

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS CHRONICLE


Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce
111 S. Wabash St., P.O. Box 371
Wabash, Indiana 46992

Email: wacc@wabashchamber.org
Telephone: 260-563-1168
FAX: 260-563-6920

Galen Bremmer, Editor

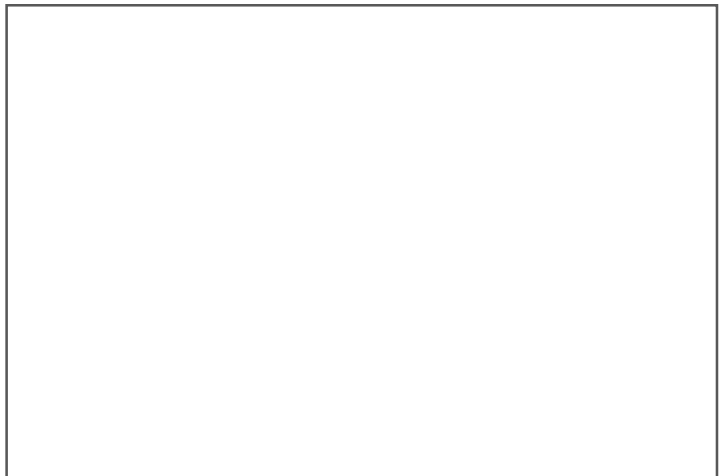
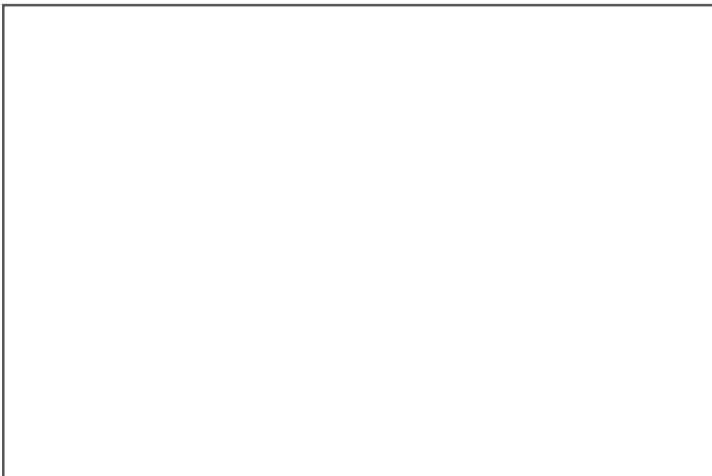
April 2003

EXPO A SUCCESS!



March 8 and 9 were big days for the Wabash Business Community. Over 60 businesses deserve a huge pat on the back for the effort and creativity used in their displays this year. The Honeywell Center turned into a carnival for those two days as there were fun activities for all ages. Over 2200 people came through the doors to see what area business has to offer. Games were played. Prizes were won. People were greeted. Food was eaten. Congratulations to Gallie Taylor, Wabash, who was the Grand Prize winner of \$500 in Chamber Gift Certificates. Twelve other people won hourly door prize packages of great value donated by: Wabash Valley Chrysler, Miller Furniture, McKillip Seeds, McKillip Equip-

ment, Carl Sands, Maxx Tan, Wabash Electric Lighting Showroom, Auto Zone, Beauchamp & McSpadden Insurance, Brodbeck Seeds, Kirtlan Automotive, Nowak Hallmark, Farm Bureau Insurance, Yohe Realty, Beon Credit Union, Newton Mfg.-Brett Wynn, Wabash County WASA, Dawn's Bakery, Staffing Resoures, First Farmers Bank & Trust, Ream Steckbeck, Joy Christian Bookstore, K & R Office Supply, Heaven on Earth, Wabash Floral, Love Bug Floral Boutique, Poole Foods, and Next Marketing. Packages were won by Gary Gaylourd, Leann Volland, Juanita Rapp, Larry Phillips, Clinton Masters, Kathi Moyer, Amy Rasmussen, Kent Dyson, Linda Kleintank, Tom Sawyer, Julie Ogden, and Virginia Frieden. Thanks to all who attended.





Please route this newsletter to the other staff in your business to keep them up-to-date on services, functions and programs available to all employees of our member companies!

HAVE YOU HAD CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS IN YOUR BUSINESS? HAVE YOU RECEIVED AN AWARD, REACHED A MILESTONE, OR COMPLETED ADDITIONAL TRAINING? WE WANT TO KNOW. SHARE THESE THINGS WITH YOUR CHAMBER PARTNERS. THEY TOO ENJOY HEARING. CALL, FAX, E-MAIL, OR MAIL NOTES TO THE CHAMBER OFFICE.

STAFFING RESOURCES has announced that Amber Floor is the Branch Manager and principal contact at the Wabash office located at 26 W. Market Street. Welcome Amber to the position at 563-7771 or stafresour1@aol.com She has large shoes to fill.

THE MANCHESTER INSTITUTE is presenting "Focus on Accounting" through a number of sessions with presenter Dr. Gladis' (Buck) Dillon starting May 9th with "A Practitioner's Update" course from 8:30 AM to 5 PM . 8 hrs CPE credit for each session - next session June 13. Cost \$240 per session - \$220 by April 20. Call Mindy 260-982-5298.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Wabash is currently receiving preschool registrations for children ages 3-5. Anyone interested may call the church office at 260-563-8881.

Congratulations goes out to **JOY CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE** for 30 years of service to the Wabash Community. Be sure to visit them in their new location in Wabash Village Shopping Center next to Radio Shack.

TOTAL WORKS SALON at 797 S. Wabash Street would like you to meet their new employees: Stephanie Tyson, Amanda Thompson, and Jennifer Hunsucker. They offer total hair care, acrylic nails, tanning, toning tables, pedicures, manicures, and herbal body wraps. Call 563-0700 to schedule.

John Boyer, **BOYER LOCK & SAFE, INC.**, would like to welcome Steve Hudson into the business. John or Steve's services can be obtained by calling 563-1998.

There has been an ownership change at **THE BILTZ AGENCY**. Michelle L. Biltz has become the new owner announces Clarence. Find them at 110 S. Wabash Street or 563-1711.

Bob and Sue Mitting of **MITTINGS ELECTRONICS RADIO SHACK** have cut the ribbon on yet another business in their location. **Sunshine Pack & Ship** has opened inside their current location in Wabash Village Shopping Center.

Welcome **GREAT CLIPS FOR HAIR** to the Wabash business community. Located in Wabash Village Shopping Center they are open Mon-Fri 9-9, Sat 9-6, and Sun 10-5. Call 569-0033.

Do you just hate to have to find a timely, interesting speaker for your meetings? Steve Weir and Steve VanVoorhis have the answer to your problem. The STEVES from **EDWARD JONES** can offer a presentation customized to your event. There is no fee for their insight - call 563-8428 to schedule for your needs.

Please welcome North Central Respiratory, Inc. to our business community. Located at 595 Manchester Avenue, Aaron Shaw is ready to provide you any medical equipment you need for your home. 24-hour service with home delivery and set-up with a respiratory therapist on staff.

Please welcome Diana Stirrat back into the business community as she now represents Lynk - a credit card processing service. Watch for her to visit your business explaining her direct processing service.

The **HONEYWELL CENTER** has announced upcoming activities:

April 13 - "Peter Rabbit" , 3:00 p.m. Tickets \$8, \$6, & \$4 adults; youth half-priced
Stage show depicting Peter Rabbit's escapades in Mr. McGregor's Garden

April 17 - Ramona Quimby, 10:00 a.m., \$4 per person

April 19 -Bunny Bash, 9 - 11 a.m., FREE ADMISSION

LEADERSHIP CLASS GRADUATES 12

The Leadership Development Wabash County Class of 2003 has completed their course of study. Sponsored by the Wabash and North Manchester Chambers of Commerce and the Wabash Economic Development Corporation, this class is designed to teach leadership skills to Wabash County residents or

employees climbing the management ladder in their respective places of business. They also spend a portion of their time learning about Wabash County and the movers and shakers playing leadership roles. Sponsored in part by grants from CENERGY and the Community Foundation of Wabash County, the class started just after the first of the year. The class this year was taught by Dr. Mary Lahman, Professor at Manchester College. This was the first year the program has affiliated with the Manchester College Leadership Academy with great success. Congratulations to: Mary Kramer, Yohe Realty; Shirley Hairrell, WEDCOR; Pam McDaniel, Staffmark; Dwayne Quakenbush, Joseph Gillan, and Hamilton Sadler, all of Wabash Alloys; Valerie Clarkson, Town of North

Manchester; Lisa Sawyer, Our Children, Our Future; Chris Morningstar and Melessa Eltzroth from Beacon Credit Union; Brenda Hisey, Wells Fargo Bank; and Jennifer Lorn, Indiana Lawrence Bank. As a final part of their class, they will be putting their leadership skills to work through a community service project that they will be announcing shortly.

PROJECT E LOOKING FOR NOMINATIONS

No doubt you have heard about the Project E Teacher Awards. They are now looking for outstanding teacher nominations. Ten winners will win a \$10,000 grant in Indiana. \$2,000 goes to the school and \$8,000 to the teacher. In addition, ten finalists will receive \$1,000 each. Information is available in the Chamber office for nomination of your favorite teacher. Nominations must be turned in before May 14. Visit www.projecte.org for more information.

GALEN'S COLUMN

By the time that you read this, there is going to be a local Wabash City Council story about Bulldog Battery asking for Water Street to be closed from Wabash to Huntington. At least the first round vote results will be known. Occasionally, there is an issue that pits local business against local business. Even local Chamber member against local Chamber member! It is on those days that I would just like to go bury my head in the sand and avoid everyone. The Board of Directors of the Chamber is the policy making arm of the Chamber. As President, I am not allowed to decide and/or publicize a position statement for the Chamber. This issue has been brewing long enough that several Boards have considered taking a position. Our Chamber membership trusts our Board (who they elect) to speak on their behalf even when the Board position may be contrary to their own individual stand. In those cases, the Board must look at the big picture, overall benefits to Wabash and the effects on our statement of purpose. However, that does not make it an easier pill to swallow to that member with the opposing view.

Once again, remember, the Chamber is a membership organization deriving funding from membership investments. Consultants tell us that Chambers who take strong stands are more respected and stronger in their communities. I would suspect that they are talking about the larger organizations where there are a thousand members and they can afford to take a hit or two from members dropping due to a disagreement on a stand taken. Bulldog Battery is offering Wabash an opportunity to grow by some 30 jobs along with keeping their corporate headquarters here in our community in exchange for the closure of one block of a lightly traveled street. I wonder what we (Wabash City) would offer a new business coming to Wabash bringing 30 jobs. Remember what we did for Anderson Copper and Brass? Sound like a no-brainer? Well, it is until emotions and many viable side issues come to the surface. Still, given the Chamber's purpose, can we just not take a position? What do YOU expect from your Chamber?

PUTT PUTT IS OPEN

Wabash Putt Putt is now open for another season. It is no secret that the weather has not been kind to Russ and Kim in their first two seasons. This is one of those times when it is imperative that we support a Wabash business so that we can indeed have something to do in Wabash! Take a group, schedule a party, have a tournament, have a company outing. We had a Friday afternoon Board meeting out there - with a lot of fun. Did you buy your 2 for 1 tickets at the Expo?? They are open at least weekends until school is out. Call 563-4931 to reserve a tee time!

PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS BUG YOU?

The Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce, Manchester Institute, and Small Business Development Center have just the thing for you! CONSTRUCTIVE PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS is a 2 hour workshop designed to calm your fears. The three organizations above have joined forces to prepare you to conduct the appraisal interview, to create a supportive climate for performance review, educate you with legal guidelines and use the appraisal to improve and empower employees. This workshop will be held Wednesday, April 23, in the Living Center at Cinergy, 1500 Manchester Avenue. Cost will be \$30 per person for the 9 to 11 AM session. Dr. Jo Young Switzer will be the presenter. Dr. Switzer is a communications studies professor who has worked with a variety of organizations to make their performance review a constructive force for them. She has authored, "Interviewing: Art and Skill". She is also the Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs at Manchester College. To register for this valuable session, call Mindy at 260-982-5298 by April 18.



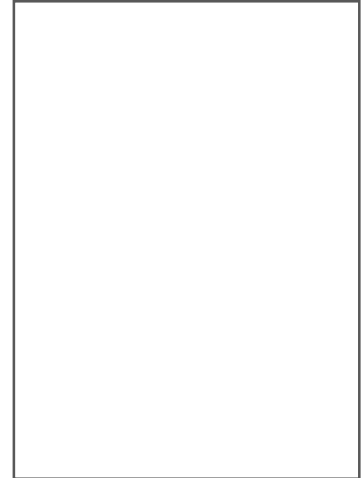
HONORS STUDENT LUNCH APRIL 29

The Wabash and North Manchester Chambers of Commerce will again be sponsoring a Honors Student Luncheon this Spring. This year it will be April 29, at noon, at the Honeywell Center. This event is hosted by the business community and is the only known event that brings honors graduates from all the County's high schools together to ask them to consider using their talents in their home area after they finish their education. Students are seated with other students and industry professionals by their area of interest for the luncheon. Linda Mirante will be the key note speaker. NIPSCO has started us off with a small grant to cover overhead costs - then we asked Wabash County businesses to help us by sponsoring the costs of the students. The good news is they have responded, true to form, in a great positive way. We are well on the way to filling up the lobby of the Honeywell Center with honor students and Wabash business persons.

NEW SHERIFF AT COUNCIL ON AGING

The Wabash County Council on Aging has a new sheriff in town. Beverly Ferry has been hired by the Board to be their new Executive Director. Formerly with Staffing Resources, Beverly's new office is in the Dallas L. Winchester Senior Center at 239 Bond Street. The Council operates many programs for senior citizens and Wabash County residents, but their biggest is the Wabash County Transit system. The transportation system operates by appointment from 6 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday and some Saturdays. This is a vital service for Wabash County's seniors and low income families, but it is available to anyone. Rides to and from work, medical appointments, and even school or day care are some of the common uses. Call 563-7536 or 888-498-4400 (toll free) between 8 AM and 4 PM Mon.- Fri., between 1 and 2 days prior to the time needed to schedule rides. Fees are \$1 per trip inside Wabash and North Manchester or \$2 County-Wide. Riders age 60 or over are not required to pay the donation. New riders are required to fill out a registration.

In addition, Beverly will be overseeing other services provided at the Senior Center such as the food bank open Monday through Friday 8-Noon. Eligibility is based on age and income, and limited to once a month. Programming will be expanded with the intent of involving more people from the community at the Senior Center and throughout the County. Stop in and welcome Beverly to her new post!



MOVING DAYS AHEAD???

The picture above shows the former spec building in the North Industrial Park as it is readied for its new tenant - Wabash County REMC. What a great home it is going to be. Accordingly, the Wabash County Solid Waste District (our neighbors and landlord) are purchasing the old REMC building to create a recycling center in partnership with Manchester Recycling. They may also have room to take The Wabash County Economic Development Corporation (WEDCOR)- our other neighbor- with them. WEDCOR Board has approved this. With Trula and the CVB moving to the museum, it does not take many fingers to count our partners in this building. So - we are exploring opportunities. Where do YOU

Moving continued....

want YOUR Chamber??? We would like to hear your opinions! Should we stay downtown? Is parking and visibility an issue?? What about City Hall? Should we have a facility more conducive to the public finding us or that serves our members? Should we be alone or sharing resources with another agency? PLEASE make your feelings known in the next few weeks. We just don't know.

CHAMBER HAS ENVELOPE PRINTER

Your Wabash Chamber has leased a piece of equipment from **Pitney Bows** through **Imagistics** that may be of help to your business. Doesn't an envelope look much more professional without a label stuck on it? Yes, even the clear labels are not straight, wrinkle, smudge, tear or show. The envelope printer is the answer to our problems. It will take an address database from any of your programs and print directly on envelopes, postcards, newsletters, or whatever you are mailing. We plan to share this service with our membership for a small fee. It is so new, we have not even determined how much staff time is necessary to run them for you, so we do not know the charge, but it will save you the cost of labels and all the time licking and sticking. If you would like to use the machine, please give Kim a call at 563-1168.

BOARD MEMBERS - 2003

Board Chair: Skip Daughtry
Beauchamp & McSpadden
Chair Elect: Lynn Yohe
Yohe Realty
Vice Chair: Dave Rutledge
Wells Fargo Bank
Treasurer: Rick Gray
Martin Yale Industries
Past Chair: Steve Ford
Ford Meter Box
President: Galen L. Bremmer
Wabash Area Chamber of
Commerce

Beth Miller
Categories &
Our Children, Our Future, Inc.
Brad Perrott
YMCA
Steve Eickenberry
Retired, Wabash High School
Greg Pettit
Pettit Printing, Inc.
Paul Heidbreder
Wabash Plain Dealer
Joel Stein
Tiede, Metz, Downs, Lynn, Schlitt

Brian Howenstine
Wabash True Value
Larry Hoover
Quality Electric
Steve Beck
Ford Meter Box
Kerri Mattern
Wabash County Hospital
Dee Byerly
Retired - North Central Coop
Michael Bechtol
Bechtol Grocery Company
Linda Karlin
Mark Hon



LUNCH & LEARN SEMINAR
May 8, 2003
Recycling in the Workplace--
Presented by WCSWMD
Sponsor: The Ford Meter Box
Co., Inc.
Noon - 1 pm
Cost \$10 member / \$20 non-
member
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Call the Chamber office 563-1168

Upcoming SBDC Workshops

April 8 - Developing & Writing a Business Plan

RSVP to tel. 574-722-4451

April 15 - Overview of Starting a Business in Indiana

RSVP to Tel. 765-454-7922

April 23 - Performance Appraisals: Are Your Employees Impacting the Bottom Line?

RSVP to Tel. 765-454-7922

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

Date: **April 9, 2003 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**

Business Sponsors - U-Save Auto

Wabash Co. Solid Waste Management District

White's Residential & Family Services

Peabody Retirement Community

The Honeywell Center

Emcee: Lynn Yohe, Yohe Realty, Inc.

The next BBH (after April) is June 11, 2003

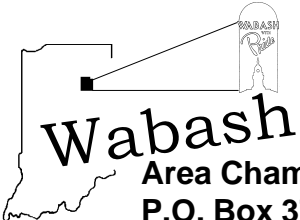
WELCOME GOLD MEMBERS

Another new GOLD MEMBER has joined the Chamber for 2003. **CHARLEY CREEK FOUNDATION** is also a new Chamber member (see new member section).

Thank you **Wells Fargo** for renewing your Gold Level member status for 2003!

Those additional businesses who carry Gold Level Membership status in the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce are: **Bickford Cottage of Wabash, First Federal Savings Bank, Cinergy/PSI, Indiana Lawrence Bank, Beacon Credit Union, Millers Merry Manor, Pettit Printing, Wells Fargo Bank, Yohe Realty, and Richard Ford.**

Please notify us of any changes on address label



Wabash
Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 371
Wabash, IN 46992

Presort Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Wabash, IN
46992
Permit No. 228

Route To:



