

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS CHRONICLE

Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.wabashchamber.org>
phone: (260) 563-1168

111 S. Wabash St., Wabash, IN 46992
fax: (260) 563-6920

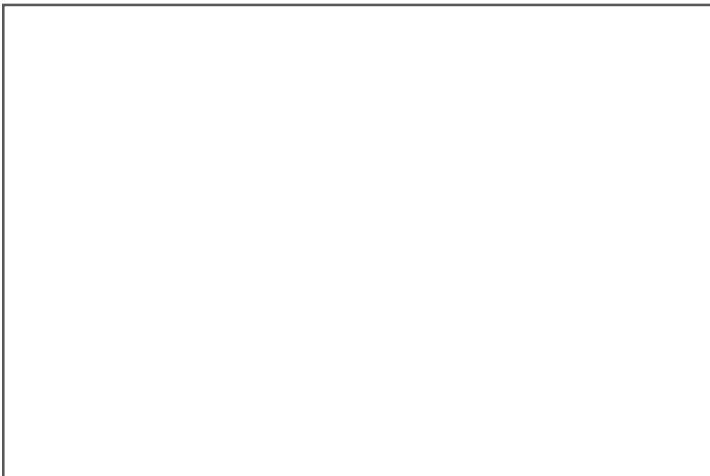
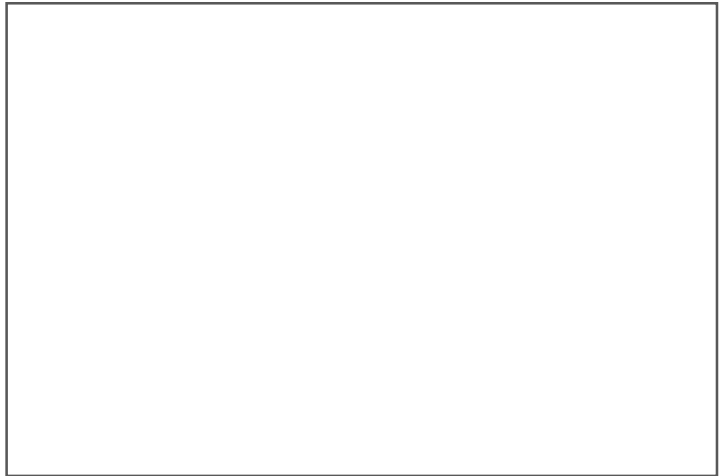
Galen Bremmer, Editor
e-mail - wacc@wabashchamber.org
March 2003

AGRO-CHEM INVESTS IN SOUTH WABASH

The old Case location at 2045 S. Wabash Street has a new look! In an amazing two week transformation, this location is now the home to one of Wabash's premier agri-businesses. Family owned Agro Chem, Inc. now makes its home in the 19,500 sq. ft. building plus all the out lots. An impressive line of monster sprayers greets you along the highway. Off to the north is a mound of storage tanks - again impressive to the city slicker. Owners Ernie Peas, General Manager, and sons Brian, Brad, and Mark, think that many people will be surprised to learn the scope of

their business. They also think that this location will bring them a new type of walk-in customer. Selling sprayers, parts, and equipment to all of Indiana and parts of Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio with another store located in Ohio, three full time sales persons service the area. The new building affords them a very attractive customer area and parts counter. It will also allow them to begin selling dry lawn fertilizer and the equipment to apply it. This new equipment line will come from Wabash County Industrial neighbor Spyker Spreader Works. Agro Chem is also entering the turf market. Finally, Ernie says that the move was fueled by the demand for new technology available in his business. Customers are upgrading equipment to take

advantage of more controlled spraying applications using GPS satellite now available to anyone with the equipment to use it. Savings paybacks come very quickly from the equipment upgrade. Ernie credits his business to his long time employees and family. They also have all pitched in to assist the move process as the company struggles to get settled before their busy season hits. One special friend, Eads Construction, provided manpower and equipment to get them over the hump. Thanks Agro Chem for your investment in 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.

INFOTEX - A Division of **BUCHERI MCCARTY & METZ** has announced that their healthcare provider clients are already a step ahead of new regulations just announced by the Health and Human Services Department. Contact Bobbette Fagel, CPS for further information if you are a healthcare provider. They have also just purchased Paradigm Shift Security, an information security firm strengthening their consulting position in Indiana. Secure assessments can now be conducted from anywhere in the world.

ST BERNARD SCHOOL is currently accepting registrations for the 2003/2004 school year for children in grades pre-kindergarten through 5th grade. See enclosed insert or contact the school directly at 260-563-5746.

PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLAN launches a new administrative services product to include Third Party Administrative (TPA) services for employers choosing to self-fund their health insurance coverage. Contact Vicki Johnson at 260-432-6690 or VJOHNSON@PHPNI.COM for more details.

The INDIANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is issuing a warning to beware of several organizations calling themselves Regional or Federal Chambers of Commerce. They are not related to local or state Chamber in any way. Beware of giving funds!!!!

The Indiana Oil and Gas Association announces the establishment of two cash scholarships to be awarded to graduating seniors this spring. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and show an interest in the gas and oil industry. Call the Chamber office if you know of any interested applicants.

CURVES FOR WOMEN announces that they will be conducting a food drive all during the month of March. Anyone bringing in a bag of food during the week of March 17th can join with no service fee. Call Sherry at 812-275-7519 for details.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS invites you to an All You Can Eat fish and tenderloin dinner Friday, March 14, from 4 to 7 at the Fairgrounds. \$6.50 in advance - \$7.00 at door.

Don't forget the annual Kiwanis Club Pancake Day, Saturday, March 22 at the 4-H Building.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS has also announced the 1st Annual Red Cross Golf Outing. Put it on your calendar for July 17 with the scramble starting at 12:30 with dinner to follow. Sponsorship opportunities abound. Contact Happi Johnston at 563-8342.

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

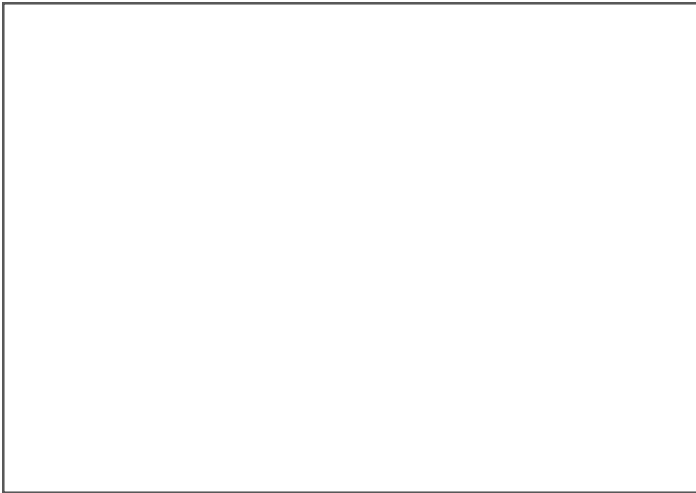
March 11 - Harriet Tubman, 9:30 & 11:30 am. Tickets \$4.00.

March 14 - Wabash County Honors Band and Choir at 7:30 pm. FREE

March 15 - Debbie Reynolds, 8:00 pm. Tickets \$25.00.

March 29 - Voice of the Dragon, 3 pm. \$24, \$21, \$18, youth half-priced.

COME TO THE EXPO!

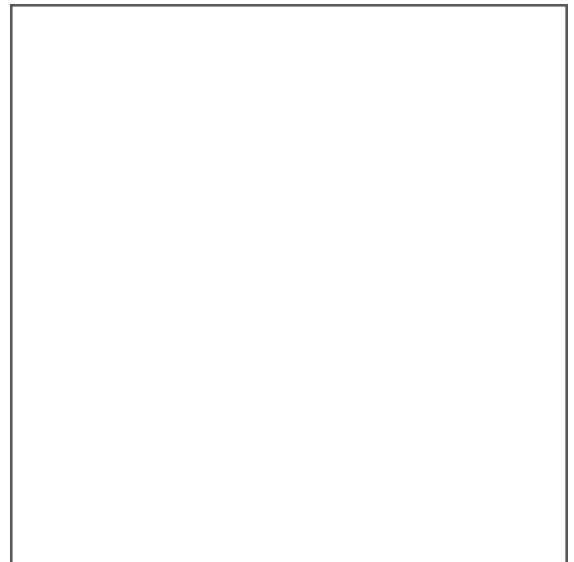


March 8 and 9 are big days for the Wabash Business Community. Once again, they will gather in one place to welcome you out of hibernation to exhibit their products and services. So far, over 60 businesses will be in the Gym, Honeywell Room and New Lobby of the Honeywell Center showing their wares. There will be games, food, give-a-ways, and people that you have not seen all winter. Admission is FREE. Hours will be Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday Noon to 4 PM. The Honeywell Center will be turned into a carnival atmosphere of fun for the entire family. Oh yes, as of this writing, there are still a few

booth spaces left for your organization or business. Contact the Chamber office immediately to reserve one.

VERNON MANOR BUSY PLACE

Vernon Manor Children's Home celebrated Valentine's Day with a special guest - Ronald McDonald. This is the 2nd year that he has visited the facility on this special day entertaining the residents. This year Vernon Manor presented Ronald with a shocking 35 lbs of pop can tabs totaling over 350,000 - one third the goal of 1 million. "Schools collecting often take years to reach that number", was the comment heard. The community responded. Britt and Denise Sather, owners of the Wabash and Warsaw McDonald's franchise sponsored Ronald's visit. Everyone plans on making this stop a Valentine's Day tradition as Vernon Manor will continue collecting the tabs.



Next up - their Open House and Car Show. Saturday, May 10, 2003 is the date for this year's event - moved from the traditional fall time slot. The show will run from 10 AM to 3 PM with DJ Mark Clouse - Indiana's oldest Crusin' Oldies Show. There will be food and crafts all day. Breakfast is served by Wabash Friends Church. For more information contact Jerrie McCoy at 563-8438. Mark your calendar for celebrity dunk tank, tours, games, and clowns.

HONORS STUDENT LUNCH COMING

The Wabash and North Manchester Chambers of Commerce will again be sponsoring an 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 - now we are inviting businesses to sponsor the students' lunch. Also needed are representatives from the different business fields in Wabash to attend the lunch and sit with students. So, businesses, when you see your mailing, please help us in this important attempt to STOP THE INDIANA BRAINDRAIN.

IWU AND CHAMBER PARTNER FOR SEMINAR

Indiana Wesleyan University and your Chamber have partnered together to bring a tremendous opportunity to you. IWU alumn and national authority on leadership, John Maxwell, is presenting THINKING FOR A CHANGE on Wednesday, April 2nd 2003, at the Hilbert Circle Theater in Indianapolis. This high-powered afternoon seminar is a fantastic bargain at the rock bottom price of \$59, but to encourage participation from Wabash County, members of our Chamber have the opportunity to hear Mr. Maxwell for only \$20. This offer is only good through March 21st. Brochures detailing the presentation and containing registration forms are available at the Chamber office. Also, watch for a mailing coming to Chamber members. What a deal!!!!!! Another educational opportunity for WACC members. If a group wants to attend, we may even be able to car pool. Take advantage of this fantastic offer!

MAYOR COPELAND ADDRESSES CITY

A record crowd gathered in the Honeywell Center to hear Mayor Arvin Copeland explain the state of the city. Mayor Copeland pronounced the current state good and sound. He reminded everyone just how good that news is considering the state of the state and many other large communities in our area. After reminding those gathered that last year he shared the success of the city with several members of city departments who serve us daily along with public safety officials, this year he continued highlighting public servants bringing to light various "unsung heroes" of our community. He highlighted accomplishments of the past 3 years and outlined what people could expect in the year ahead. The times have indeed been difficult. Wabash will meet its 2003 budget unlike 60% of the cities and towns in Indiana. "Wabash City Hall and its departments are clicking on all cylinders" he concluded.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(please add to your Buyer's Guide)

RICHVALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.- 290 N. Jefferson Street , Wabash , Indiana 46992. Contact Forrest Bowers, Pastor phone 260-563-1033. E-mail: rvumc@comteck.com Richvalley UMC joins the growing list of churches marketing themselves using Chamber resources and keeping in touch with community activities.

WABASH COUNTY WASA, INC. - 17 East main Street, P O Box 829, Wabash, Indiana 46992. Director Beth Miller phone-260-563-4663, fax 260-563-1554, e-mail wasa@kconline.com web site - www.drugcouncil.org organization is Working Against Substance Abuse in Wabash County.

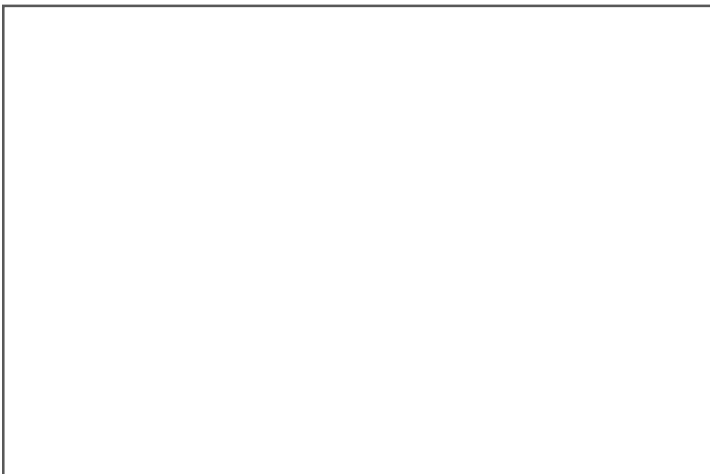
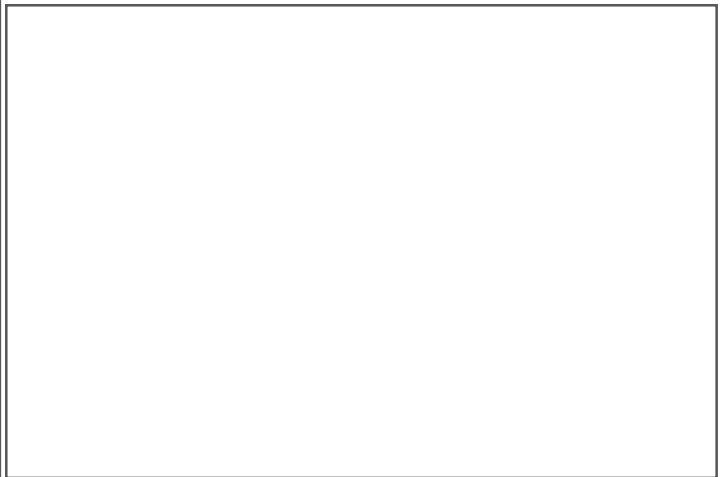
CHARLEY CREEK FOUNDATION, INC. - 540 N. Wabash Street, Wabash Indiana, 46992. phone 260-563-7733. Fax 260-563-8053 The foundations sponsors arts workshops, residencies, and recitals. It is currently restoring the house at 177 West Hill Street to be the Dr. James Ford House Museum featuring decorative arts and doctor's office of the mid nineteenth century. The Foundation works to promote the Wabash area.

CELLULAR EDGE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION CORP. - 1339 N. Cass Street (Wabash Village Shopping Center) Wabash, IN 46992 President, Ron Herman - Local Manager Jeremy Lobenthal, phone 260-563-3287, fax 574-732-0044, e-mail rherman@cellularedge.com web site - www.cellularedge.com Authorized Exclusive Agent for US Cellular using CDMA technology in the Wabash and North Manchester areas . Selling Cellular Calling Plans, cellular phones and accessories, and pagers to any individual as well as any size business.

Best Wishes to Wells Fargo retiree, John Smith. John has been a long-time Chamber volunteer and supporter. Thanks, John!



.....
Congratulations to Brandt's Harley Davidson on their recent move to their new location at 1400 N. Cass St., Wabash. Stop in and visit their spacious showroom shown below.



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
March 13, 2003
Communication & Negotiation--
Presented by ECR
Sponsor: Family Physicians
Associated
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
Honeywell Center**

Emcee: **Lynn Yohe, Yohe Realty, Inc.**

The next BBH (after February) is April 9, 2003

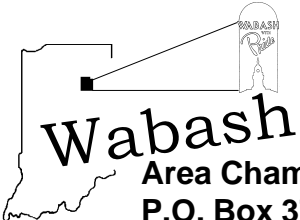
WELCOME GOLD MEMBERS

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:



