua - maybe expand from the grain & supply to the riverfront with trees, gardens, smaller attractions, someplace people can go (both residents & visitors) in the warm months (spring summer, early fall)
- view [wakegov.com](http://wakegov.com) for some info on community growth in Apex, Holly Springs (click on the towns from the main webpage); they are 20 min. from job center for the area and have been planning for the past 10-15 years for where they are now
- make wetlands a park with hiking trail, designated areas to watch, to follow changes in environment (plants, ponds, etc.)
- need to change the minds of the old foeggies who block change, to get landlords to take pride in fixing up old buildings - not to change their design, but to keep it advertising as the historical past that's kept up in the future or set up and reward incentive to beautify their buildings or a committee that will assist them; we have the restaurants, post office, and gas; now if we can bring business of interest to common people, that would help; the biggest thing is image, sight is the biggest tool to tell about a place; we have lots of half-torn buildings in lots, we have old paint on buildings, we have old advertising on sides of buildings that need to be covered up; image is what we need to draw business people, then customers will follow; the school financial problems don't help; families move where the schools are good and the image is good; we have so much potential; our town is small, so we can do it to look nice!
- Image is the key, landlords and tenants need to work together if possible; give rewards or plaques on businesses that shows customers they're a part of the beautification program; give tenants discounts if they can provide a service to the landlord, which in turn will be cost-efficient and give pride to people that did the work for all to see for a long while; finish tearing down old buildings, paint buildings, cover up old painted advertising, keep all windows full of decor, if it's vacant and for rent still dress the windows, but advertise it for rent, like selling a house with curtains and furniture it sells!
- Business friendly enviroment
- Bring in a Grocery store (Giant Eagle) Build up the Village. Get rid of ugly old buildings not in use and not of historic value. Build a complex where there once was a building on Main Street. (Destroyed by fire)Revitalize Mantua Corners.
- We need to develop a program to attract businesses for tax base.
- Preserve farmland, greenspace
- raise the speed limit have a variety of different businesses not a lot of the same things
- Clean up the town before industry/tourism/retail passes you by.
- There is not much to do in Mantua. I have to drive to other cities to get what I need. I don't mind going to small "convenient" type stores, but items there are too expensive. I would also like to get to know more about the village and township, such as politics, history. I don't get any sort of newspaper from Mantua, if there is one, but it would be nice to know about news and be informed.
- As with most residents, I live here because of what the area has and does NOT have. I was born & raised in the city and would never consider a different type of area that Shalersville provides. We have an excellent EMS/ Fire Dept. and Sheriff Dept. Roads are well maintained. It would be nice to have more industry for our residents, but, I would hate to see more & more residential growth.

*Other revitalization comments:*

- Clean up the Town in general, it's starting to look like Windham, with the buildings falling apart
- Need more cooperation between all parties: government, chamber, business owners, schools, residents
- Increase the speed limit. keep the properties, buldings fixed up and nice looking
- Don't Fix What Is Not Broken.

## Business Professionals Gather

All Chambers of Commerce in Portage County joined forces for a Super Networking Breakfast at Twin Lakes Country Club. Business professionals from big and small companies alike gathered to present their goods and services as well as learn how other local businesses can help them. The event took place on Friday, April 7, with a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. immediately followed by table networking.

Each business person in attendance was afforded the opportunity to meet new contacts by giving a 90-second commercial (elevator speech) about their organization to others repeatedly, moving from table to table, until everyone had made 40-45 new contacts.

The morning's events included plenty of business cards and brochures being distributed as well as a tremendous level of local products and services on display. Some members were able to save money by comparing pricing. Without question, attendees were taking advantage of the power of Chamber membership and networking.

Local Chambers of Commerce supporting the event included: Aurora, Brimfield, Kent, Garrettsville, Mantua-Shalersville, Ravenna, Rootstown and Streetsboro. With the success of the past few events, the Chambers are planning to hold the Super Networking Event twice a year at various locations around the County.



Streetsboro- Michael Ressler, Chase Bank  
Brimfield- Dana Nelson, Viking Vineyards & Winery  
Kent- Gary Urchek, Hall-Green Agency  
Aurora- Meg Hudson, Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer  
Mantua- Hal Stamm, Stamm Contracting Co., Inc.  
Ravenna- Nick Racin, American Solutions for Business

## NOACC Savings

Membership in the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce means you're a member of an even larger group with access to great deals. Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) negotiates on behalf of its 120+ Chambers and passes the savings along to you. Here are a few of the benefits available to you...

**It's better. It's wetter.  
It's wilder than ever!**



NOACC Days at Geauga Lake & Wildwater Kingdom will be Saturday July 29th, Sunday July 30th, and Monday, July 31st.

Admission into both parks is \$20 with the NOACC coupon. Juniors (under 48" tall) and Seniors (62 years of age+) are admitted through the gate for \$9.95 – no coupon is needed. New to the park this year are Tidal Wave Bay, a 30,000 square foot wave pool, the Lumberjack Show, and a new Magic Show at the Palace Theater.

Visit the Geauga Lake Web site [www.geaugalake.com](http://www.geaugalake.com), for more information. A downloadable flyer with coupon is at [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) in the scrolling UPDATE section on the left side of the NOACC home page. All Chamber members, employees and family members are invited to use this coupon.

**Save Up to 25% with  
DHL Express.**



As a Chamber member, you are eligible to receive discounts of up to 25% off standard rates on DHL's full suite of shipping services:

- Next Day, 2nd Day & Ground delivery services
- International express service to more than 220 countries and territories
- Dedicated customer support at 1-800-MEMBERS
- ShipReady prepaid overnight shipping featuring
  - No Weight Limits
  - One low Rate Nationwide
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Sign up for your free DHL account today and receive a FREE U.S. overnight shipment. To enroll and start saving, call 1-800-MEMBERS (1-800-636-2377) to speak with a Member Service Representative, or visit [www.1800MEMBERS.com/noacc](http://www.1800MEMBERS.com/noacc).

## NOACC Endorses University CompCare for Workers Compensation Managed Care Organization (MCO) Services



The Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) is once again pleased to exclusively endorse University CompCare (UCC) as the workers' compensation managed care organization (MCO) of choice for its member Chambers and employers. We have selected UCC because we believe it offers the best benefit for our membership and, like its parent organization, University Hospitals Health System, is deeply committed to the economic development of the region. A brochure highlighting UCC's MCO service is available on the [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) website.

The MCO is part of your workers compensation. You do not pay anything extra for selecting an MCO and your premium costs are not impacted. You will be sent additional information by direct mail during the open enrollment which the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) has announced will run from May 1 through May 26, 2006. The BWC allows MCO open enrollment only once every two years.

UCC offers the customer service and return-to-work expertise to help you and your workers manage injuries and control injury costs. For more information, visit [www.universitycompcare.com](http://www.universitycompcare.com) or call University CompCare at 1-800-818-7273.

NOACC's relationship with University CompCare is yet another no-cost benefit of Chamber membership.

*Back then...*

RAVENNA-KENT, OHIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1949—  
—THE EVENING RECORD AND DAILY COURIER-TRIBUNE—

## Mantua PTA Serves Dinner To Chamber Of Commerce

MANTUA — Chamber of Commerce meeting of Feb. 14, opened with the serving of a roast pork dinner by the P.T.A. at the school. The new President, C. D. Yount called to order and announced the chairman of the various committees, stating that he believed better results would be accomplished if the chairmen selected their own assistants.

At the head of the program committee is Richard Kirker;

The speaker of the evening was Prof. Arden Hays of K. S. U. who talked on the subject of "Labor Relations." He analyzed the Wagner act, the Taft-Hartley Law, and the proposed Truman Labor bill now before Congress. In Mr. Hays' opinion, only a willingness to cooperate will bring us to the desired end. There is some evidence that we are getting better. Individual benefits must be disregarded.

## Beautification Task Force

The purpose of the Beautification Task Force is to distribute and display decorations for events and holidays (Soap Box Derby, Hanging Baskets, Potato Festival, Christmas and hopefully other future events) and to assist businesses with presenting an inviting image. The task force will coordinate efforts with the Village Shade Tree Committee, Garden Clubs, and other Village or Township projects.

Current task force members include Edie Benner, Paulette Nichols, Mark Halassy, Leanne Shafer, and Michelle Barnauskas. The group has planned a spring clean up day in the village and possibly the township centers: Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 9:00 to 1:00. Meet at the mini-park next to Haylett's with your cleaning supplies and tools.

## 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.com](http://www.mantuashalersvillechamber.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 area ◁

**“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”**

~Mohandas Gandhi

**Mantua-Shalersville Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

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