



MEMBER CONNECTION

February
2007

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A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM YOUR CHAMBER PRESIDENT

The Chamber's Business Before Hours event has a long tradition as one of our premier and most attended networking events. Businesses introduce new staff, share news, pass business cards, showcase products/services, enjoy a great breakfast buffet, and enjoy some very nice door prizes. In addition to our local business sponsors, this coming February 14, we will have the special privilege of having representatives from the HOOSIER HEARTLAND INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR board on hand to speak about the current state of this project, what Major Moves has meant for us, and some of the challenges we face in completing our much needed corridor.

For those of you unfamiliar with the HHIC project, it all began with a dream over 20 years ago, led by Phil Magner and the late Jack Porter and Glenn Tanner. In order for Wabash County and the many communities along State Road 24 to thrive and grow, we needed a highway that would become a key transportation route for goods to/from our areas. We needed a 4-lane connection from east-to-west, putting us on the economic map. The leadership of the communities banded together to form a group committed to ensuring the highway's completion. While the Huntington to Ft. Wayne and Wabash to Huntington, and more recently, the Wabash to Logansport stretch have been completed, the link from Logansport to Lafayette is not yet finished.

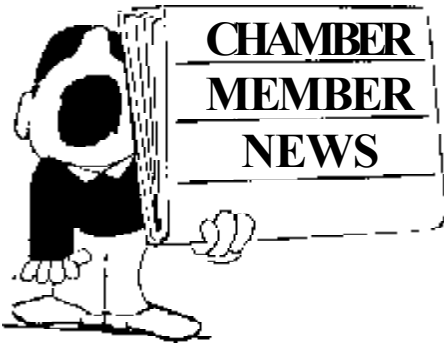
It takes the financial support of our governmental units and interested businesses and citizens to ensure our voice is continuing to be heard at the state and federal level, as we strive to complete this project. Therefore, I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, OUR CITY LEADERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES to attend the next Business Before Hours on February 14, and learn more about the state of this project and how we can help to ensure it's timely completion. A letter will be sent to each of you, but please mark your calendars now, for this important update. HHIC Board President Mayor Mike Fincher (Logansport), Mayor Lee Hoard, Delphi; Mark Davis, and John Molitor of William, Lynn and James will be on hand for questions. Please join us.

Business Before Hours

The next Business Before Hours will be February 14, 7:00 a.m. at the Honeywell Center.

Business Sponsors are Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor, Inc., Economic Development Group of Wabash County, Wabash Elks Lodge #471, and Bowman's Candy. The emcee will be Karen Newhouse of the Wabash County Hospital Foundation.





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.

Plan to celebrate **Abresist Corporation's 30th Anniversary** on May 20, 2007. On that day, Joe Accetta, President of Abresist, invites anyone from the community to visit the firm, take a tour, and see what the company produces and the production process. This is a great opportunity to know more about a long-standing business in Wabash County. The company is located at 5541 N. State Rd. 13, Urbana. Contact them at: 800.348.0717, FAX: 888.348.0717, Email: info@abresist.com or www.abresist.com. Congratulations Abresist!

Our partners at WorkOne in Marion, wanted to let employers know that they are now responsible for serving the employment needs of Wabash County, and will be located in the **JobWorks** office (1143 N. Cass St.) on Tuesdays. Their database includes job seekers ranging from entry level to professional level and they have served as the staffing coordinator for many major businesses. There is no charge for their services either to the business or applicant. They also have employment specialists who focus on working with and placing veterans. For more information, contact Darlene Brinker on Tuesdays in Wabash at 260.563.8421 or at the Marion office on other days, 765.668.8911, ext. 226.

Manchester College students welcomed Gov. Mitch Daniels to an overflowing Flory Auditorium on Tuesday, January 23. Peppering the governor with questions ranging from all-day kindergarten, privatizing services, the death penalty, school spending, fitness and academic achievement, Hoosier Hope scholarships . . . Manchester College students had him all to themselves for a casual, good-natured, yet serious Q & A with the leader of Indiana government. Congratulations to President Jo Young Switzer on providing this opportunity for our young academics!

Ivy Tech Community College recently released "The Data Exchange" (Download by clicking on this link: <http://cl.exct.net/?ffcb10-fe1d1571706d0d74711c74-fded17727260037c701d737c-fefe1574736707-febf1d7573650674-fde51579726d067570137776>), its quarterly release of recent research findings. Ivy Tech is committed to meeting the needs of Indian's workforce and employers, and this is just one tool in helping to meet that commitment.

NIPSCO recently sent crews to assist with restoring power in Detroit Edison's service area of Southeastern Michigan after an ice storm left nearly a half-inch of ice on power lines in that area. NIPSCO is a member of the Great Lakes Mutual Assistance Group, which is a consortium of utilities from throughout the Midwest. They work together and share resources following major outages. NIPSCO routinely shares resources with other utilities during times of natural disasters through mutual aid agreements facilitated by the consortium.

The Honeywell Center added a second Vince Gill concert as the February 25th concert was sold out in less than two hours of being open to the public. The second performance is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, at 7 p.m. Order tickets online at www.honeywellcenter.org or phone 260.563.1102 or 800.626.6345.

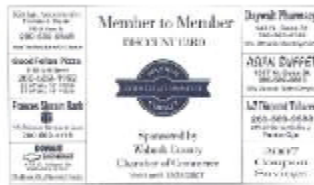
The **Manchester Symphony Orchestra** will be teaming up with contemporary dance professionals to bring a moving combination that weaves beauty of sight and sound for an outstanding musical/dance performance on Sunday, March 4 in the **Honeywell Center**. Corporate sponsor is **Midwest Poultry Services**. Tickets are available through the Honeywell Center.

FAME FESTIVAL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education (FAME) will hold a Festival at the Honeywell Center on Saturday, March 24. This will be a fund day for all children as they will enjoy listening to elementary choirs perform, view art displays of elementary students, hear a professional jazz ensemble, see and speak with a master quilter at work, sit in on a drumming circle activity, and make several crafts at the make-it, takeit craft area. The choirs from O.J. and W.C. Mills will be singing and many students will have work in the art displays. It is estimated that 100 volunteer workers will be needed that day. Guides, supervision of the art exhibits, selling admission tickets to adults, supervising in the performance area, selling t-shirts, helping with the craft area, and many other tasks needs fulfilled by you, the VOLUNTEER. If you are interested in assisting with this enriching day, please contact Judy Ward, at O.J. Neighbors, 260.563.2345.

Change in Daylight Savings Time

In 2006, the U.S. Congress passed an energy bill that included extending Daylight Savings Time by about a month, beginning in 2007. Prior to the new DST regulation, DST began at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in April and ended at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday in October. **Beginning in 2007**, DST begins at 2 a.m. on the second Sunday in March, and ends at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in November.



For the second year, the Membership Committee is please to offer the Member-to-Member Discount Card. Thanks to the volunteer sponsorship of 24 member businesses, this year's card offers even more discounts on goods and services in our area. The sponsors are **Kirtlan Automotive, GoodFellas Pizza, Frances Slocum Bank, Dorais Chevrolet, Daywalt Pharmacy, Asian Buffet, A-Z Discount Tobacco, Great Wall, Joy Christian Bookstore, The Wabash Gardens, Portraits by Kimberly, First Farmers Bank & Trust, Stanley Steamer, Wells Fargo Bank, Midwest Eye Consultants, The Works, Sunshine Pack & Ship, Visionary Computers, Visionary Web Design, Modoc's Market, Brandt's Harley Davidson, Papa Johns Pizza, Wabash Valley Chrysler, and Lovebug Floral Boutique.**

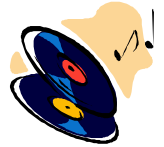
Board and Committee members are currently distributing these cards to All Chamber Member Businesses for distribution to their employees. Please remember to thank the participating businesses for their support of this program.

From the Indiana Chamber:

The 2007 Indiana Safety and Health Conference and Expo will be held on February 13-14, 2007, in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Indianapolis, IN. Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. E. Scott Geller, the educational sessions will also include such topics as: Striving for World Class Safety, Safety Management Administration, Safety Management Systems, Safety Culture Development, Worker's Compensation, Behavior Based Safety, Manufacturing Safety, Safety Fundamentals, Construction Safety, and Ergonomics. Register by phone: 800.824.6885; FAX: 317.264.6855 or online at www.insafetyconf.com.



SPRINGTIME ROCK & ROLL: 2007 HOME & BUSINESS EXPO IS COMING!



GRAND PRIZE TRIP FOR TWO BY ALLEGIANT AIR! 

Mark your calendars now for the Wabash Chamber of Commerce 2007 Home and Business Expo coming this March 10 & 11 at the Honeywell Center. Over 2500 visitors will visit the approximately 70 exhibitors who will showcase their products/services at this annual event. If your business has not yet signed up to be a vendor, contact Beth Miller at 260.563.1168 or visit the chamber web site www.wabashchamber.org for complete booth details. Sponsorships are still available for businesses who may want to sponsor a special activity or support a non-profit booth.

ATTENTION EXPO VENDORS!

EXPO VENDOR RECEPTION AND INFORMATIONAL EVENING

Sponsored by AIR TRAN AIRWAYS



DRAWING FOR ROUND TRIP AIR FARE FOR TWO!

FREE TO ALL EXPO VENDORS – This evening will provide Vendors with tips on how to get the most from your booth investment (new ideas for 2007!), demonstration booth, media packages, and refreshments will all be available to assist our vendors. Event will be held on Tuesday evening, February 6, at 7 p.m., in the Chamber Community Room. Reservations are required—email beth@wabashchamber.org or phone 260.563.1168.

CHAMBER and EDGWC HOSTING STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Wabash County Chamber of Commerce President Kimberly Pinkerton has announced that the Government Affairs Committee will host Mayor Robert Vanlandingham as he delivers a State of the City Address to the Wabash community. Co-sponsored by the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, the event will be open to the public and will be held on Thursday, February 8, during the noon hour, at the Honeywell Center in Downtown Wabash. The event will begin at 11:30 AM with a plated luncheon. Government Affairs Committee Representative Judge Chris Goff will be the emcee and Mayor Vanlandingham's address will begin at approximately noon with a question and answer period following. The program will conclude by 1:00 PM. Registration is required and may be made by contacting the Chamber of Commerce office at 260.563.1168, info@wabashchamber.org or in person at 210 S. Wabash Street. Luncheon prices will be \$16 for Chamber members or \$21 for non-members.

Mayor Vanlandingham will be reviewing accomplishments of this past year as well as looking at the upcoming opportunities and challenges for the City of Wabash. The Chamber and EDG wanted to give the business community as well as the general public an opportunity to hear this vitally important information concerning our city. Mayor Vanlandingham is starting his 4th year in his first term as Mayor of Wabash. Deadline for registration for this important event is Friday, February 2, 2007.



NEWS from the SBDC:

The North Central Indiana Small Business Development Center announced the details of its *PeerSpectives*™ program this week, a peer-to-peer learning program for business owners, CEOs and presidents. The Indiana PeerSpectives Network is based on a model of peer business education developed by the Edward Lowe Foundation.

“Entrepreneurs and small business leaders have initiative and drive,” says Mary Giangjordano, PeerSpectives program manager and Regional Director of the NCI SBDC, “but a lot of times they’re missing the professional sounding board of a corporate setting. The owner, CEO, and president are often the same person, so there’s little opportunity for the exchange of senior level knowledge and experience. That’s why we believe so strongly in this program.”

The Indiana PeerSpectives Network is a chance for qualified entrepreneurs to exchange valuable experience, ideas, and solutions with their peers. Roundtable members are owners, CEOs, and presidents of what the PeerSpectives program calls “growth-oriented, second-stage companies.” Second stage companies are privately held, generate between \$1 and \$50 million in annual revenue or have that range of working capital available, employ between 10 and 99 people, and face issues of growth, not survival.

Roundtable members meet ten times a year, joining eight to ten experienced peers in a confidential, collaborative environment. Discussions are guided by a professional facilitator who is trained by the Edward Lowe Foundation, a not-for-profit whose mission is to “champion the entrepreneurial spirit” and provide peer learning for entrepreneurs seeking rapid growth of their companies. Members discuss very real and relevant issues of growth and are finding practical value that’s difficult to replicate anywhere else, says Spalding.

“The feedback we can drive out of my peer roundtable is unparalleled,” says Mark Gradison, President of Gradison Building Corp., Indianapolis. “[This kind of information] would cost a fortune with a board of directors and advisors. As well as being unbiased and confidential, it’s a group of successful business owners from different industries who are very eager to assist and share. We’re exposed to ideas we may never have conceived on our own. A fantastic experience.”

The Indiana PeerSpectives Network is a business education program available through the Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC). The ISBDC mission is to grow Indiana’s economy by providing entrepreneurs with the education, information, and tools necessary to build successful businesses. The Center is part of a national network of 1,000 centers and has a public/private partnership with the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA), federal and state government, universities, and the private sector.

The Indiana Workforce Development office released the following labor force statistics:

INDIANA VS. U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES — Seasonally Adjusted — Indiana

	December, 2006	November, 2006	October, 2006	December, 2005
Labor Force	3,280,137	3,261,959	3,274,079	3,228,503
Employed	3,122,871	3,106,416	3,111,505	3,052,540
Unemployed	157,266	155,543	162,574	175,963
Rate	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.5
U.S.				
Rate	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.9

BOARD MEMBERS

2006-2007

Ron Kerby, Chair
Frances Slocum Bank
Andy Eads, Chair Elect
The Plain Dealer
Trisha Metzger, Vice Chair
First Federal Savings Bank
Doug Mays, Treasurer
Thermafiber.
Douglas Lehman, Past Chair
Douglas C. Lehman, PC
Kimberly Pinkerton, President
Wabash County Chamber
of Commerce

Larry Hoover
Quality Electric
Tina Byerly
Beacon Credit Union
John Andersen
Ford Meter Box Co., Inc.
Kathy Jones
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Robert Pearson
Wabash County REMC
Celia Briggs
Wabash City Schools
Scott Rands
Indiana American Water Co
Mark Sapusek
Visionary Enterprises
Lynne Schafer
Lynne's Lien Searching &
Dedicated Services
Jeff Myers
Servisoft Ecowater Company
Emily Guenin-Hodson
Guenin Law Office

Calendar



February 6	7:00 p.m.	Vendor Reception Chamber Conference Room
February 8	11:30 a.m.	State of the City Address Honeywell Center
February 14	7:00 a.m.	Business Before Hours Honeywell Center
March 10	10 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Home & Business Expo Honeywell Center
March 11	12:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Home & Business Expo Honeywell Center
March 28	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Business After Hours First Farmers Bank & Trust

Gold Members

We thank and salute those member businesses who carry GOLD LEVEL status:

**Beacon Credit Union
Pettit Printing, Inc.
First Federal Savings Bank
Richard Ford
Bulldog Battery
Wells Fargo Bank
Miller's Merry Manor
Frances Slocum Bank
Ford Meter Box Co., Inc.
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Kirtlan Automotive Machine & Repair, Inc.
Physician's Health Plan of Northern Indiana, Inc.
K & R Office Supply, Inc.**

Any Wabash County Chamber Member can elevate their membership status to Gold Level by investing an additional \$500 above their regular membership investment. In addition to having their company acknowledged at Chamber events and in publications, Gold Level Members receive \$100 in Chamber Bucks and receive a free large rotating banner ad on the Chamber website.

Please notify us of any changes on address label



**P.O. Box 371
Wabash, IN 46992**

Valentine's Day

GOURMET
DINNER

Wednesday, February 14
Eugenia's Restaurant

Social at 6:00 p.m. in the Honeywell Room
First course served promptly at 6:45 p.m.

\$50 per person.
Gratuity and tax not included.
Beer, mixed drinks, and wine available for
purchase. For your convenience, payment
will be taken after dinner.

**MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS SOON!
(260) 563-1102**

Appetizer

Jumbo Lump Crab
Cake Wasabi Beurre
Blanc, Ponzu Greens
and Enoki Mushroom

Salad

Caramelized Onion
Tortilla Salad

Entrée

Char Grilled
Black Angus Sirloin
Coulotte Steak
Lobster Vol-Au-Vent

Accompaniments

Broiled Parmesan
Roma Tomato
Potato Casserole

Dessert

Super-secret
dessert...but we
know you'll love it!

Eugenia's
RESTAURANT

www.honeywellcenter.org