



# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## Upcoming Events and Chamber Meetings...

- Saturday, April 5** **8:00 P.M.**  
**Event:** Mantua Rotary Club Variety Show  
**Location:** Hayden Auditorium at Hiram College  
**Tickets:** Adults: \$10.00 Students: \$5.00
- Friday, April 11** **7:00 P.M.**  
**Event:** Family Fun Night —  
 The Gladiators vs. the Colorado Crush  
**Location:** Quicken Loans Arena— See enclosed flier  
**Tickets:** \$24.00 **must be purchased by April 4.**
- 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 NOACC to Chamber members.
- Monday, June 23** **12:00 Noon**  
**Event:** Chamber Golf Outing  
**Location:** the Aurora Country Club  
**Cost:** \$100 per person
- Wednesday, July 16** **11:30 A.M.**  
**Location:** Main Street Place Gardens and Patio on Main Street, across from Circle K (Park on the hill behind TL Express only in the old playground area. The parking area in front is **exclusively** for the University Hospitals Health facility.)  
**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

Greetings, fellow Chamber members and friends!! Although the calendar says April, as I look outside I can still see remnants of snow from the harsh winter that we have had. I can, however, also see the sprouts of spring bulbs peeking through the dried grass outside my home office, and know that in a few weeks we will have fragrant flowers surrounding us. The same goes for our businesses and our community. We have made it through tough times with people staying indoors and not outside patronizing the businesses of the Mantua-Shalersville area, but now is the time to stretch out and check out our neighborhoods and look for the signs of new and revitalized life in our towns.

We have upcoming programs to help stimulate our mental, physical and financial well being. In April, Bob Tramont will talk to us as to how to invest for the future, both in our businesses and personally, so that we can continue to grow our finances. We all need to be able to make wise financial decisions to start and stay in business, and Bob will talk to us about various options. In May, Darin Kelley will show us how to spruce up our facades for our businesses with landscaping ideas. Sometimes there is nothing so appealing when you approach a business as a well maintained, coordinated, appealing entryway, and Darin can help us get started with this. Finally in June, Vicki Hawke, Executive Director of NOACC (Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce) will speak to us about the various benefits that we have, built into our businesses already, just because we have a membership in the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce, and thus in NOACC. We need to know how to tap into our hidden resources to aid us in the continued growth of our businesses. And for those of you who love to golf, tickets should be available shortly for the annual chamber golf outing, also in June.

Lastly, and certainly not the least, we have now seen that University Hospitals has opened their offices in the old Mantua Village School building. Stop in and welcome them to our community. We have waited a long time to get a medical facility back in the area, and it is finally here. Please stop in and see the doctors and their staff and say "Hello".

See you at the fire station meeting room on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m. You'll be glad you came.

Marie Stehli, President

Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## News Briefs

### New Chamber Directories Now Available

The beautiful new 2008 Portage Area Chambers of Commerce Directory is now available! It features the 2007 businesses and individual members of 10 local Chambers, including Mantua-Shalersville.

This is a great publication of interest to anyone who wants to know what's in our surrounding communities and will be particularly helpful to new residents.

Anyone interested can pick up a copy at the Middlefield Bank office in Mantua. Get yours soon!

### New Medical Facility Opens

The Mantua Family Medicine facility celebrated its first official day of business Monday, March 24, at the former Mantua Village Elementary School building in downtown Mantua.

The new 2,500-squarefoot medical facility takes up the entire first floor of the old village school, which dates to 1929. Its operation is being overseen by Dr. Yongjin Chen, a board certified physician in family medicine and geriatrics.

Community residents had the opportunity to meet Chen and hear about University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center's newest outreach facility. Hospital public relations manager, Dan Bomeli, said that outreach to surrounding communities in Portage County is important. "We're very interested in serving patients in this area," he said.

The new medical center has diagnostic capabilities, six examination rooms and is staffed by rotating physicians and medical specialists. "We officially opened today and we're already seeing patients," Chen said. "We're looking forward to treating patients ranging in age from newborns to the elderly."

Mantua Family Medicine is located at 10803 Main St. and business hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and half-day service on Saturdays. For additional information, call the office at (330) 274-2030.

### Crestwood Schedules Planning Meeting

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve academic progress, financial stability, and community responsiveness, Crestwood is updating its *Continuous Improvement Plan*. This plan lays out the goals and pathways for the district in key areas. The Board and administration use the plan to establish annual goals, checking frequently to make sure goals are being met.

The forum will be held April 17 from 6-8 pm at the Crestwood Primary School and will include table discussions facilitated by principals and other district administrators. Everyone will have a chance to discuss the current status and provide input into future plans in each of the following areas:

1. Academic/Instructional Programming and Goals
2. Buildings & Grounds (including Facility Planning)

3. School Finances
4. Support Services: Transportation, Food Service, and Technology
5. District Communications, Public Engagement, and School Climate

Please join Crestwood and help map out the school district's future!

### Postage Rates Increase May 12

The cost of a first-class stamp will rise to 42 cents starting May 12. The price of the Forever stamp will go up at the same time, meaning those stamps can still be purchased for 41 cents but will remain good for first-class postage after the rate increase takes effect.

The charge for other services, such as advertising mail, periodicals, packages special services will also change. Changes in the price for Priority Mail and Express Mail will be announced later.

Postage rates last went up in May, 2007, with a first-class stamp jumping 2 cents to the current 41-cent rate. Under the new law regulating the post office that took effect in late 2006, the agency is allowed to increase rates with 45-days notice as long as changes are within the rate of inflation for the previous 12 months.

Under the new law, postal prices will be adjusted annually each May, the Postal Service said. Officials said they plan to give 90 days notice of future changes, twice what is required by law. While the charge for the first ounce of a first-class letter rises to 42 cents, the price of each added ounce will remain 17 cents, so a two-ounce letter will go up a penny to 59 cents. The cost to mail a post card will also go up a penny, to 27 cents. Other increases set for May 12:

- \* Large envelope, 2 ounces, \$1, up 3 cents.
- \* Money Orders up to \$500, \$1.05, unchanged.
- \* Certified mail, \$2.70, up 5 cents.
- \* First-class international letter to Canada or Mexico, 72 cents, up 3 cents.
- \* First-class international letter to other countries, 94 cents, up 4 cents.

### Chamber Hosts Meet and Greet Event

The Chamber is hosted a social event to meet and greet people on Jan. 29, at the James Place Wine Bar, 271 E. Garfield Road in Aurora.



## Community Updates

### Mantua Township

Mantua township is currently looking into getting Issue 2 money for road repair.

### Mantua Village

Mayor Hawkins presented her first mayoral proclamation to former clerk/treasurer **Betsy Woolf**.

Woolf was honored for her 10 years of service to the village. Many members of her family attended and congratulated her on her recognition.

Woolf was also recently recognized by the Ohio Municipal Clerks Association for her service on the OMCA Board of Directors for the past three years. She will be replaced by newly-elected clerk/treasurer Jennifer August who begins her post in April.

In other news, hydrant flushing will take place on April 15, 16 and 18—weather permitting.

### Shalersville Township

Shalersville township is currently looking into getting Issue 2 money for road repair.

Shalersville's zoning commission is analyzing the results of a recent survey of township residents. The analysis will become part of the basis for a land-use plan for the township.

Township cleanup is scheduled for May 1-3, 2008.

## Mantua Rotary Variety Show

The Mantua Rotary Club is presenting its 4th annual Variety Show at 8:00PM on April 5. The event will be held at Hiram College in the Hayden Auditorium and will feature local talent—both young and old. The cost of tickets is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

## Chamber Golf Outing

Each year the Chamber provides scholarships to Crestwood seniors with monies earned through a Chamber golf outing.

The golf outing for 2008 is Monday, June 23rd at the Aurora Country Club. Cost is \$100 per person which includes golf with cart, box lunch (served at 12:00 noon prior to tee off) and a Prime Rib dinner. Additional dinners for those not golfing is \$28.00 each. There will be a cash bar with beverage cart on the course. Prizes will be awarded for various categories.

We would like to have 72 golfers and at least 25 hole sponsors. Hole sponsoring is \$100. Businesses or individuals are encouraged to donate a door prize, sponsor a hole and/or put together a foursome for a fun filled day that will benefit seniors from our local high school.

The Aurora Golf Course is one of the top rated courses in the area and a privilege to play at. Being a

private club, the Chamber appreciates this opportunity to hold our outing at such a prestigious course. Don't miss the chance to be a part of a fun filled day.

Hole sponsors and golfers should call Graham Harmon at 330-274-8225 or Joann Vance at 440-632-3233 for more information or to register.

## Revitalization Committee Report

### January Town Meeting Draws a Crowd; Audience Asks Insightful Questions About Revitalization Project



About 50 people, mostly Village residents, attended the January town meeting to see sketches of possible improvements for downtown's commercial district. E.G.&G., Inc project manager, Rod Garrison, spoke about the Downtown Mantua Revitalization project, and the importance of a healthy downtown to the community at large, before asking for feedback and questions from the audience. Part of his presentation, along with the Q&A that followed is below.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mantua Village has many assets that make our Village an attractive community in which to live and work.

However, the worn out, and unattractive appearance of Mantua's downtown district communicates a negative image to visitors and adversely affect the community's economic development potential and quality of life.

Economic Development "Truths":

Private investment is attracted to areas of perceived opportunity

The perception of opportunity is heavily influenced by location image

Downtown is the area of the community most often seen by visitors

Downtown must project a strong and positive location image in order to attract investment to the community



The Mantua Downtown Revitalization Project is addressing the need to improve the image of the downtown district. The design drawings describe a comprehensive program of street corridor capital improvements that will help Mantua Village re-establish a stronger and more positive downtown district image.

### Q&A

#### **What are prices of bike racks, waste receptacles, benches?**

Depends on style, material, construction, typical metal bench expected to last 20 years costs about \$900-\$1,100.

#### **What portion of costs can be covered by grants vs. local funding?**

Typically 30% local, 70% grants

#### **Who writes grant applications?**

E.G.&G.

#### **How have private owners responded in other areas?**

Positive response and efforts to keep up with improved look.

#### **Will private owners be charged for upkeep?**

Usually by choice of the local government; however, that is NOT considered an option in Mantua due to existing financial burdens of many businesses and residents.

#### **If utility wires are moved underground, where will the work start?**

First phase area; often dictated by available grants.

#### **What about annual maintenance costs?**

E.G.&G. will provide a summary of anticipated costs for upkeep. Revitalized areas often see savings in the long-run because less "band-aid" maintenance is required.

#### **How long will each phase take and who will pay for future phases?**

Each phase should take 1½ construction seasons and the same funding/grant sources will be approached for each phase; they expect and welcome future requests as they like to give money to successful endeavors.

#### **How will traffic be re-routed during construction?**

One lane will always be open and access to businesses will be maintained. The goal of the project is to improve business, so every effort will be made to minimize inconvenience for everyone.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Here's how you can help the revitalization effort...**

1. Stay up-to-date on progress so you can answer questions from others:

Visit [www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com](http://www.MantuaShalersvilleChamber.com) and click on Revitalization to see the latest news

Call, write, or visit with a committee member to hear about what's happening

Edie Benner 330-274-2747  
[ebenner@roadrunner.com](mailto:ebenner@roadrunner.com)

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[jsweet@middlefieldbank.com](mailto:jsweet@middlefieldbank.com)

View the large conceptual posters at the Village Tavern of what Mantua "could" look like

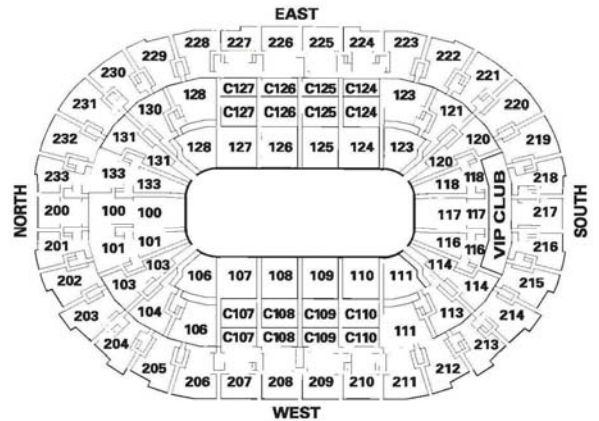
2. Attend a planning session (ask any member for date, time, location of the next meeting) and share your thoughts. Watch for information about an exciting fundraising event and plan to attend
3. Help find generous individuals or corporations who will donate toward completion of the plan; we've raised 2/3 of the cost, but need another \$25,000.
4. Spread the word about this project; offer to help with refreshments/copying, etc.

## **Welcome New Members**

The Chamber welcomes the following members who have joined since our last newsletter:

Individual	Shirley Schuster
Businesses	Aetna Plastics Corp. Flagstar Bank Harner Plumbing Smile2Educate, Inc. The Weekly Villager Newspaper

**CLEVELAND GLADIATORS SPECIAL OFFER FOR  
ALL MANTUA RESIDENTS!**



**Event: Cleveland Gladiators vs. Colorado Crush**

**Date: Friday, April 11th, 2008 7:00pm**

**Where: Quicken Loans Arena**

To purchase your tickets, call Eric Doll at the Gladiators tickets office at 216-685-9000 x208 and reference Mantua Residents special offer.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to support Mantua resident Bernie Kosar and witness the inaugural season of Cleveland's newest professional football team! Special Events will include:

- Special pre-game show
- Post-game autographs on the field

VISA   AMEX   DSC   MC   (circle one)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, April 11, 2008**

**Deadline: Friday, April 4, 2008**

Tickets will be in a corner end zone section on the club level  
(106, 111, 123, or 128)

\_\_\_\_\_ of Tickets    x    \$24.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed order form to:**

**Cleveland Gladiators  
Eric Doll  
631 Huron Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44115**

**Email:  
edoll@clevelandgladiators.com**

**Or Fax to:  
216.685.9002**

**Please select delivery option:**

Mail

Will Call

All tickets are subject to availability  
Orders will be filled as they are received  
**Orders received inside 1 week of game will be left at  
Will Call (Photo ID needed for pick up)**  
Checks payable to: Cleveland AFL





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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://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](http://www.co.portage.oh.us/pc2008), 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 [bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com](mailto:bbjnewell@neohio.twcbc.com)

For newsletter inquiries, email [dtmaclearie@aol.com](mailto:dtmaclearie@aol.com)

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 ◁