



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Chamber Meetings...

Wednesday, October 17 7:30 A.M.

Location: Carlton Harley-Davidson

Topic: Ergonomics in the workplace

Dr. Edie Benner will discuss ergonomics and other health concerns in the workplace. Upcoming ballot issues will also be presented.

Wednesday, November 14 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

Topic: Vision Check: Year-in-Review

How have our community groups progressed in their efforts? Is our vision for the future still clear? What are our next steps?

Wednesday, December 19 5:00 P.M.

Location: Mantua Park Lodge

Topic: A Taste of Mantua

Join the Chamber for our Holiday gathering. Appetizers and Desserts from area restaurants will be served and friendship and fellowship will be enjoyed by all.

News Briefs

Save up to 25% on express shipping with the DHL Partner Savings Program.



Unload those big shipping bills by switching to the DHL Partner Savings Program for Chamber members. This discount shipping program is offered as a resource for member businesses so you can regain control of your shipping budget.

Take advantage of your discounts of up to 25% for domestic shipments and 31% for international shipments and save while you ship with one of the best in the industry. There is no cost or obligation to join the DHL Partner Savings Program.

Call 1-800-MEMBERS (1-800-636-2377) to speak to a member service representative or visit www.1800MEMBERS.com/noacc to enroll in the DHL Partner Savings Program.

A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

I hope that your summers have gone well and that we are all ready to jump into autumn. As usual, your Chamber will be having regular meetings and will be sponsoring several community activities. A complete schedule for the rest of the year's meetings is included in this newsletter. Keep checking the Chamber website for more breaking news and services available to Chamber members!!

I want to also give a heartfelt THANKS!! to Don MacLearie and Melanie Miraclefox for agreeing to take over newsletter.

With very little feedback on meeting times, your officers decided to keep the majority of meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station. We had been alternating times and locations in hopes of encouraging those members who haven't been able to attend morning meetings. In order to avoid confusion, we are going to stick to the morning meetings, and our holiday gathering in December.

Meeting topics will include employee health and wellness, community development, NOACC benefits, retirement planning, workplace safety, and new businesses will continue to be showcased. Vice President Dorothy Caldwell is developing the schedule for next year, and welcomes any input on desired topics. We want the meetings to be interesting and informative to you, the membership. We have one of the largest memberships in northeast Ohio, and want to continue getting the word out that we are here to serve the membership and the community.

An upcoming event includes the Holiday Gathering on December 19. Everyone usually has a wonderful time.

Once again, the Chamber will be working with the 4-C's food cupboard to provide toys and gift cards to needy families with children at Christmastime by setting up giving trees in various locations in Mantua Township and Village and in Shalersville. Santa will be making an appearance at the corner park in Mantua Village, so watch for him.

I hope to see everyone at the upcoming meetings this fall. Remember, the Chamber is as good as its members. Support our local businesses and encourage others to do the same.

Marie Stehli, President

Mantua Christmas Tour of Homes

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Tour of Homes to be held the first 2 weekends of November sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mantua.

November 2, 3 and 9, 10 10:00 – 5:00
November 4 and 11 12:30 – 5:00

Craft Show at TL Express (the old Village School)

Tickets sold the day of the tour at the Mantua Station Drug Store Caboose are \$10.00 each.

Special Candlelight Tour and Reception

Thursday Evening, November 1.
Limited to 150 Tickets.
Call (330) 274-2376

Community Update

Mantua Village



Left to right: Dave Green, Bob Daily, Mayor Hopkins, and Patrolman Dan Forman.

On Thursday, September 20, Dave Green of the Green Family Funeral Home and Bob Daily of the Daily Monument Company donated a new cap for the sign at the Village Administration Building. The cap, which weighs approximately 1000 pounds, was cut from imperial cinnamon granite to match the basic color of the building.

During the dedication, Patrolman Dan Forman gave a brief history of the Administration Building and explained the significance of the dates engraved in the cap stone.

The Townships

Both Mantua and Shalersville Townships have applied for Issue 2 money for road repair.

Shalersville is also conducting a land-use survey by mailing questionnaires to all Shalersville residents for their input. The survey results will be used in the formation of a land-use plan for the township.

Walk Around Town a Huge Success

This event happened too late to make the last newsletter, but was such a success it deserves a place in this one.

On Wednesday, June 20, Chamber members and guests met at Betsy's Side Street Café for coffee and a brief business meeting. Following the meeting, the members and guests toured several businesses for a brief overview of their services.



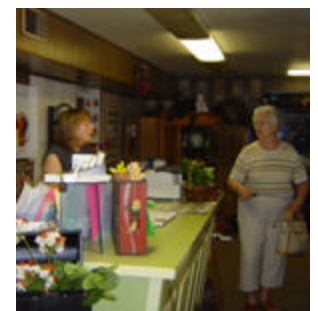
Betsy's Side Street Café & Grille



Digital Photography by Terry



Best Little Hair Hut in Mantua



Flower Nook



RK Graphics



Northcoast Armory



Village Tavern & Restaurant

After the tour, the members and guests hopefully shared what they learned with their family and friends.

Camp HI Picnic

About 40 Chamber and Rotary members attended the picnic at Camp HI Wednesday evening, August 15th. A few brave souls even came early to try out the canoes.



Fun



Food



Friendship

Golf Outing



On September 4, 2007, the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual Golf Outing at the Aurora Country Club. Pictured above is the winning foursome: Jerry Szell, Jerry Rosa, Chuck Collins and Jeff Twitt. The foursome shot a 10 under par 62 for the course. The Golf Outing had 50 golfers participating, and raised over \$1500 in scholarship money for two Crestwood area seniors. There were 28 hole sponsors that contributed \$100 each, and 15 businesses contributed door prizes. A wonderful prime rib dinner was enjoyed by all after the outing, and several non-golfers joined the fun.

The Chamber thanks the Aurora Country Club and members Graham Harmon and JoAnn Vance for putting together a top notch outing. Thanks also go to the following hole donors:

Accurate Auto Glass, Advanced Rehabilitation and Health Specialists, API & PPG, Approved Statewide Title Agency, Aurora Chrysler Dodge Jeep, Inc, Congressman Steve LaTourette, Cortland Banks, David M. Benjamin, F & S Automotive, Ferrara Electric Co, Graphic Design & Sign, Industrial Connections, Info Spec Computers & More, J&M Construction & Snow Plowing, Kepich Ford, Lakeside Sand & Gravel, Mantua Village Tavern, Marie Louise Stehli, CPA & Wintergreen Tree Farm, McDonalds, Middlefield Bank, Napa Mantua Auto Parts, Perfect Choice Auto Collision, Portage Fire Equipment, Preston Chevy Cadillac, Stamm Contracting, TL Service Center, Wild Rides Inc Metro Motorcycle & ATV and Wolf & Pflaum.

Also a big thanks to the following businesses for providing door prizes: Aflac, Art N' Flowers, Best Little Hair Hut in Mantua, Better Bumper, Carlton Harley Davidson, Chase Bank, Cortland Banks, Eagle Creek Growers, Flower Nook, Grandview Golf Club, Mantua Station Drug, Middlefield Bank, Singleton Reels, Weiskopf Industries, and Windmill Lakes Golf Club.



Some of the Dinner Attendees



Door Prizes

Scenes from the Potato Festival



Preserving the Past



Protecting the Present



Revitalization Committee Banner



Broc Benner's winning form in the French fry eating contest



Chamber and Revitalization Committee Booth at Festival
Slide show was a major attraction



First Place for Parade Float



Lisa Zameznik in period costume



Roving musicians

**FIFTH ANNUAL 4 C'S TOY DRIVE
SPONSORED BY THE
MANTUA-SHALERSVILLE
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Families in our community will receive baskets of food for the holidays from 4 C's plus toys for their children. Please help us make this a happy holiday season for all.

Giving Trees will be located at the following locations:
(From the north)

Carlton's Harley Davidson, Teresa's Pizza, Mantua Station Drug, Mantua Veterinary Clinic, Best Little Hair Hut, Middlefield Bank, Buddy's Mart, and the Save 4 Store.

There will also be a Giving Tree at the Aurora Veterinary Clinic.

New this year, there will be a "traveling tree" which will make the rounds at the craft shows, beginning at the Mantua Center Garden Club craft show on October 20, going to the Rotary Craft Show with the Christmas Walk in November, and ending with the 4C's Craft Show in November. We are very grateful for the participation of the above businesses.

Take an ornament and purchase a gift for either a boy or a girl of the age specified. If you have a blank ornament, please indicate the appropriate age and sex of the intended recipient. Wrap the gift and return it to the Chamber of Commerce, at either Mantua Station Drug or Middlefield Bank. Please complete your shopping early so that we can have your gifts by December 12th. Thank you for your generosity.

Revitalization Committee Report

What would YOU do?

Recently, the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee invited everyone to a town meeting and idea exchange. At the September 12th meeting, planning consultants EG&G Inc. conducted what they call a "listening session." They asked each of the 45+ people in attendance, "If money wasn't an issue, what would you do to improve downtown Mantua?"

Before going around the room and giving each person a chance to talk, Rod Garrison, EG&G's project manager for Mantua, reviewed his preliminary research. Rod spent time with the Village engineers, several property owners, the Historical Society, and other key individuals, learning about the area. He also took many pictures of existing conditions downtown.

His findings come as no surprise to most of us:

- o Deterioration and worn-out conditions
- o "Holes" where buildings burned down years ago
- o Streets cluttered with pole-mounted overhead utility lines
- o Virtually no street trees or landscaping along main corridors

After hearing an "outsider" describe Mantua, everyone at the meeting had a chance to share ideas, which ran the gamut from small changes that could be made today to major transformations for the future. For example, one guest mentioned the "wave factor" – how waving to people changes attitudes – while another talked about community pride, with merchants sweeping the sidewalk, cleaning windows, and planting flowers. Others had more aggressive ideas, such as widening sidewalks to allow for outdoor dining, adding a bike lane to Main Street, and possibly moving buildings to allow for future needs and compatible uses.

Some residents fear that any planned improvements will lead to Mantua losing its rural character. EG&G warns against such changes and one former Chagrin Falls resident talked about how changes there have driven longtime residents away.

While there was a great deal of consensus among the group, some comments garnered healthy debate. ALL ideas are welcome and encouraged. If you have thoughts

on "What would you do?" please email rgarrison@eggco.com or call 330-379-2790.

From these comments and prior research, Rod and his team will draw-up sketches, depicting possible solutions. The community will be invited to another town meeting, where we'll have the chance to tell EG&G if their sketches and plan capture the ideas we've shared. This meeting will be held in November. Watch for details...and stay involved.

Comments/Ideas:

- o Build Mantua for what is happening all around us and for what may happen in the future. Look ahead 100 years.
- o Widen sidewalks along Main Street and add a bike lane. Allow sidewalk dining (without cars parked right up to the sidewalk).
- o Allow compatible mixed-use development for a sustainable economy; people who live downtown will work and shop downtown.
- o Build a youth center and senior center.
- o We need a YMCA/YWCA; perhaps a bowling alley and swimming pool.
- o Move Mantaline away from the river and into the Industrial Park.
- o Put "husband benches" along sidewalks so wives can shop and husbands can relax.
- o Mantua needs a restaurant with a meeting room for non-profit groups
- o Mantua is so sad compared to 20 years ago, when merchants had pride. They used to wash their windows, sweep the sidewalk, put out planters and care for the flowers.
- o Get everyone working together and improve communication throughout the area.
- o Hang a big sheet on the side of the building where the hardware store used to be and show movies.
- o Make that wall look better now, at least by removing the wood from the bricks!
- o Don't let Mantua become like Chagrin Falls where out-of-towners flock on the weekends for expensive restaurants and specialty shops. People who live there leave to get away from the chaos. Keep Mantua true to character.
- o Many people visit Mantua when their kids play sports here, but there's nothing for them to do or see. Find a place for public restrooms. Add a coffee shop, bakery, or ice cream place where these families can spend some time and money.
- o Internet cafés and wireless networks attract people

- o Mantua used to support multiple grocery stores, hardware stores, a drug store, movie theater, car dealer pool hall, and more. Garrettsville survived and expanded while Mantua continues to shrink. Attract industry to help with tax revenue.
- o Get big trucks off High Street. Change zoning so we don't allow the spread of blight. Encourage community pride and positive changes will follow.
- o Be patient! Stay involved throughout the process. It will take time.
- o Residents need to patronize existing businesses.
- o Remove neon signs. Add a beach on the river. Don't allow box stores or oversized buildings.
- o Make parking areas look better and create nice walkways to entrances of buildings. Add picnic areas at trail-head parking and gathering place closer to the commercial area for street fairs and events. Feature the river and trail.



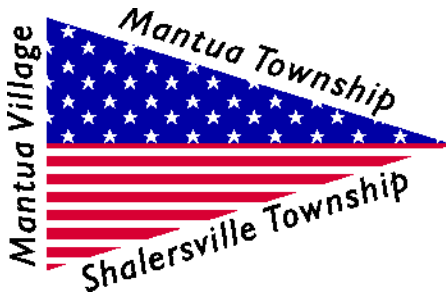
**The mission of the
Downtown Mantua
Revitalization Committee**

is to empower the people, government, organizations, and business and property owners to develop and implement a consensus-based plan to enhance the appearance of downtown Mantua.

This plan's intent is to bring shoppers, pedestrian traffic, and residents downtown to enjoy our historic district, bustling with eateries, professional offices, niche shops and downtown living spaces, which support our river and planned growth to preserve our rural character.

If you have thoughts about what should be done in downtown Mantua, please contact any of these DMRC members:

Edie Benner	330-274-2747	ebenner@adelphia.net
Michelle Barnauskas	330-603-5519	mlbarnauskas@hallrich.net
Ellie Stamm	330-274-8230	elliestamm@yahoo.com
Becky Newell	216-990-5086	bjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com
Jim Rogers	330-274-8738	jimrogers39@sbcglobal.net



2008

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
bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com
216-990-5086 or 330-274-3238

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: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please limit use.

E-mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Alt. Phone Number: _____

Please limit use.

Fax Number: _____

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 to be listed in the Member Yellow Pages!

Return To:

**Membership
PO Box 111
Mantua, Ohio 44255**

Portage County is Turning 200!

An entire year of events and activities is planned to celebrate Portage County's Bicentennial in 2008. Your help and input are welcome. For more information, visit www.co.portage.oh.us/pc2008, email Kerry Macomber at kmacomber@portageco.com, call 330-297-3603, or attend an upcoming bicentennial meeting: 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kevin Coleman Professional Services in the Sue Hettrick Building, 3922 Lovers Lane in Ravenna.

Portage County Bicentennial: *"Promoting our 200th birthday to the greater Portage County area through community celebrations, historical education, economic development and legacy projects."*

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

For Chamber information, contact Becky at 330-274-3238 or bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.

For newsletter inquiries, email dtmaclearie@aol.com

Or visit our website!

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 ◁

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 111
Mantua, OH 44255