



# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Community Flea Market a Success

Despite inclement weather, 17 vendors sold products at Buchert Park on May 13. They joined 21 homes with yard sales for a busy weekend of money-making!

### Soap Box Derby Sidewalk Sale

Village Council authorized sidewalk sales during the Portage County Soap Box Derby on Saturday, June 17. See inside to learn how you can promote your business that day!

### New Faces, Same Great Food at Italiano's

Italiano's changed hands June 1. The new owners are from the area and have three children in Crestwood Schools. Please welcome John and Lisa Rizzotto to the business community.

### Upcoming Chamber Meetings...

If mornings are inconvenient for you, now is the time to attend a Chamber meeting! Mark your calendar for these evening and luncheon meetings.

#### Wednesday, June 21 5:30 -7:00 P.M.

\*\* Shalersville Town Hall (location changed) \*\*

**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.

#### 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

#### Wednesday, August 16 5:30 -7:00 P.M.

Camp Hi Canoe Livery (12274 Abbott Road, Hiram 330-569-7621)  
Bring the family for a fun-filled picnic! Arrive by 2:00 p.m. for canoeing down the Cuyahoga or stop by between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. for burgers and dogs. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share and round out the meal.

#### Wednesday, September 20 5:30 -8:00 P.M.

Crestwood Intermediate School (11260 Bowen Road, Mantua)

**Topic:** Revitalization/Community Visioning Follow-up

## A Message from the President

### June is "Champions Month" in Mantua.

When the Lions Club brought the Portage County Soap Box Derby to Mantua in 2003 no one could have imagined that the 2004 and 2005 World Champions would come from the Portage County/Mantua qualifier. Could one of this year's Champions also be racing down High Street this year?

Support the Lions and support the Racers, be there on Saturday June 17th to cheer them on. The Chamber will be, as usual, welcoming fans from all over the county by decorating Main Street with race flags. Also be sure visit the local merchants who will be having special sales in town that day. So come to the village and spend the day at this fun event for all ages.

In keeping with our "Champions Theme," last June Crestwood's own Bridget Franek traveled to Columbus and brought back a State Championship and State Record in the 1600-meter race. On May 20th she set a new State record in the 3200 Meters. Obviously she returns to Columbus on June 1st & 3rd as a favorite, but this year Bridget goes to Columbus along with Cassie Schenck, Nicole Cozzone, Megan Miller and the rest of the Girls Track team with a bigger prize as the goal: a team championship. Good luck girls. Hopefully you will get "Champions Month" off to a "fast" start!

As always, support your local organizations, merchants and schools. They support you!!

Get Involved and Please Stay Involved.

P.S.

Thanks...

to everyone who came out for the Chamber's Spring Spruce-Up Day

Thanks...

to everyone who supported the Rotary's Annual Garage Sale & Flea Market despite the weather

Thanks...

to Bill Sontag for the great job cleaning up the lot across from the Post Office

Sincerely,  
Ed Kent

## News from...

### *Mantua Township*

Spring clean-up resulted in 40 dumpsters of waste removed from the township! Vaughn Road to be paved soon.

### *Shalersville Township*

Call Dorothy Caldwell at 330-274-3655 to place your ad in the bi-centennial celebration program.

### *Mantua Village*

The new administration building won't be available for the June Chamber meeting, but it will be ready soon after! Stop by for the open house on Sunday, July 9 between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.

### *Crestwood Schools*

Math proficiency scores increased an average of 7% for all grade levels this year. The district anticipates achieving 18-20 of the state standards this year, compared to 12 last year. The board decided not to put a levy on the ballot in August so they can reach a consensus on how to proceed.

## **MSACC Membership Approaches 90! Welcome New Members:**

JSL International ~ 330-274-8660  
[jslinternational@hotmail.com](mailto:jslinternational@hotmail.com)  
Laura or Duncan Burns

Mantua Masonic Lodge ~ 330-274-2313  
[odiemac@hotmail.com](mailto:odiemac@hotmail.com)  
Bob Maclearie

Safetech Fertilizer ~ 330-357-6122  
[www.safetechfertilizer.com](http://www.safetechfertilizer.com)  
Laura or Duncan Burns

Tubby's Subs ~ 330-274-0300  
Marlene & David Brock & Karrie Pfarr

## Scholarships Awarded to Two Crestwood Seniors

This is the inaugural year for the Chamber Scholarship, awarded to students who have balanced schoolwork with a job and community service. We are thrilled to help two local students in our first year! These Crestwood seniors each received \$750 scholarships.

Craig Benner ranks #20 out of 198 in his graduating class. Craig plans to attend Walsh University in Canton. He has worked at Geauga Lake and currently works both at Kohl's and Aurora Country Club. Craig is a member of the National Honor Society and the CHS Golf, Tennis and Bowling teams. He has raised money for victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami, raked leaves for Mantua elderly, and volunteered at Happy Day School for the handicapped.

Kyle Spisak ranks #33 of 198. Kyle plans to attend Lakeland Community College/Cleveland State University Partnership program, majoring in Graphic Design/Business. He works for the City of Aurora Parks & Recreation Department. Craig has built bike trails in state parks through the Cleveland Mountain Bike Association, worked with elderly through Home Instead Senior Care, and landscaped the courtyard at Outlook Pointe.

The Chamber is pleased to award scholarships to these two young men and wishes them luck in their continuing education. Scholarship funds are raised solely through the Chamber Golf Outing. Read on to find out what you can do to help us continue the tradition of rewarding hardworking Crestwood students.

### *A word from Ed...*

I had the pleasure of attending the Crestwood High School Awards Night to present the Chamber's first scholarships to Craig Benner and Kyle Spisak. They clearly have formed the foundation of work ethic, performance in the classroom and community service that will allow them to be successful both in college and in life.

In the last month I have had the opportunity to attend two school programs that have left me very impressed. I heard story after story of the remarkable accomplishments of our youth. Stories that we just don't hear enough of. Oh, the paper has a special section on Valedictorians and a few other top students and we hear about top athletes from time to time, but that hardly tells the whole story and is all too often quickly forgotten with constant negative media stories.

Crestwood is a very special school district. One school program I attended was at an inner city middle school where my daughter volunteers. There were 14 students being honored and only three parents there to see the wonderful job they did. At Crestwood, the bleachers were filled with parents, grandparents, friends and relatives. The family support system is alive and well here. Be thankful! Too often it's no longer the case.

## 2nd Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

Practice that golf swing! The Chamber's second annual scholarship golf outing at Sugarbush is on Thursday, August 3. Just \$65 gets you into the action with golf, cart, food, prizes, and one raffle ticket for a trip to Vegas! Additional raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 each, with 100% of proceeds funding scholarships. Prizes, large and small, are requested to round-out the event and volunteers are needed for sign-in, selling raffle tickets, taking pictures, coordinating games, etc. Be part of the excitement! Contact Cindy Janson at 330-221-1221 or [past9002@aol.com](mailto:past9002@aol.com).

## Beautification is Underway!

Nine hearty workers spent five hours one Saturday weeding, sweeping, edging, and planting along Main Street from Prospect to High Street. Unfortunately, the small group of volunteers could not reach more of our area during Spring Spruce-Up, but at least it's a start!

Some downtown businesses plan to take additional steps by painting storefronts and adding or replacing awnings. Chamber-supplied hanging flower baskets will be installed soon. Sidewalk planters will add another element of beauty. (Notice the initiative taken by Tubby's Subs and the Music Store!) To sponsor a basket or planter, please contact any Chamber officer or Beautification Task Force Chair Edie Benner (330-274-2724).

The beautification task force encourages YOU to help beautify the area. How can you give your place a face-lift? How can you help the most visible businesses in our area look their best? Beautification task force member and local artist Leanne Shafer (lee@ravenhorse.com; 330-346-6446) has great suggestions!

Take a moment to thank Pastimes/Side Street Grille, Barky Mart Citgo, and Italiano's Pizza for their donations which kept the Spring Spruce Up volunteers hard at work...and thank the volunteers themselves for getting something started:



Bill Newell, Edie Benner, Paulette Nichols, Becky Newell, Broc Benner, Ty Watson, Not pictured Michelle Barnauskas, Dan Tillett, Jack Soukenik

---

## The Chamber wants to help you spruce up for summer!

Take advantage of discounts offered to area businesses and residents! This list is merely a start to good things. If you are a member and would like to provide a "beautification" service/product, contact Becky at 216-990-5086.

### General:

Our honest, reliable crew can help with your general cleaning - inside or out, pressure washing, weed control, carpet cleaning/stretching, etc. \$16.50/hr & up. No job too small. Free estimates. References available. 10% discount. Call Tim at Profile Cleaning 330-352-4494.

We have all the supplies you need to refurbish/update your business and can also get special order benches, planters, etc. 10-20% discount depending on item. Mantua Hardware 10612 Main St., Mantua

### Paint, stain, wallpaper & tools:

Sherwin Williams "Neighbor to Neighbor" program. Big savings for buying through the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber, plus the Chamber receives 3% back from all purchases to reinvest in the area! 20% discount on regular priced merchandise & 5% on sale items. Contact Becky at 330-274-3238 for your discount card.

### Painting:

Interior/exterior, drywall repair, wood staining/finishing. Quality work, free estimates. 10% discount. Jeff Douglas JD Painting 330-274-3671 (leave message)

### Flowers/planters:

Large variety of beautiful annuals & perennials, hanging baskets, etc. Knowledgeable staff. 10% discount (to members & businesses only) through 6/15/06. Mantua Gardens 12039 SR 44, Mantua. 330-274-0820.

### Signs:

Get a fresh look with a new sign for your business. We can help you with a wide variety of sizes, colors, shapes & styles that meet local requirements! 10% discount. Ken & April Collier, RK Graphics. 10710 Main Street in Mantua Village. 330-274-0867.

We want to help! Chamber volunteers may be available for some jobs. Contact Becky!

## 4th Annual Portage County Soap Box Derby

Catch the action in downtown Mantua as racers compete in the Portage County Soap Box Derby on Saturday, June 17. Each year, this family event gets bigger and brings more and more visitors to town for the day. While watching the races on High Street, family members and friends can enjoy Buchert Park and satisfy their cravings at the Lion's Club concession stand.

This year, merchants will give these guests even more to do in town, keeping them in the area longer so they can see all we have to offer. Whether you have a storefront in the Village or not, you are invited to take part in the Soap Box Derby Sidewalk Sale.

Examples of that day's activities include:

- Hunter's 3 in front of K&K Meat Shoppe - selling sausage sandwiches & hot dogs to benefit the Crestwood Action Coalition Team (COAT) assisting area elderly, handicapped and underprivileged.
- Goodell Farms next to Hunter's 3 selling local maple syrup and products
- Pastimes/Side Street Cafe offering char-grilled chicken and ribeye sandwiches

To participate, talk to a Village merchant or property owner about sharing sidewalk space. Just keep in mind that tents, tables, chairs, etc. cannot impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic (including parking spaces). Also, give the Village Police Department a heads-up about your plans for the sale.

Also, volunteers are needed for race day. Please show up that morning or contact Ed Kent at 330-274-8111.

*Learn more about Soap Box Derby at [www.aasbd.com](http://www.aasbd.com).*

## Strategies for Downtown Revitalization

Commercial revitalization improves communities, reduces blighted areas, increases property values and reduces sprawl.

Learn what can be done to improve the Mantua-Shalersville area at the follow-up to our March community visioning meeting.

You won't want to miss the next community meeting to be held the evening of September 20 in the cafeteria of Crestwood Intermediate School. Four experts on revitalization will discuss their areas of expertise from funding to marketing a strong commercial district. Results of the Village business survey and the prior meeting's visioning exercise will also be available.

Mark your calendar now and watch for details about this important event!

## Facts of Life About Commercial District Revitalization

Here is some hard won but solid advice about revitalizing a commercial district:

- There is no magic bullet, no formulas, no big fix answers, nor easy solutions.
- There are no handouts. Most traditional government and foundation grants shun projects that involve commercial enterprises, and the days of urban renewal's big fix projects are gone.
- Most resources are local. Whether you need people or money to make projects happen, they are most likely to be found in the community.
- You must forge coalitions that have never been formed, and many of the people involved may not be used to working with each other.
- Some change will be needed. Most traditional commercial districts will never again be able to provide the range of goods and services they offered decades ago. To support the rehabilitation and maintenance of commercial areas in today's market, we must aggressively expand Main Street's business mix — and its market area.
- You can't do it alone. Main Street is not entirely city hall's responsibility, but independent businesses owners can't do it alone, and neither can citizen activists. A collaborative effort, combining the unique skills and vantage points of public and private sectors, is essential.
- Revitalization won't happen overnight. It is a gradual process that begins with small steps, eventually building capacity to tackle larger, more complicated revitalization projects and problems. "Big fix" solutions to commercial district revitalization almost always fail to bring the kind of lasting, positive change that they promise.
- The process is never finished. Traditional commercial districts, like shopping malls or industrial parks, require full-time, professional management.
- You are just as qualified as anyone else to make it happen. Thousands of concerned citizens and business owners make a difference in revitalizing their downtowns and commercial districts just by stepping up to help, regardless of experience or background.

*adapted from [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org)*

## All Portage Chambers Luncheon

The Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to take the lead in hosting the first All Portage County Chambers of Commerce Luncheon on June 14 at Twin Lakes Country Club in Kent. Chamber members from Aurora, Brimfield, Kent, Garrettsville, Mantua-Shalersville, Ravenna, Rootstown and Streetsboro are cordially invited to network and hear national speaker, Todd Corbin. Todd is certified in Thought Field Therapy (TFT), a cutting edge treatment developed by clinical psychologist, Roger Callahan, for handling stress, anxiety, trauma, fears and more. This is a one of a kind event!

### ***Winning in Business using the Magic of Harry Potter***

Everyone has the ability to create the business and personal life they have always dreamed. Sometimes we just need the sparks and strategies that will help ignite the winning attitude that we all have deep inside. Whether you are a fan or foe of the Harry Potter franchise, few can argue with its success. What you may not realize, however, is that many of the principles found in the Harry Potter series can help us create both business success and personal life mastery.

While you may not be able to draft a Polyjuice Potion, after attending this program you will be better able to:

- Vanish poor employee and customer behavior.
- Transfigure bad attitudes and harmful emotions to more helpful ones.
- Shield yourself from negative people and stressful situations.
- Create the confidence needed to reach and exceed your goals and help others to do the same.
- Live a life that is truly magical!

The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. with networking. Lunch is promptly at noon. Cost is \$13 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Please RSVP to Pam Raines 330-274-8241 no later than June 8.

For additional information or questions, please contact Streetsboro Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Kori Marsinek at 330-626-4769.

*Thought Field Therapy (TFT) is a relatively unique, alternative approach to psychotherapy that combines thinking about a distressing problem with tapping on various points on the body in order to eliminate psychological distress.*

Vol. 3:2; Article 3. A Review of Thought Field Therapy.  
Wayne Hooke, MA Vancouver, Washington Private Practice.

## NOACC News:

### **Anthem Acquires Medicaid plan from QualChoice**

*Good News for Chamber of Commerce Members*

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield's parent company, WellPoint Inc. announced that it has entered into an agreement in principle to acquire the Medicaid plan from QualChoice Health Plans Inc. (QualChoice), an Ohio based managed care organization.

Pending Ohio Department of Insurance approval, QualChoice has endorsed Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield as the insurer of choice for business customers and members of QualChoice's commercial insurance plans and individual policies. QualChoice will continue to serve these members through the end of 2006 - at which time QualChoice expects to cease providing insurance coverage.

This transaction will strengthen WellPoint's Medicaid managed care position in Ohio's Northeast Region in which, WellPoint Inc. and QualChoice, were organizations recently awarded contracts to begin the process of providing health care benefits to recipients of the state's Covered Family and Children's (CFC) program.

Chamber members who may have used QualChoice services may now access the broad network of doctors and hospitals of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield going forward as a result of this endorsement of Anthem Group and Individual Insurance by QualChoice.

"This agreement brings together two organizations that have three things in common: a strong commitment to both Cleveland and the State of Ohio, reputations for superior customer service and dedication to quality health care," said Larry C. Glasscock, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of WellPoint, Inc. WellPoint is the parent company of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Ohio.

For a Free Quote Form or more information about Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and discounted health insurance available through your local NOACC chamber, contact your chamber of commerce, your broker, or Anthem at 1-800-551-3119.



## Welcome to the Community

More than 100 welcome kits are now in circulation. LaDue Reserve contacted the Chamber for 50 welcome kits to distribute at their open house for new home buyers last month. Be sure to get your brochure, flyer, or branded merchandise to a Chamber representative so you can be part of this free advertising!

## Sell at Farmers Market Next Month

Don't miss the first farmers market of the year - Saturday, July 15 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Buchert Park. Mantua Rotary is still accepting vendors with local products to sell, particularly produce. You can sell even if you cannot be there! Arrange to drop off produce and Rotarians will sell it for you! Please call Virginia Goodell at 330-274-2376 or Jim Rogers at 330-274-8738 for details.

## 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 ◁

**“Here is a simple but powerful rule - always give people more than what they expect to get.”**

~Nelson Boswell

**Mantua-Shalersville Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 111  
Mantua, OH 44255