



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# BUSINESS CHRONICLE

Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce  
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Galen Bremmer, Editor

August 2003

## ARIA EATON - SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT QUEEN

The Wabash County Festival Scholarship Pageant committee conducted their 13th annual pageant for female contestants between the ages of 17 and 21, July 18, in Ford Theater at the Honeywell Center. Co-chairs Mary Ridgeway and Chris Benson have been at work for months organizing and fund raising for the event sponsored by the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce. This year a total of 19 Wabash County girls vied for the Wabash County Festivals Queen title. Emcee Tracy Watson presided over the festivities. 2002 Queen Jocelyn Warren entertained and assisted in the awards presentation. Miriel Speicher won the scholarship award for Miss Friendship. The 2003 court consists of 4<sup>th</sup> Runner-up Keeley Lester, 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up Concetta DeFusco, 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up Julie

McCann, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Alexis Leiningler, and Queen Aria Eaton.

A sincere thank you and hats off to these contributors who made this event possible: North Manchester Kiwanis Club, **B. Walter Company, Indiana Lawrence Bank, First Federal Saving Bank, Pitney Bowes / Imagistics, The Gorman Center, Ford Meter Box Company, Cinergy, Wabash Kiwanis Club, Wabash Magnetics, United Tool, Wabash Veterinary Hospital, Wells Chiropractic Center, Wabash Alloys, Wabash County REMC, Kellam Inc., Kirtlan Automotive, South Side Supply, Martin Yale Industries, E & S Metals, Builders Mart, Farm Bureau Insurance, GDX Automotive, Hayes Lemmerz, Pettit Printing, Nancy J's, Servisoft/ Ecowater, Agro-Chem, Indiana American Water Company, Cornerstone Veterinary, Rod & Susan Warren, Hipsher Tool & Die, The Phone Line, Inc., Lynne's Lien Search, Harting Furniture Co., Bob and Donna Anglin, Manchester Veterinary Clinic, Key Pharmacy, Butterbaugh's, Manchester Dairy Queen, First Farmers Bank & Trust, Miller Furniture, Frierwood Tire & Alignment, M & B Body Shop, Yohe Realty, Inc., Extreme Auto, Quality Electric, Brodbeck Seed, Wyrick Auto, Benson & Son Plumbing, Wabash True Value, The Allen Insurance Company, McDonald Funeral Home, Jack and Bonnie Fleming, Betty's Boutique, Chris & Co., D Shoppe, East of Chicago Pizza, Gliks, Hires Gifts, K & R Office Supply, Main View Inn, Mitting's Electronics, Modern Impressions, Myer's & Son Jewelers, Nowak's Hallmark, Terri Ahlfeld-Mary Kay Cosmetics, The Studio, Treasured Dreams Cottage, A.F. Billings, Christies Brides & Bows, Heaven on Earth, Love Bug Floral, Portraits by Kimberly, Samuel Mancino's Italian Eatery, Wabash Engraving, Wabash Gardens, and Jack and Naomi Porter.**

### WMI EXPLORES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA

Wabash Marketplace Inc. is exploring the possibility of asking the City Council to name a portion of the Wabash Historic Downtown an Economic Development Target Area. The purpose of this designation is to enable property owners to apply for tax abatement for improvements made to their property. The abatement requests would also go to the City Council for approval on a case by case basis. Terms and amounts of the requests could also vary. Attorney Joel Stein is assisting WMI in the process and has offered to complete the process for a discounted fee to be paid by WMI. WMI Board will first address the request, then to be presented to the Wabash City Economic Development Commission. Upon receiving a favorable recommendation from them, the matter would go to the Council for normal ordinance procedures. The Chamber urges you to make your feelings known to the WMI Board if you have an opinion on the project. Officials hope that this effort would attract improvements of many types to Downtown Wabash.



**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.**

The Wabash County Astronomical Society has employed Mike Proebstle as Argus Project Director. If you are not aware of the Argus project, you did not visit their booth at the Home and Business Expo. There is a wonderful quiet effort being born to create an astronomical observatory in rural Wabash County. More on this in future newsletters, but Mike would be a great program for your organization and can be reached at 569-9600 or [mproebstle@ctlnet.com](mailto:mproebstle@ctlnet.com)

**BASS & BUCKS INC. PRO SHOP** has scheduled a trophy shoot for August 23 and 24 at their property at 4890 W. Millcreek Pike, Wabash. Also, every Thursday a Bass Tournament at Salamonie. For more info call 569-1853.

Have you seen **ARC OF WABASH COUNTY'S** new informational web site at [www.arcwabash.org](http://www.arcwabash.org)? Check it out.

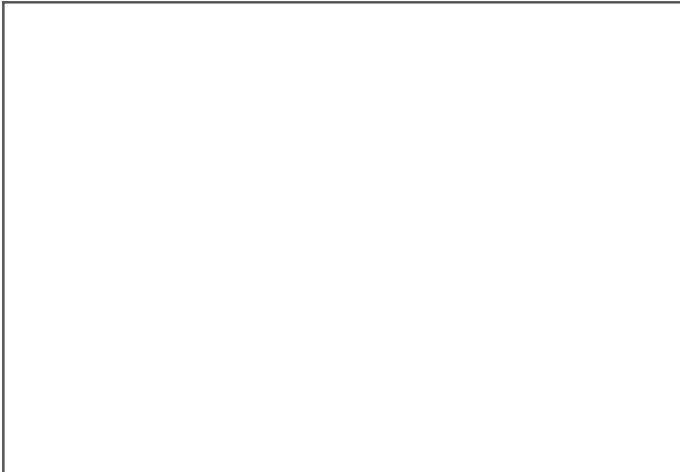
**AMERICARE LIVING CENTER OF WABASH** welcomes Rod Harmon to the Executive Director / Administrator position at their facility. Stop out and welcome Rod to the Wabash Business Community.

The Wabash business community welcomes Darin Hadley to our community to be the Agricultural Lender at **WELLS FARGO BANK**. A recent Purdue graduate, Darin is moving to Wabash wishing to be a part of our community.

Congratulations to **WHITE KNUCKLE CYCLE** on their 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of their business in July! Stop in and see them at 414 South Miami Street.

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**COME SEE REMC**



**Wabash County REMC** has scheduled an Open House / Member Appreciation Day for Saturday, August 9, at their new facility in the Industrial Park. Officials will commemorate and dedicate their new headquarters while holding an Open House for the Wabash Community. Activities will commence at 9:00 AM with a ribbon cutting and building plaque dedication. The open house and building tours will continue until 4 PM. A free lunch will be served from 10 AM to 2 PM. A drawing will be held for a Branson Vacation package and other door prizes for REMC registered members at 4 PM. Visitors will also have an opportunity to take a ride up in a bucket truck to see the area from a lineman's point of view. There will also be children's games and entertainment all day. Stop out and see how the spec building turned out!

## DO YOU USE YOUR CHAMBER INVESTMENT?



Over the course of a year, I am probably asked one question more than any other. It used to be, "What does the Chamber Do?". Now it is, "What does the Chamber do for me?". Of course there is no simple answer as it varies with each individual and business situation. But, I find most of the time that question comes from those who have not made use of any Chamber benefits. So, now I would like to pose some questions that I hope will cause you to stop, think, and use a Chamber benefit. Sure, they won't all be applicable to your business, but some will.

First, how many Chamber Gift Certificates have you redeemed? In the past year, over \$100,000 went out of this office. Even today there are some \$6,000 outstanding. Do you let your customers know you want them? Put a sign up? Make them easy to redeem?

Second, have you submitted a news item from your business for the newsletter? Free marketing to over 500 businesses. A simple story about a new employee or service. Maybe a new product or a special event? Everybody has news that others like to know about. Or, how about an insert in the newsletter?

Have you attended our premier networking and business card passing event? The Business Before Hours program is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year with average attendance of 100, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every other month in the Honeywell Center Lobby. One you have experienced a program, maybe you will want to be a business sponsor!

What about attendance at one of our low cost seminars? Throughout the year various opportunities are available for you or your employees to sharpen their management skills. The popular Lunch & Learn program is every other month, September through May, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at noon. Topics are varied. In addition, many other educational opportunities present themselves.

Some of those opportunities are in cooperation with the Small Business Development Center who also comes to our office twice a month for FREE individual business counseling. Have you had any small business questions that you needed answered? Call for your appointment.

Have you provided the Chamber with your web site address so that we can establish a link from our membership directory to your site? How about your fax number or e-mail address?

Have you participated in the Wabash Home and Business Expo? Another excellent way to get your name and message out to the Wabash community.

Have you needed Wabash information for a new employee, a report, grant, budget, or your boss? What about a map, phone book, or just directions? The Chamber is your place.

The Chamber also provides an excellent training ground for employees that you are targeting for future leadership. This can be accomplished just through participation in Chamber committees or the official Leadership Development Wabash County class.

This is not the end of the list of possibilities, but needs to be the end of this article. The bottom line is, nothing would please us more than to hear from our members more than just at investment renewal time. Kim and I are here for you and your needs. SEE YOU AT THE NEXT CHAMBER FUNCTION!

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## REORGANIZATION TIME AT CHAMBER

This time of year is very different in the Chamber office. We are moving into a period of re-organization. It is almost time to usher in a new management team. The Chamber fiscal year ends September 30. We must have a new budget and plan of work in place by then. Even though current Board Chair Skip Daughtry will not relinquish office until the Annual Dinner in November, his year for all practical purposes ends in September. In August or September, our Board will elect new officers and the membership will elect new Board members. Ballots must be to our members by August 15. The Board will then meet with the new members invited for a combined unit. So while you are all on vacation and holidays, we are beginning to work with a new staff. We are just grateful that our Chamber year allows us some re-grouping time and a break for the new officers.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE FOR LOCAL ELECTION

The Government Affairs Committee of the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce has set the dates for two very important events in the local campaign process this fall. Invitations are in the process of being sent to local Wabash candidates for a Candidate Forum to be held Tuesday, October 21, at the Wabash Middle School auditorium. All candidates for local office will be invited to introduce themselves and outline their campaign platform. Time will be made available for audience questions submitted in writing to a panel designated by the committee. After much discussion, the committee has decided not to include mayoral candidates in this session, but two days later on October 23, again at the Middle School, those candidates will be invited to a forum and debate. The candidates will again be invited to introduce themselves and their platforms, then debate a series of pre-arranged questions, and finally entertain questions from the audience present, submitted through the committee. Local media sources will be invited to attend and record the sessions for broadcast or print. As more details of these important events are worked out, look to these pages for further updates.

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## CINERGY, WABASH MATERIALS, AND THERMAFIBER SUPPORT WACCY GOLF TOURNAMENT

One of the dangers of having such a wildly successful WACCY Golf Outing and having so many contributing businesses is that in the recognitions someone gets overlooked. That happened this year as your EDITOR made several blunders. First, somehow, in my listing of the hole sponsors in our brochure and articles, I omitted Wabash Materials sponsoring their special hole on the course. My sincere apologies to Mike Urschel for my error. Secondly, the gift certificates from Roger Lundy's Pro Shop given to the first place team were donated by Thermafiber and Cinergy, and I neglected to mention this as I presented the awards. We are very grateful to Gerry Banks and Steve Edris for making this prize so nice.

## MOVING DAYS AHEAD???

Our neighbors, WEDCOR and WCSWMD, have set their moving date, and it appears that by the end of August, we will be the only remaining tenant on the main floor of our building. Our relocation committee is meeting and looking at our long term options, but for now, we intend to stay here as long as we are able to. There will be a couple pressing issues - our conference room will be void of furniture. We use this room a lot and are in need of 12-25 chairs and some sort of tables that would be the equivalent of 5 or 6 8 ft folding tables. Also on the immediate list of needs is a fax machine. An eight foot step ladder and fire extinguishers round out the preliminary list. If you can help with any of these items, call the Chamber. Skip, Lynn, or Beth would also be willing to hear thoughts on where YOU think the Chamber Office ought to be.

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## FAIR TO RETURN

As of this writing plans are being made by the Wabash County 4-H Fair Board to hold a mini-fair, August 13-16, around the outdoor arena at the fairgrounds. The attempt is being made to schedule some of the activities canceled during fair week because of rain. Tentatively, here is the schedule: Wednesday - Gospel Sing, indoor arena. Thursday and Friday - Max Pitts Motorcycle & ATV races, outdoor arena. Saturday - Demolition Derby, outdoor arena. The carnival hopes to return for all days. COME ON OUT AND HELP SOFTEN THE FINANCIAL BLOW!

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## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

*Date:* August 13, 2003 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

*Business Sponsors -*

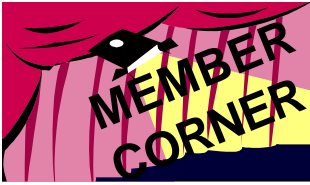
Wabash Friends Counseling Center  
United Fund of Wabash County  
Wabash Wireless  
Junior Achievement of Wabash  
Fellowship Employment Network Assn.

*Emcee:* Tod Minnich, Honeywell Center

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## VISION FELLOWS 2003





## Spotlighting Chamber Members!



*Above: Training initiative grant celebration at Ivy Tech State College*

## CELEBRATIONS

*Below: Wabash County Convention & Visitor's Bureau Open House Offices now located at 36 E. Market - inside the new museum.*



*Pictured above, top:* Motorcycles, music and fun for all were the highlights of **Brandt's Harley Davidson's** Grand Opening Celebration at their new location 1400 N. Cass St.  
*Bottom photo:* A sure treat for downtown Wabash, Nick's Sweet Shop serves up great food from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Stop in and enjoy!

## SUPPORTING EACH OTHER BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

We wish to say "Happy Chamber Anniversary" and "Thank-you" to the following businesses whose member anniversaries fall this month:

<u>Year Joined</u>	<u>Member Investor</u>
2000	A-Z Discount Tobacco
2002	Garden Homes by E.L., Inc.
1999	Fort Wayne Radiology
2002	Total Works Salon
2002	G & S Metal Consultants
2002	White Knuckle Cycle / Stitches by Corky
2001	GMS Graphics

Whatever your business needs may be, remember to shop local first. If you need an updated list of Chamber Members, we will be happy to supply you with a Membership Directory by Business Classification—FREE to all our Chamber investors. Contact the office to order: Tel.260-563-1168 or email: [info@wabashchamber.org](mailto:info@wabashchamber.org)



## GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS

**We thank and salute those member businesses who carry Gold Level status:**

- Indiana Lawrence Bank**
- Bickford Cottage of Wabash**
- First Farmers Bank & Trust**
- Cinergy/PSI**
- First Federal Savings Bank**
- Charley Creek Foundation**
- Beacon Credit Union**
- Pettit Printing, Inc.**
- Miller's Merry Manor**
- Wells Fargo Bank**
- Yohe Realty, Inc.**
- Richard Ford**

**BOARD MEMBERS - 2003**

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

Beth Miller  
 Our Children, Our Future, Inc.  
 Brad Perrott  
 YMCA  
 Steve Eikenberry  
 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

**NEW LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

The Seminar Committee of the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce, chaired by Rex Stitsworth, is pleased to announce a new Lunch & Learn Seminar Series for 2003/2004. The series replaced the Brown Bag Seminars several years ago. It is designed with Wabash businesspeople who are climbing the management ladder in mind. At this point they may be in positions where they are not able to leave their work station for a day or more to attend expensive seminars requiring travel. These sessions are conducted during the noon hour while participants eat their lunch. The lunch is provided by the Chamber and a sponsoring business. Once again this year all sessions will be held at the Beacon Credit Union Administrative Building conference room. Dismissal will be promptly 1:00 PM. The public is invited to attend one session or the entire series. The series is as follows:



September 11, 2003, HANDLING DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE presented by a Diversity Dynamics Panel from Logansport, sponsored by WEDCOR. Come and hear what has challenged our neighbors from the west as they experienced a large Hispanic influx.

November 13, 2003, RECOGNIZING DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE presented by Dr. Kay Roy, The Bowen Center, sponsored by the Wabash County Hospital. Recognize the affects of alcohol and drug usage on work ethic whether used at home or work.

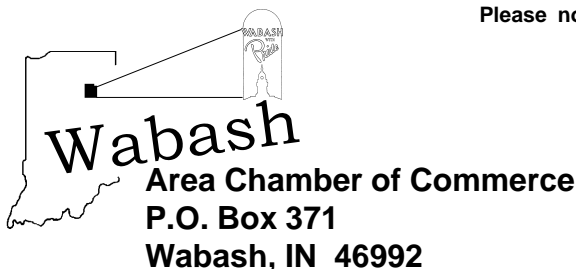
January 8, 2004, FINDING QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES presented by Dale Stouffer, Professional Recruiter, sponsored by Ford Meter Box Co., Inc. Tips on where to go and how to proceed in the employee market to find the most qualified person for the open position.

March 11, 2004, BEING A GOOD SUPERVISOR presented by Tom Moorman, retired supervisor sponsored by First Farmers Bank & Trust. Tips on being the best boss that you an possibly be. What qualities employees respond to best in a manager.

May 13, 2004, MANAGING MULTIPLE TASKS presented by Jan Boggs, Huntington College, sponsored by Beacon Credit Union. Everyone is asked to multi-task today - handle it?

Register for these sessions individually or by the series by calling the Chamber at 563-1168 or e-mailing [wacc@wabashchamber.org](mailto:wacc@wabashchamber.org). Cost is \$10 per session for Chamber members or \$20 for non-members. \$50 for the series for Chamber members or \$100 for non-members.

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**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



**WELCOME GOLD MEMBERS**



*The next BBH (after August) is October 8,*

est 2<sup>nd</sup> shot, and closest to the line games on special holes. A skins game will also be played. Special features such as mulligans and string will be sold at registration. Businesses wishing to sponsor a hole are encouraged to display or market themselves on the hole they sponsor. Hole sponsor fees are \$100. Hole Sponsors are encouraged to set up a display at their hole to interact with golfers. A door prize raffle will also be held, plus there will be a new way to play 18 without even swinging a club. Come on out - network with your friends and support this important fund raiser in our Chamber budget For any additional details or to register, call the Chamber office at 563-1168. Deadline for registration is Friday, May 23.

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tion, special prizes will be awarded to the longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin, closest 2<sup>nd</sup> shot, and closest to the line games on special holes. A skins game will also be played. Special features such as mulligans and string will be sold at registration. Businesses wishing to sponsor a hole are en-

