



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

visit the website at: mantuashalersvillechamber.com

January 2009

2009 Scholarships

The Mantua Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce will again be offering 2 - \$1,000 scholarships to Crestwood Seniors interested in furthering their education. This could go to a student either attending a college or university, or a technical school.

The applicant should be involved in their community and school, and should also have held a job during their high school career. Applications will be available from the Crestwood High School Guidance office after the beginning of the year. The deadline will be April 15, 2009. Good luck to all interested applicants.

2009 Newsletters

Christine Pitsinger has accepted the project of designing the newsletter. In 2009, there will be 4 issues - January, April, July and October.

If you have suggestions regarding the newsletter, contact Christine either at 330-414-6486 or communityjournal@yahoo.com

New Chamber Office Opens!

Thanks to the generous offer of Lydia Keefer, the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce now has a storefront on Main Street! This office will be used by the Chamber, Rotary and DMRC to promote the area, its events and amenities. The windows will feature signage to advertise upcoming events. During peak hours, the office will be staffed by volunteers to greet visitors and assist them by providing information about the Chamber and the area's resources.

After accepting the offer, chamber officer, Becky Newell began to organize the project. Within a few days, the project took shape through the donations of the following individuals: Eric Hummel - desks and chairs, as well as the strong backs of Clive Moats and Brad Harris from Stamm Contracting to deliver and arrange them. Joan Sweet - a computer, monitor and printer. A 10-gallon aquarium stocked with freshwater fish was also donated by Aaron Burnett of Aaron's Aquatics and window signage from Frank Majni, The Sigtist. Once arranged, Becky Newell spent several hours vacuuming, wiping down furnishings and shampooing the chair upholstery.

This new office will also benefit



Stamm Contracting employees, Clive Moats and Brad Harris arrange furniture in the new office.

Chamber members by promoting their products and services through the distribution of flyers, brochures and business cards to those who visit the new office. Members are encouraged to drop off their advertising materials at Advanced Rehabilitation & Health Specialists.

Volunteers are still needed to fill 2-hour time slots to staff the office. Beginning January 9th, the office will be open on Fridays from 4-6PM and on Saturdays from 10AM-12 Noon. Contact Becky at 216-990-5086 or bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com to volunteer.

From the President

Hi, Everyone.

I want to personally wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!! I think that everyone will fall into one of the above categories, and as a Chamber we want to wish the best to everyone.

We've had an eventful year, and I don't want to see it end without commenting on the loss of two friends. Don MacLearie, our newsletter editor, passed away suddenly this summer, and we have been struggling to get along without him. Don was a founding member of the Shalersville Historical Society, a member of the Mantua Historical Society, Mantua Masonic Lodge, American Legion, was very involved with Special Olympics, and had just been inducted into the Crestwood Hall of Fame. He also served on the Shalersville Zoning Commission for many years. He will be dearly missed.

Sy Thompson, our webmaster, also passed away after a long struggle, and he, too, has left quite a hole in the Mantua-

Shalersville Chamber life. Sy has served Portage County as Mayor of Streetsboro, Portage County Economic Development Director, and ran several websites throughout the County after his retirement. Sy, also will be dearly missed.

After a long search, we now have a new webmaster and a new newsletter editor. Christine Pitsinger will be the newsletter editor and will also be the contact with the webmaster to get updates to the website. So—if you have any questions or concerns concerning our communication, call Christine. (However, since she is just starting, give her a chance to assume all of her new roles!!).

Christine will also be stepping into the role of Vice President of the Chamber, and will be organizing the speakers, so again, if you have anything that you would like to see presented, contact her. Joan Sweet will be transitioning from Secretary to Treasurer, and Melanie Miracle will be assuming the role of Secretary. You're still stuck with me as

President.

We would like to note the stepping down of Dorothy Caldwell from the position of Vice President, and Paulette Nichols from the position of Treasurer. Both have done an excellent job in their positions with the Chamber, and we hope to keep them involved in other ways. We are grateful to have had them serve our chamber.

The incoming officers will be installed by Janet Esposito at the January 21 meeting, and Janet will also fill us in on the effect of the current economic situation on our property values and taxes.

We are organizing exciting meetings and events for the coming months, so please watch the website for news and updates. Our meetings continue to be the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 a.m., unless we have a special event planned, so please attend the meetings. The Chamber is only as good as we all make it, so step in and participate.

- Marie Stehli, President

Visit From Santa, Lots of Fun Had by All

On Friday, December 5th, Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped for a visit at the Mantua Mini Park, brought a-top a Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department fire engine. Upon arrival he was greeted by a large group of children waiting for a turn to share their Christmas List with him.

New this year was the decorating of a Community Christmas Tree, donated by Wintergreen Tree Farm. Donna Hawkins, Mantua Village Mayor implemented this tra-



dition by inviting those in attendance to bring an ornament to place on the tree.

Santa passed out candy canes, donated by Haylett's Corner Store to all of the children while parents warmed up with a cup of hot chocolate. Carolers could be heard singing old-fashioned Christmas carols following the tune of keyboardist, Kitrael Chin as children visited with Santa.

This annual tradition, sponsored by the Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce and organized by Paulette Nichols was a great evening, enjoyed by all.



"Giving Trees" = Community Generosity

The generosity of the businesses and residents of our community again this year contributed to the success of the "Giving Tree" program coordinated by the

purchase gift certificates for the older children on the list. Gifts were then sorted at the Fire Department and delivered to the Crestwood 4C's.

The Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank all who contributed to the Giving Tree program this year!



Marie Stehli and Betsy Woolf work together matching gifts with the intended child.

chamber. Miniature trees were placed at local businesses, decorated with ornaments representing a less-fortunate child in our community.

Ornaments were selected from a Giving Trees located at Carlton Harley Davidson, Teresa's Pizza, Mantua Station Pharmacy, Barky Mart, Advanced Rehabilitation & Health Specialists, Middlefield Bank, and Mantua Center Christian Church by individuals who purchased a gift, wrapped and returned them. The chamber received cash donation which

Shop Locally...

Shopping locally has many positive effects on both you and your community.

Join me as we review the results from a recent independent survey regarding small businesses and the impact of shopping locally.

First and very important, a locally owned small business returns approximately 80% of each dollar back to the community.

Local, independent businesses assist the community through a multiplier effect. The income of a local business is returned to the community through village taxes, employee wages, and through materials and supply purchases at other local businesses. In addition, these businesses will put money back into the community through school funding, social services, and contributions to local non-profit organizations, all of which help to benefit the community in which we live.

Each local business adds to the character of the town, contributing more than just goods and services. They offer personalized attention, add diversity to our shopping options, and bring life to historic buildings.

Each time you choose to spend your dollars locally, you are supporting the continued strength and vitality of our community!

Thank You!

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Dorothy Caldwell, vice president and Paulette Nichols, treasurer for their countless hours as officers of the chamber.

Each brought skills to their elected position and exceeding the expectations placed before them!

DMRC to Release New DVD

The DMRC will soon be releasing a DVD of the extremely successful "Walking Through Mantua's Past" tour of 5 historic downtown buildings. The event which was enjoyed by nearly 500 people will now be available on DVD and will host a collection of pictures from the evening! If you missed it, be sure to pick up a copy when they become available. If you were there, you can enjoy it for a second time! Watch for further news on this release!

Available now is a DVD slideshow titled "Mantua Past & Present". This DVD can be enjoyed in the comfort of your home on your TV! View over 100 photos of downtown properties as they were in the early 1900s, 1960-70s and in 2007. Listen to musical accompaniment performed by Brian Henke & local resident Steve Vanderink.



DVDs are available at the Mantua Branch of Middlefield Bank for \$20.00. For home delivery, send a check for \$22.00 to cover the cost of mailing to DMRC at PO Box 111, Mantua 44255. Please be sure to include the mailing address and write "for DVD" on your check.

New Benefit

Office Supply Discount with IBS
A new member benefit program has been created with Independence Business Supply (IBS), an Ohio-based office supply company.

The program, entitled Chamber Office Plus, provides participating Chambers of Commerce with a rebate on all purchases made by the chamber and their members. Additionally, chamber members receive outstanding pricing on ALL IBS products, free shipping on all orders, no minimum order fees, and a full-service design studio that includes free shipping, assembly, and installation on all furniture orders.

Finally, IBS offers pre-set pricing on all items they sell and also offers a list of 130 deeply discounted items for special consideration.

The partnership with IBS is a natural one. The company's Ohio-based operations, outstanding pricing, unbelievable customer service environment, and enormous product offering enables them to respond to ever-changing needs and behaviors. The Chamber Office Plus program offers a simple way to reduce costs and maximize a bottom line.

Recently, IBS was able to save another Chamber of Commerce over \$760 and a \$4,000 order. I am confident that you will be very surprised by their pricing. For additional details see a chamber officer.

Member Brochure!

A Member Directory will be an added perk to Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce members in 2009. This brochure will be printed mid-January and include all members whose dues are paid as of December 31st.

Members' business name, contact person, phone, email, website and a basic description of the business will be included in the listing. The brochure will be available at various businesses in the community, including the new chamber office and be included in the chamber's welcome packet.

Annual Holiday Party Was Well Attended

The Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Holiday Party was held at the Mantua Township Civic Center on Monday, December 15th.

A buffet-style dinner included pizza, wings, vegetable and cheese trays as well as appetizers and desserts.

Christmas songs played as nearly 50 members and their guests mingled and enjoyed the evening.



Village & Township Updates

MANTUA VILLAGE

Here it is almost the beginning of a new year and as we prepare for that, let's take a look at what we have accomplished here in the Village of Mantua since September.

The phenomenal success of the "walk through Mantua's past" led to almost 450 people rediscovering the historic value of the Village. I would like to thank the DMRC along with all those who were involved in making this event the huge success that it was. It was wonderful after all these years to see the Livery painted, and the Old Post Office, this will have an ongoing effect that will help foster the continuing effort to bring economic life back to Main Street.

Thanks to Scout Troop 575 and future Eagle Scout Broc Benner, we now have an observation deck overlooking our scenic Cuyahoga that enhances the beauty of our park.

Thanks to the hard work of Charles English, the Buchert Park walking trail has been completed looping around to Prospect Street. We have begun the new Municipal Parking lot behind McDonalds which will soon receive a compacted limestone base thanks to Portage County Parks Director Chris Craycroft.

We have the reopening of 2 businesses, The Nanny's Salon for Dogs, and Zagursky's Perogies, and I am happy to welcome our newest business The Garden Girls.

Just this month we had our first annual Christmas Tree lighting, during the Chamber sponsored arrival and visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Mini Park.

There have been so many terrific achievements that have taken place here in the Village of Mantua in just the past 4 months as Mayor I am anxiously anticipating the New Year and what that will bring to the Village of Mantua, wishing all of you a bright, prosperous, and above all healthy New Year.
- Donna

SHALERSVILLE TOWNSHIP

Shalersville Township saw a busy year, completing numerous, much needed paving projects. The Shalersville Park drive and parking area was paved. Farmview Circle and Meadow Farm lane were also paved. Elliman Road and the Hillside Cemetery received a 1.5" asphalt overlay and a portion of Wygle road was chip & sealed. Restriping also took place on Cooley, Dudley, Frost and Work roads.

Shalersville, like all other areas is facing salt shortages. The township has been mixing salt with cinders in an effort to conserve the salt.

In 2009, the township hopes to have Issue II money to repave Cooley Road and convert Beck Road from gravel to asphalt.

MANTUA TOWNSHIP

As 2008 rapidly comes to an end, Mantua Township Trustees, Board of Appeals and Zoning Commission look back on a busy last six months. Improvements were discussed, researched and implemented by Mantua Township and the City of Aurora in a huge project on Townline Rd. The project was finished in late November with a cost of approximately \$168,000 to the township. The sewer improvements for Aurora Meadows residents began this year. Portage County has collected data and for the first half of 2009 thus the engineering design portion of the project will proceed. The County is hoping to award construction contracts and begin construction in January 2010.

In October the trustees re-applied for Issue II money and if issued will begin this project in 2010.

Trustees purchased a 2008 Dodge Dakota pickup truck for light use for the township crew hoping to reduce fuel costs to the township. Trustees will enter into a three year lease with Range Resources - Appalachia, LLC for a drilling lease to include 13 acres of township land. A sign-up fee of \$1000.00 plus royalties will be a source of income if the well produces. Trustees were assured that no drilling or other activities will take place on the township land.

Website Updated!

The Chamber's website is up and running again! Christine Pitsinger has volunteered to update the site. New members will be added to the "Member Directory", meeting information, upcoming and past events and photos will also be updated regularly.

Contact Christine at 330-414-6486 or at communityjournal@yahoo.com if you have any suggestions or need a correction made to your listing.

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Meetings

January 21st

Swearing in of 2009-2010 officers
by Janet Esposito, Portage County Auditor

Guest Speaker:
Janet Esposito, Portage County Auditor
Portage County Auditor's Office
How the economy is affecting
tax values, revenues, and businesses

February 18th

Guest Speaker:
John Siman, Airport Manager
Portage County Regional Airport
Flight instruction, discovery flights,
aircraft rentals, and more services offered
locally at our airport.

Featured Business:
The Nanny's Salon For Dogs
Denise Pasquerella, owner
Learn about the deshedding technique and proper
coat and nail management from the Nanny!

Meetings are held at 7:30AM in the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department conference room

2009-2010 Officers

President - Marie Stehli
330-562-7620 • mlscpa@windstream.net

Vice President - Christine Pitsinger
330-414-6486 • communityjournal@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Joan Sweet
330-274-0881 • jsweet@middlefieldbank.com

Secretary - Melaine Miracle
330-322-6461 • miraclelot@yahoo.com

Communications / Membership - Becky Newell
216-990-5086 • bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.co

Website / Newsletter - Christine Pitsinger
330-414-6486 • communityjournal@yahoo.com

Are You a Chamber Member?

Joining the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce is a great way to market your company's products or services while also offering you, a large selection of discounts and offers only available to chamber members.

For more information, visit our website at mantuashalersvillechamber.com

For information on chamber discounts, click on the MEMBER BENEFITS link to the far left of our home page.



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 111
Mantua, OH 44255

Mantua-Shalersville Chamber of Commerce 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