



# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Newspaper Seeks to Unite the Crestwood Community

A new publication, The Community Journal, has hit the streets. Dawn Pechman and Christine Pitsinger, both Chamber members, hope to improve communication throughout the Crestwood area by covering local sports, meetings, events, and businesses. The newspaper - available at locations throughout Mantua Village, Mantua Township, Shalersville Township, Hiram Village and Hiram Township - is supported by ad revenue. This newspaper is not connected with the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce, but the Chamber *is always in favor* of sharing local information, supporting fellow members, and promoting commerce. For information or to advertise in The Community Journal, call 330-562-7187 or email [communityjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:communityjournal@yahoo.com).

## A Message from the President

Happy New Year! Chamber officers are confirming our 2007 program schedule; we hope that there will be something of interest to everyone. We are planning meetings not only in the early morning, but also a couple of lunches and evenings to reach those of you who just can't come first thing in the morning.

At the December meeting, the Chamber approved a resolution to form a committee to explore the feasibility of moving forward with a plan for revitalizing downtown Mantua. This group will break off from the main Chamber and will go on field trips, pursue funding, and work with local officials to help make our community an attractive, welcoming place to lunch, shop and work. We will have occasional updates from this steering committee, but the rest of the Chamber business will go on as usual.

One program that we need to pursue is to help to identify empty storefronts and look for businesses to fill them. As new businesses move into the area, please stop in to see them. Say Hello, and welcome them to the area. Invite the owner to come to a Chamber meeting. Notify the officers so that we can contact the business directly. I would like to stress the "Business Highlight" part of our monthly agenda, to give new businesses a chance to let others know where they are and what they offer. Also take a moment to think about your friends and neighbors who may work from home or not on one of the main roads. Would their business benefit from more exposure to others or from networking with other business people in the community?

Please take a few minutes, look around, and see who is out there that the Chamber can serve. We have many benefits available, many not so obvious, and there is nothing like a friendly, helping hand to provide someone a boost. Extend that hand of friendship. Invite someone to a meeting.

Marie Stehli, President

- ▲ **Upcoming Chamber Meetings...**
- ▲ **Wednesday, January 17 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**
- ▲ Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department (Rt. 44 south of Village)
- ▲ **Topic:** Community Vision
- ▲ What do government officials and service organizations in the Mantua-Shalersville Area foresee for our community's future? What progress is being made on revitalization efforts? How will these groups work together to ensure a bright and prosperous future? What can you do to help?
- ▲ If you are interested in our future, plan to attend!
- ▲ **Tuesday, February 20 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.**
- ▲ Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department (Rt. 44 south of Village)
- ▲ **Topic:** Downtown Ohio
- ▲ Sandra Hull, Executive Director of Main Street Wooster will share her knowledge of the Main Street Program/ Downtown Ohio and Wooster's experience with revitalization despite losing its major employer.
- ▲ **Wednesday, March 21 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**
- ▲ Mantua Village Administration Bldg. (corner of Main & High)
- ▲ **Topic:** Estate Planning & Business Succession
- ▲ Local attorney, Holly Ohlrich, will address issues such as wills, trusts, property ownership, gifting, and powers of attorney as they relate to personal and business estate planning.

## Leading the Chamber through 2008

Marie Stehli holds a BA in accounting from Miami University and an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. She is a self-employed CPA as well as fiscal officer of Mantua Township since 1992. A Certified Municipal Finance Administrator, Marie belongs to the Ohio Township Association, Association of Public Treasurers of US and Canada, and Mantua Center Christian Church. Marie was vice president for the 2005-2006 term, served as interim-president for the last half of 2006, and has accepted the role of president for the next two years.

Dorothy Caldwell has been a resident of Shalersville Township for 49 years, raising her family in the community. She has over 50 years of experience in bookkeeping and payroll and is in her seventh term as Shalersville's fiscal officer (and is trying to decide if she's up for an eighth term!). Dorothy has been elected vice president for the 2007-2008 term.

Paulette Nichols was Branch Manager of Bank One/Chase in Mantua Village for many years. Upon her recent retirement, she began working part time with Portage Community Bank in Ravenna. Paulette still lives in Shalersville Township and is very interested in



*Joan Sweet, Marie Stehli, Paulette Nichols, Dorothy Caldwell; ready to lead the Chamber for the next two years!*

helping the community. Paulette was vice president when the Chamber was reactivated in 2002 through 2004. Paulette will serve as treasurer through 2008.

Joan Sweet is a Mantua native, currently living in Ravenna. She has many years of banking experience in the area and has been Branch Supervisor of Middlefield Bank in Mantua since 2002. Joan is a graduate of the 2004 class of Leadership Portage County and is treasurer of the Rotary Club of Mantua. She has been involved with the League of Women Voters, the Mantua Potato Festival and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Joan stepped right into the role of secretary recently and will continue in the position through 2008.

## Businesses on the Move!

Circle K has undergone an extensive renovation and is now open. Subway sandwiches are still available and the new "beer kave" is a popular feature!

The Mantua Vet Clinic project is expected to be completed soon. The staff is very excited because they will be going from one-and-a-half to three full exam rooms, along with a complete surgical center, isolation areas, x-ray facility and separate dog and cat wards. Stop in for a pre-opening tour of the facility and watch for open house information.

TL Express moved into their new corporate offices in Mantua Village on November 18. The move brings 20 employees to Mantua Village from their previous location in Bedford. TL will occupy the second



*TL Express moves in:  
Gloria Vechery, President;  
Sherry Barker, Safety  
Administrator*

and third floors with two large rooms on the first floor available for rental. The company runs 200 flatbed & van carrier trucks out of five terminals; two are located in Ohio, two in Kentucky, and one in Tennessee. Call Gloria Vechery at 330-274-5883 for information regarding the rental space.

## Welcome New Member:

Holly Ohlrich, Attorney  
330-221-8582  
[hollyohlrich@aol.com](mailto:hollyohlrich@aol.com)



*Stamped above the door:  
OPPORTUNITY*

*TL Express embraced the opportunity to save this former elementary school and relocate to Mantua Village*

## Storage Units and a Tree Farm are Diversified Enterprises



Local entrepreneurs, the Lance family, hosted the Chamber's December meeting at their tree farm on Nichols Road in Freedom Township, showing guests their assortment of pines just in time for Christmas.

The farm itself is a landmark, home and barn built in the 1800s. Chamber-member Dan Tillet's (of Troy Construction) grandmother was born in the farm house in 1890. The century-old barn is structurally sound and serves as sales floor for the tree farm.

The Lance family purchased the property in 1985 and planted trees on 15-20 acres over the next two years. Since it takes seven years for saplings to grow to maturity, they did not start selling until the early 90s. When fully-planted, 1000 trees grow per acre. Varieties include Scotch Pine (the #1 Christmas tree), White Pine, Norway Spruce, White Spruce, and Cannan Fir. Each year, approximately 400 trees are sold during the holiday season.

The farm is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., every Friday through Sunday, beginning the day after Thanksgiving. Hayrides, hot chocolate, and a shuttle service through the property makes choosing a tree a family event. Guests can warm up in the heated barn as their tree is cut or balled, shaken, and baled. Prices start at \$28 per tree.

Closer to home, the Lances own and operate Diversified Mini-Storage on the corner of Peck Road and High Street, East of downtown. The gated facility features storage units of various size. There's even space for vehicles and large items. For rates and availability, call 330-274-2984.



*Father and son, Ron and Robin Lance, of Diversified Enterprises*

## Hunger Never Takes a Holiday

The 4Cs emergency food cupboard provided holiday food baskets for 150 local families this year and through community donations, gifts were given to the children of those families. Yet, their needs do not end with the holiday season.

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the 4Cs anytime throughout the year. Monetary donations may be mailed to Crestwood 4Cs, PO Box 227, Mantua 44255. Donations of food may be delivered to 4572 Prospect St. in Mantua (at Hilltop Christian Church, rear entrance) between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Thank you for generously supporting the Chamber's Giving Trees initiative. Be sure to thank these local business for displaying the trees and collecting donations: Middlefield Bank, Cortland Bank, Chase, Carlton's Harley Davidson, Teresa's Pizza, Hair Hut, Side Street Café & Grille, and at the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station.

The collection point at Middlefield Bank was very busy. They placed the gifts under a Christmas tree in the lobby and watched the stack grow each day. By the time Marie stopped to pick them up, they had collected about 25 gifts...and continued to receive a couple every day after that. It may be a small branch, but Middlefield Bank in Mantua has a lot of very giving customers!

## 2007 Expectations

- Consumer spending expected to be up 2.5% vs. 3% in 2006.
- Despite talk of inflation, the Fed is not expected to raise interest rates, for fear of crippling growth.
- To lure Republican votes, the Democratic congress is expected to couple a federal minimum wage hike of \$2.10 with tax breaks for small businesses.
- The Bush administration will refocus federal spending on rural economic growth, new markets, and improving crop insurance...and again try to repeal estate taxes and make earlier cuts permanent, but no progress is expected until 2009.
- A surge in companies providing "virtual office" services to home-based businesses; from off-site administrative assistance to fancy offices and conference rooms as more small businesses emerge
- Web phone service is being tailored for small firms by companies offering Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology; expect lower prices, fewer bells & whistles, more competition between large providers (Vonage, Skype) and upstarts.

*source: The Kiplinger Letter 12/8/06*



**2007**

**Get Involved!**

Business entities, organizations, clubs, and individuals are eligible for Chamber membership. You do not need to attend meetings to receive membership benefits. Participate at your pace, on your schedule. We share a commitment to the community and we all hold a stake in the future of the area.

For more information, contact:  
Membership Chair: Becky Newell  
216-990-5086 or 330-274-3238  
bbjnewell@adelphia.net

**Affordable  
Yearly Chamber Dues**

0-5 Employees	\$50
6-20 Employees	\$100
21+ Employees	\$150

**Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce  
Membership Application**

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.

Be sure to complete your web profile at  
[www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com](http://www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com) to be listed in the Member Yellow Pages!

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

## 10 Tips to a Healthy 2007

*Compliments of Edie, Juli, and Rosalie owners of Advanced Rehabilitation and Health Specialists*

- 10 minutes of stretching each day
- 9 laughs, chuckles or giggles each day
- 8 cups of water each day
- 7 hours of sleep each night
- 6 minutes of relaxation or meditation each day
- 5 fruits & veggies each day
- 4 weeks of Circuit Training class at ARHS
- 3 days of weight training each week
- 2 cups or less of caffeinated beverages each day
- 1 mile walk (20 minutes) each day



## 10 Tips to a Healthy Mantua-Shalersville Business Community in 2007

1. Walk 1 mile each day on the Bike & Hike trail
2. Buy 2 items from a Mantua-Shalersville business each day
3. Pick up 3 items of litter each day
4. Attend 4 Chamber of Commerce meetings per year
5. Take 5 minutes each month to wash the windows to your business
6. Welcome 6 new faces to the community each month
7. Take 7 minutes a day to sweep, plant flowers, water them, or pull weeds in front of your business
8. Find 8 new ways you can advertise or market your business to increase your profitability
9. Look at our 90+ Chamber member directory and shop or use the services of 9 different businesses in our community
10. Think about 10 ways you can help to REVITALIZE our downtown and bring your ideas to the February Chamber meeting

## 10+ Sources of Business Assistance & Information to Help You in 2007 & Beyond

**Kent Regional Business Alliance** is a non-profit cooperative undertaking among Northeastern Ohio businesses, area Chambers of Commerce, Government, and Kent State University offering new business orientations, topic-specific workshops, one-to-one guidance from a certified business counselors, and small business loans. [www.KRBA.biz](http://www.KRBA.biz)

**SCORE** "Counselors to America's Small Business" is America's premier source of free & confidential small business advice for entrepreneurs. [www.SCORE.org](http://www.SCORE.org)

**Connect Ohio** is the State of Ohio home page with information on Ohio's business assistance programs. [www.ConnectOhio.com](http://www.ConnectOhio.com)

**Small Business Administration** programs include counseling, training, SBA-backed loans, government contracting opportunities, monthly chat events, electronic newsletters, podcasts and resources to help you at any stage of the business lifecycle. [www.SBA.gov](http://www.SBA.gov)

**Portage Workforce Connection** provides employment and training services for area residents and businesses. [www.PortageWorkforce.org](http://www.PortageWorkforce.org)

**Portage County Office of Economic Development** provides assistance to industrial Realtors, builders, local industries, and local communities in an effort to maintain and improve the economic base in Portage County. [www.PortageWorkforce.org/PCOED](http://www.PortageWorkforce.org/PCOED)

**Portage County Manufacturing Alliance** is a manufacturing partnership with representatives from area manufacturers, distributors, printers and related support organizations. [www.MadeInPortage.com](http://www.MadeInPortage.com)

**Northeast Ohio Trade & Economic Consortium** is a ten-county economic development organization which focuses on international trade, logistics and foreign trade zones. [www.NEOTEC.org](http://www.NEOTEC.org)

**Ohio Manufacturers Association** works with members of the Ohio General Assembly, state regulatory agencies, the judiciary community and statewide media to improve business conditions for manufacturers in Ohio. [www.OhioMfg.com](http://www.OhioMfg.com)

**JumpStart** is a business development organization that identifies and invests in early-stage companies that have strong potential in the marketplace, solid prospects for high growth, and are likely to qualify for later-stage funding. [www.JumpStartInc.org](http://www.JumpStartInc.org)

**National Federation of Independent Business** is the leading advocacy organization representing small and independent businesses. [www.NFIB.com](http://www.NFIB.com)

**National Association for the Self-Employed** provides a collection of resources from consulting services to legislative action. [www.NASE.org](http://www.NASE.org)

**Ohio Department of Development** fulfills a unique mission - to improve the quality of life for Ohioans. [www.ODOD.state.oh.us](http://www.ODOD.state.oh.us)

**Greater Akron Chamber** is a three-county regional chamber organization which includes Portage, Summit and Medina Counties. [www.GreaterAkronChamber.org](http://www.GreaterAkronChamber.org)

**Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce** is a consortium of over 100 local Chambers of Commerce, pooling their resources to provide low-cost, tangible benefits to local businesses. [www.NOACC.org](http://www.NOACC.org)

## Upcoming Community Events

Mantua Masonic Lodge breakfasts last two Saturdays in February at Masonic Lodge on John Edwards Drive. From 8:30 a.m. to noon, get sausage gravy & biscuits, scrambled eggs, sausage patties, toast, coffee, and juice for \$5. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics.

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

Mantua Potato Festival reverse raffle fundraiser is Saturday, February 10. Contact Linda Shilling at 330-274-8282 or [dudley73@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dudley73@sbcglobal.net).

Mantua Rotary's third annual Variety Show starts at 7:30 p.m. on February 17 at Hiram's Hayden Hall. Tickets are available from Rotarians or at the door.

## Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

For Chamber  
information, contact  
Becky at 330-274-3238  
or [bbjnewell@adelphia.net](mailto:bbjnewell@adelphia.net)

For newsletter inquiries, email  
[mlbarnauskas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlbarnauskas@sbcglobal.net)

Or visit our  
website!

[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 ◁

**“If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time.”**

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