



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

Upcoming Chamber Meetings...

Wednesday, January 16 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: It is Library Month! Hear how the library can serve the community and help you grow your business. Speaker Sue Ann Schiely from the Portage County District Library.

Wednesday, February 20 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: For Township Month we will hear from our own Larry Solak, president of the Portage County Township Association.

Wednesday, March 19 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: Volunteer Month will bring out the best in us as we listen to Jessica Dunlap who recruits volunteers for Hattie Larlham.

Wednesday, April 16 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: Now that taxes are filed and paid, Bob Tramont will discuss financial planning to give us ideas as to what to do with what's left.

Wednesday, May 21 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: Darin Kelly from Mantua Gardens will show us how to spruce up the outside of our businesses with plantings and where to plant what.

Wednesday, June 18 7:30 A.M.

Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Station

Topic: Vicki Hawke, Director of NOACC will discuss benefits and perks available through Chamber membership with NOACC

Wednesday, July 16 11:30 A.M.

Location: Main Street Place Gardens and Patio on Main Street, across from Circle K (parking at TL Express)

Topic: Networking Luncheon

Visit with neighbors and friends during an informal luncheon. The luncheon will be sponsored by Stamm Construction

A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Chamber Members,

Happy New Year, members and friends of the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce. Your officers are in the planning and confirming stages of the 2008 program schedule, and we hope that there will be something of interest to everyone. After a year of alternating meeting times and places, your officers have decided to keep the meetings to the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 a.m. at the fire station. I hope this doesn't cause too many of you who would have liked to attend the meetings to not come, but we had no feedback about people liking the changing times and locations, so we have settled into a routine.

We have seen a hectic holiday season, with our efforts helping the 4C's distribute gifts and gift cards to area families with children. This year the 4C's gave holiday food baskets to 155 families in the Crestwood Community, and the gifts were distributed to 143 children and 71 teens.

Our holiday party this year was at the Deck, which was a huge success. We would like to thank the following businesses for being an integral part of our "Taste of Mantua": Betsy's Side Street Café & Grille, Betsy Woolf, Owner. Comfort Café, Patty Brunnett, Owner. The Deck, Bob Douglas, Owner. Extreme Pizzeria, Jim & Kathy Habeger, Owners. Haylett's Corner Store, Dave Haylett, Owner. Haylett's Foods, John Kerr, Owner. Italiano's Pizzeria, John & Lisa Rizzotto, Owner. K&K Meat Shoppe, Dennis Kolar, Owner. Pochedly's Greenhouse, Mike & Suzanna Pochedly, Owners. Teresa's Pizza, John & Laurie Metzko, Owner. Village Tavern, Teresa Cutlip, Owner. And last, and newest in town, Zagursky's Pierogi's, Frank & Laura Gibson, Owners. Many of these eateries have donated food and services over the years, and this was a great way to showcase their wares and to help pay them back. Please make a point to stop into their places of business and say thank you.

Coming up this quarter is the Chamber annual scholarship. If you know of a high school student who is involved in his or her community and is planning to continue his or her education, whether college or technical school, please have him or her get an application at the guidance office of Crestwood High School. In the past the application deadline has been mid-April.

Marie Stehli, President

News Briefs

**** Special Event Scheduled for Jan. 29 ****

The Chamber is hosting a social event to meet and greet people on Jan. 29 starting at 5:30 p.m.

The event will be held at the business of our newest member, the James Place Wine Bar, located at 271 E. Garfield Road in Aurora.

DHL Partner Savings Program

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

Members Honored

Betsy Woolf, Village clerk-treasurer, was recently recognized by the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association for her service on the OMCA Board of Directors for the past three years. She receives scholarships for training yearly and will soon become a Certified Municipal Clerk.

Don MacLearie, Shalersville Historical Society president, was inducted into the Crestwood School District's Alumni Hall of Fame on Dec 21 for his civic achievements. He has spent 25 years as a volunteer with Special Olympics at all levels from local training and competition events to photographer at the 2001 World Winter Games in Anchorage, Alaska. He has also been involved with Shalersville zoning since 1999 and is currently editor of this newsletter.

Welcome to New Members

Oscar Brugmann Sand and Gravel, 3828 Dudley Rd., Mantua

James Place Wine Bar, 271 E. Garfield Road, Aurora

Community Updates

Mantua Village

Donna Hawkins has been officially installed as the village's newest mayor, after being sworn in at during a swearing in ceremony this week.

She is a local Realtor and former zoning clerk, is hoping to do her part to make the village an even better place to live and work.

She recently toured the police department, the village sewer and water treatment plant and has met with county and state officials to better understand the village infrastructure and the important issue facing Mantua.

One goal, Hawkins said, is to seek out ways to maintain core services the village provides its residents.

She said one thing that impressed her while campaigning, was the pride of ownership she saw while walking door-to-door.

Mantua Township

For the start of the new year, the township finances remain in good working order with positive ending balances.

Township resident, Laurie Metzko has started a new non-profit organization to help single mothers and their children.

Smile2Educate, Inc. works with local single mothers with the hopes of making a difference. Smile is an acronym for Single Moms Improving Life through Education. The organization is committed to providing financial assistance through scholarships, along with additional avenues of support and encouragement.

"Our organization began in 2007 and is currently applying for 501(c)3 status with the Internal Revenue Service," she said.

Metzko said the program is funded through fundraisers and contributions from individuals and companies that believe in their mission to improve the lives of single mothers and their children.

Shalersville Township Update

The township finances remain in good working order with positive ending balances at the start of the new year.

The Shalersville zoning commission has submitted some minor zoning changes for a public hearing. The zoning commission has also begun the process of developing a land-use plan for the township.

Why Buy Local

Dave Pollard, who sells free range chickens and pigs at his Mantua Township farm on State Route 82 tells me that he does almost all of his shopping locally. He recently attended a planning conference and brought back a very interesting flyer from FutureHeights, a non-profit group promoting Cleveland Heights. I have secured permission from FutureHeights to share these valuable thoughts with you.

Why Buy Local?

- ❑ Keep the money in the neighborhood
For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 goes back into the community, strengthening the tax base. For every \$100 spent at a chain store, only \$14 comes back
- ❑ Embrace what makes your community different
One-of-a-kind independent businesses are a part of what gives your community its attractive character. But competition from well funded national chains can be very aggressive, and our local merchants can't survive without our business. If we wanted to live and shop in a cookie-cutter suburb, we wouldn't be here.
- ❑ Get better service
Local businesses often hire people who have a better understanding of the products and services they're selling, and who take more time to get to know customers and their neighborhoods.
- ❑ Buy what you want, not what the national headquarters wants to sell you
Locally focused small businesses can be much more responsive to local needs than a national chain. Together, a network of local independent businesses guarantees a more diverse selection that is better aligned with the home community.

- ❑ Create more good jobs
Taken together, small local businesses employ more residents than national chains. Local business owners are more loyal to their employees, and vice versa.
- ❑ Help the environment
Independent local businesses locate in our traditional commercial districts, a short drive away or even within walking distance of our homes. National chains build on the suburban fringe, leading to more sprawl, traffic congestion, habitat loss, and pollution.
- ❑ Support Community Groups
Nonprofits receive an average of 350% more support from local business owners than they do from non-locally owned businesses.
- ❑ Invest in the community
Local businesses are owned by people who live here, work here, and are more invested in the future of this community.
- ❑ Put your taxes to better use
Local businesses in traditional shopping districts need comparatively less infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services as compared to nationally owned chain stores, which consume a disproportionate share of space, utility and transportation infrastructure, and public resources.
- ❑ Be a model for Ohio and the nation
In an increasingly homogenized and wasteful society, neighborhoods built around small-scale commercial districts and unique local businesses pose a more attractive and sustainable alternative to characterless sprawl-not only making for better quality of life, but freeing up resources for improved future growth.

Buy it local-your money stays home

With thanks to FutureHeights.
www.FutureHeights.org
Contributed by Marie Stehli

How to Promote your Business in Northeast Ohio

If you could promote your locally owned business and, at the same time, help improve the economy, would you? With the help of the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE), it's possible to do both with www.IbuyNEO.com.

The Web site, launched in April, offers the ability to search locally owned businesses and find those that meet the consumer's shopping and service needs.

With eight counties to choose from — Cuyahoga, Lake, Summit, Lorain, Medina, Geauga, Portage and Ashtabula — shoppers can find what they need and where they need to buy it.

Shoppers can search by- keyword, industry type, or geographic area. Categories include restaurants, retail, professional services, trade services, accommodations, arts and entertainment, nonprofits and manufacturers.

A search for restaurants in Cuyahoga County, for example, turns up several delectable spots, including Lucy's Sweet Surrender on Buckeye Road in Cleveland. The site provides its address, phone number, discount offers and Web site address.

And if you're in the mood to shop, IbuyNEO.com offers six pages of retail shops in Cuyahoga County alone.

So far, about 1,200 businesses have signed up to be listed on the site, giving them increased exposure to a myriad of potential customers, says Carol Haines, product director for COSE.

"The Web site was built for small businesses," she says. "While we are promoting the site, we hope they work to support themselves and utilize this asset."

The Web site also serves as a way to promote the region. As a Northeast Ohioan, you have the ability to make a difference through your purchasing habits and you can support other local businesses and strengthen the economy by buying locally.

If every American household took some of the following steps to buy locally, more than half of all consumer expenditures would be regionalized. Studies show that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 stays in the local economy, creating jobs and expanding the region's tax base. In comparison, for every \$100 spent at a

national chain store, only \$14 stays in the community.

Not only does shopping locally keep dollars in Northeast Ohio, but there are a host of other benefits, says Haines. "It fosters local job creation and shoppers benefit from the local owners' expertise, since the business owners have a vested interest in keeping customers happy. This also translates into more choices for the consumer, as the local business chooses products based on customer need and desire, not a national sales plan."

What's more, buying locally preserves entrepreneurship, which fuels the American economy.

Enrolling your business in buyNEO.com is easy. Your business must be locally owned in Northeast Ohio and registered and headquartered in Northeast Ohio. The cost for COSE members is free and \$200 for nonmembers.

Source: Inside Business Magazine, October 2007, page 82.

Oktoberfest Pictures



Santa Arrives



Christmas Tour

Mantua's Christmas Tour of Homes this year featured four unique homes decorated for the holidays, lunch at the decorated St. Joseph Catholic Church, and a craft show at TL Express (the former Mantua Village School) on Main Street.

Each home on the tour was decorated with a different theme in mind: Winter Wonderland, Christmas through the Years, Collage of Fun, and English Country Lavender and Roses.

A Candlelight Tour on Nov. 1 kicked off the event, with a buffet table filled with hors d'oeuvres at the home of Terry, Vivian, Justin and Kristopher Fischer on Pioneer Trail.

Four Mantua families opened their homes to the public for the recent Christmas Tour of Homes 2007, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mantua. For two consecutive weekends, community residents were able to take a tour of the festively embellished houses, have lunch at the decorated St. Joseph Catholic Church, and enjoy the craft show at TL Express Headquarters, located in the former Mantua Village School.

Tour-goers saw such treats as heirloom English china brought through Ellis Island in the late 1800s; a Raggedy Ann and Andy collection; childhood memories of Christmases past; gingerbread houses; snowmen, nutcrackers and Jim Shore's Heartwood Creek figurines; a 19th century Victorian parlor and an 18th century kitchen ready for Christmas dinner; vintage clothing and antiques on loan from the Mantua Historical Society; and a host of holiday ornaments, garlands, and trees.

The craft show was open to the public as well as tour attendees. The event featured handmade items from local craftspeople.



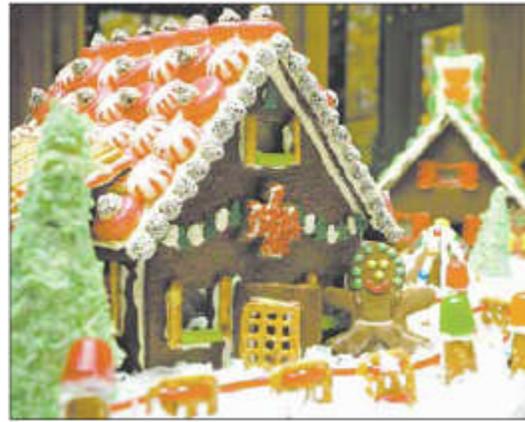
At Jim and Pat Oster's on Coldbrook Drive, visitors could relive childhood memories in the Osters' Dr. Seuss bedroom, where images of the Grinch and the Cat in the Hat were prominently displayed.



Cheerful decorations at the Kathie and Randy Miller home on Harner Road included a Raggedy Ann and Andy collection in their four-seasons room.



Visitors to the home of Nicholas and Linda Ehlert on Mantua Center Road stepped back into the days of the Civil War in the Ehlerts' parlor, with its vintage clothing and antique items on loan from the Mantua Historical



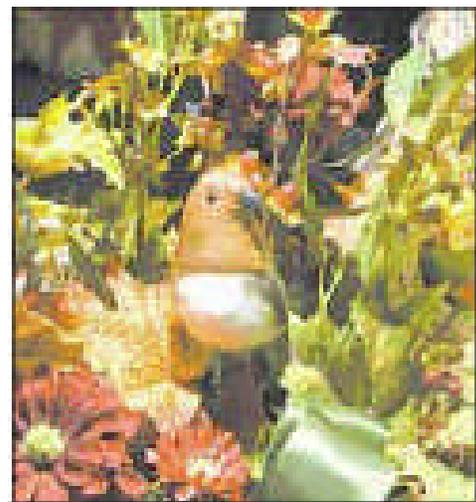
Gingerbread houses set in a "snowy" town filled the dining room table at the Fischer home.



The home of the Terry and Vivian Fischer home on Pioneer Trail featured a 12-foot Christmas tree in the great room, rising above a "Winter Wonderland" of figurines and decorations.



A craft show held at TL Headquarters featured holiday items such as this happy snowman.



A cheery and colorful bird pops out of a basket for sale at the craft show

Revitalization Committee Report



Downtown Revitalization Plan Takes Shape

At the community meeting in September, consultants E.G.&G., Inc. reviewed their assessment of existing conditions asked community members, "If money wasn't an issue, what would you do to improve Mantua?"

In the existing conditions summary, E.G.&G. noted that "the deteriorating condition and worn-out appearance of downtown communicate a negative image of the village and adversely affect the community's economic development potential and quality of life."

The report includes pictures of problems, such as:

- ♦ sidewalk, step, ramp, and curb pavements in aged, worn, and deteriorating condition
- ♦ streets cluttered with pole-mounted overhead utilities including electric, telephone, cable, street light, and traffic signal service
- ♦ an aged, undersized water system, which needs replacement as part of a comprehensive street improvement project
- ♦ old, inadequate, unattractive highway-type "cobra-head" streetlights mounted on utility poles, served by overhead wires detract from the historic architectural character of the area.
- ♦ sparse landscaping and green space in the downtown project area
- ♦ businesses that are not handicap accessible
- ♦ commercial property with the remains of burned-out buildings

Comments from the meeting included everything from small changes that could be made today – sweeping sidewalks, cleaning windows, planting flowers, waving at each other – to major considerations for the future – widening sidewalks, relocating industry away from the river, and recruiting specific businesses.

The presentation from the September meeting, and all comments from those in attendance, can be viewed online at www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com. Click on

Downtown Revitalization, scroll down to **Community Input**, and click on **9-07 Existing Conditions Summary & Public Input/Comments**.

Using that report as a basis, E.G.&G., Inc. prepared a few concepts for improving the appearance of commercial areas in the village. The sketches address many of the details that make downtown look old and worn-out. Suggestions include:

- bury utility lines and install decorative lighting
- use landscaping to separate St. Rt. 44 from parking lots and control ingress/egress for businesses on south end of town
- repair sidewalks, possibly use brick; ensure pedestrian-friendly atmosphere
- install curb extensions at intersections and delineate cross-walks
- add awnings to buildings
- extend hike/bike trail from river bridge into town

Many of the elements in the sketches are typical of those seen in any town that has undergone a streetscape project. The revitalization committee wants Mantua's streetscape to reflect the character and history of the area, so the sketches are being tweaked. Still, they begin to show what Mantua could look like...and they may get you thinking about other improvements.

Village of Mantua Awarded \$15,000 Community Development Block Grant

With the help of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, Mantua applied for – and received – a grant of \$15,000. The funds were awarded through the Comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Tier One Program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development. Just six Tier One grants are available each year. Mantua competed against communities state-wide and was selected based on existing momentum of the revitalization project, community involvement, and potential for success. Communities receiving a Tier One grant are expected to complete a comprehensive revitalization plan and apply for a Tier Two grant – funds for implementing that plan.

Now, the committee is challenged with finalizing the designs, estimating costs, developing a financial plan, and securing grant funds for construction. Work thus far has been funded by the ODOD planning grant and generous donations by individuals who believe in the dream. A total of \$75,000 to complete the streetscape plan, at which existing funds will be leveraged for additional grants and local companies will be invited to bid on projects to implement the plan.

Progress will be documented on the Revitalization section of www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com and you will be invited to participate in upcoming meetings.

Current Views and Proposed Changes

Here are a few of the unapproved, preliminary sketches. After some minor revisions, they'll be displayed around town. You can see the original, full-size sketches and give your input at the next community meeting on Wednesday, January 30. This meeting is in follow-up to Assets & Critical Issues identified in March 2006 and the Wish List created in September 2007.

Current View



Meeting Announcement

We need **YOUR** input...to shape the future of Mantua
Downtown Mantua Revitalization Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 30
Location: Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department
Conference room in back
Time: 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments
7:00 p.m. See sketches of what downtown Mantua could look like and share your thoughts

Proposed View



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

Edie Benner	330-274-2747
Michelle Barnauskas	330-603-5519
Ellie Stamm	330-274-8230
Becky Newell	216-990-5086
Jim Rogers	330-274-8738

ebenner@roadrunner.com
mlbarnauskas@hallrich.net
elliestamm@yahoo.com
bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com
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**

Happy Birthday Portage County!

An entire year of events and activities are planned to celebrate Portage County's Bicentennial. For more information, visit www.co.portage.oh.us/pc2008, e-mail Kerry Macomber at kmacomber@portageco.com, or call 330-297-3603.

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
bbinewell@neohio.twcbc.com

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