



MEMBER CONNECTION

March 2007

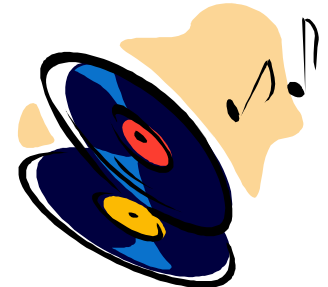


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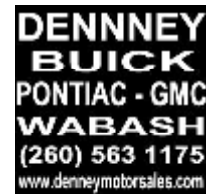
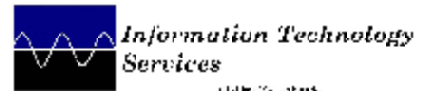
Kimberly Pinkerton, Editor
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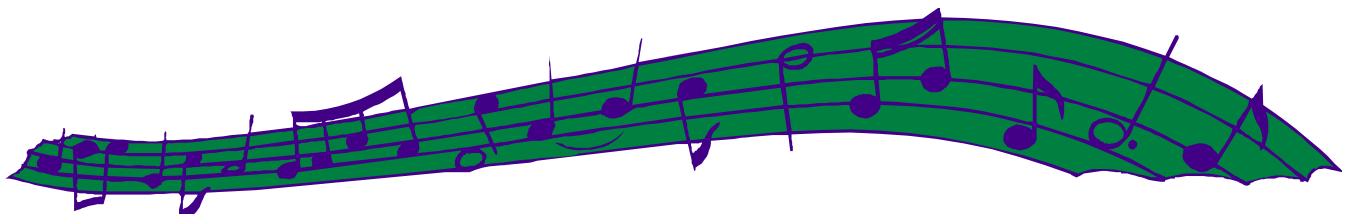
SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS AT THE CHAMBER'S 2007 HOME AND BUSINESS EXPO

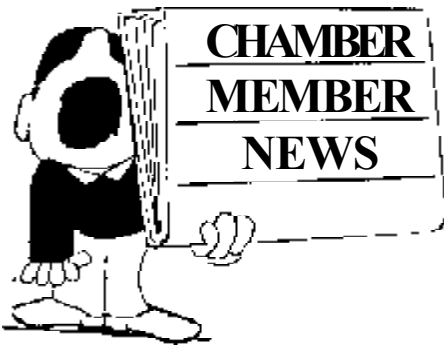


NOW IS THE TIME TO GET YOUR EXPO BOOTH REGISTRATIONS IN FOR THE SPRINGTIME ROCK & ROLL HOME AND BUSINESS EXPOSITION. Co-sponsored by Denney Motor Sales and Wabash Electric's Information Technology Division, this year's event will be held in the beautiful Honeywell Center on March 10/11 and will feature approximately 70 vendor booths, a mini-museum display by special event sponsors Wabash County Historical Museum and the Dr. James Ford Historical Home, and an opportunity to showcase your business' products and services to over 2500 visitors. Wabash County Hospital is sponsoring our Vendor Lounge and Allegiant Air has contributed 2 round-trip airline tickets to a Florida destination for the Grand Prize.



Booth registration includes a 10' x 8' area with 3' side curtains and an 8' high backdrop in teal/white; a professionally hand-painted sign with exhibitor's name, one 8' skirted table and two chairs, showcase publicity (exhibitors are urged to do additional advertising on their own), and electrical hookups are available. We encourage all vendors to decorate their booths within the Rock & Roll Theme. Setup will be Friday, March 9, from 3 – 9 p.m.; except the new lobby where setup will be from 3 – 6 p.m. Additional setup is Saturday, March 10, from 8 – 9:30 a.m. Contact the Chamber office for a registration form by voice at 260.563.1168 or email info@wabashchamber.org.





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 **Dallas Winchester Senior Center** will be holding a series of benefit breakfasts on the following Saturdays: March 3, April 21, and May 19. A freewill donation will be accepted for the breakfasts, which will be served from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m., at 239 Bond Street. Volunteers will be serving scrambled eggs, sausage gravy & biscuits, pancakes and sausage links. All profits will support the Senior Center projects. For more information or to volunteer, telephone 260.563.4475 or email seniorcenter@kconline.com.

The Pasta Bar is back! Visit **Eugenia's Restaurant inside the Honeywell Center** to enjoy the pasta, sauce, and toppings of your choice, while your selections are cooked to order right in front of you! Available M-F, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bob Lundquist, Kristi Lundquist, and Chris Paul of **Lundquist Appraisals** recently completed a two-day seminar in Indianapolis about new advances in appraisal software. Sponsored by a la mode, this seminar gave many insights as to how new technology can help streamline the appraisal process for their clients. Telephone 260.563.2812 for information on how Lundquist Appraisals may be of service to you.

Manchester College representatives recently traveled to Indianapolis to lobby legislators for more scholarship support for college students who opt to work and study in their home state after graduation. 97.5% of May 2006 MC grads had jobs or were furthering their education within six months of receiving their diplomas. The six-month placement rate nationally ranges between 72 and 85 percent. MC reports their average placement at 96% over the last five years. Congratulations, Manchester College! And thank-you for helping to decrease Indiana's Brain Drain.

Gift Baskets to Go reminds our members that GBTG can help with your gift giving whether you need one or multiple baskets. They are happy to customize your baskets to fit any price range or occasion. From executive welcome baskets to staff thank-you's, Gift Baskets to Go will customize your basket. Free delivery to Grant and Wabash counties. Telephone 260.571.2370 or email ecox@giftbaskets-2go.com.

The **Wabash County Historical Museum** is hosting a Quilter's Book Swap on March 10, 2007, from noon until 3 p.m. in their multipurpose room. Participating in the Swap is free for museum members or with paid admission. Bring your used quilting books and magazines exchange them for swap coupons to use to select other books. While in the museum, plan to visit the current exhibit in the Changing gallery, "My Art Will Keep You Warm: The Quilts of Bernice Enyeart." The museum is located at 36 E. Market St., Wabash. Tel. 563.9070 or visit www.wabashmuseum.org for further information.

Randall Miller and Associates, Inc. (RMA) is proud to announce that Jason Miller, Vice President of RMA, is now licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Indiana. Jason is also licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor. Jason is the office manager for the Marion office and manages the Engineering Division for RMA, which includes transportation, site development and utility systems. Telephone 260.563.4467 for the Wabash office (58 E. Market St.) or 765.662.1284 for the Marion office (145 E. Third St.) Email: miller@masurveying.com.

Ivy Tech Community College is offering certification courses by the American Heart Association in First-Aid, Heartsaver AED, and Heartsaver CPR. Certificates will be issued upon successful completion. Fee is \$60 with 4.5 contact hours. Instructor: Phil Delvecchio. Courses are available at the following locations/times and registration is due one week before the start date:

Peru	Apr. 27	Friday	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Logansport	Jun 4	Monday	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wabash	July 25	Wednesday	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Contact Janice Hulet, Continuing Education Coordinator at 765.459.0561, ext 528 or 800.459.0561, ext 528. Register online at www.ivytech.edu/kokomo/registernow

Welcome New Members

Houtman Friendly Computer Service (HFCS), 606 S 475 W, Wabash, IN 46992 Telephone: 260.563.7163 Email: hfcs@hfcswabash.com URL: www.hfcswabash.com Contact: Gerben Houtman, Partner. They provide expert onsite and in-house support for computer network and printer needs. They specialize in data recovery, slow computers and most LaserJet printer brands as well as a wide range of Plotters.

MRF Financial, 40 E. Hill St., Wabash, IN 46992 Telephone: 260.563.6469 Fax: 260.563.4276 Email: gmetz@mrffinancial.com URL: www.mrffinancial.com Contact: Greg Metz, President. They specialize in real estate sales and loan brokerage.

The Original Limu, 5326 S 550 W, Wabash, IN 46992 Telephone: 260.563.2023 Email: bcorn@comteck.com Contact: Bonnie Corn. Limu is a wellness beverage for the immune system. It is all natural, a vegetable plant from the Island of Tonga. Limu contains over 70 vitamins, minerals, amino acids, sterols, saccharides and essential fatty acids.

Visionary Computers, LLC, 1288 Stitt St., Wabash, IN 46992 Telephone: 260.569.0260 Fax: 260.563.6098 Email: info@visionarycomputers.com URL: www.visionarycomputers.com. Contact: Mark Sapusek, CSO. They offer IT services: computer repair, networking, hardware, software, consulting, and design. It is a full service IT company — home, business and organizations.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



The next BUSINESS AFTER HOURS will be hosted by First Farmers Bank and Trust on March 28 from 5 – 7 pm at their North Cass St. location. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to personally meet the staff, take a facility tour, and enjoy some refreshments, while learning more about what FFBT has to offer each of you.

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

The next Business Before Hours will be April 11, 7:00 a.m. at the Honeywell Center.



Business Sponsors are Vernon Manor Children's Home, Yohe Realty Inc., The Honeywell House, Bob's Media Blasting and Uptown Style. The emcee will be Parker Beauchamp, Beauchamp & McSpadden.



AG DAY BREAKFAST AND FORUM

Invitations will be going out to area farmers and other businesses as the Chamber will be hosting an Ag-Day Breakfast on March 22, corporately sponsored by Frances Slocum Bank and First Merchants Trust Company. The event will begin at Wabash County REMC with breakfast from 7:30 – 8:30 followed by presentations on the following topics: **Grain Pricing to Ethanol by Grain Growers, LLC; Crop Inputs for 2007 by North Central Coop; Outlook on Farmland Values by Halderman Farm Management; and Estate Planning for Farm Owners by First Merchants Trust Co.** In addition to the presenting sponsors, **McKillip Seeds, Agro Chem and Wells Fargo Bank** will also have booths on display with information on their products/services. We thank all our sponsors and especially Co-Chairs Lisa Flack and Ron Kerby for pulling together this event. Cost is \$5/person advance reservation and \$6 at the door. Reservations may be made by calling the Chamber at 260.563.1168.



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS A SUCCESS

Over 120 attendees were able to listen as City of Wabash Mayor Robert Vanlandingham issued his annual State of the City Address at a luncheon co-sponsored by the Chamber and EDG of Wabash County, on February 8. Complete with a visual presentation of the many projects accomplished or in progress, the Mayor did an outstanding job of letting the community know what our various city departments work hard at each and every day. Details have been printed in many local media, so we won't reprint the entire message here, but the Chamber wants to say "THANK-YOU", City of Wabash, for a job well done. We also thank Wabash County Superior Court Judge Chris Goff for acting as event emcee, Rebecca Fisher (Associate Pastor First United Methodist Church) for giving the invocation, and radio station WKUZ for their broadcasting services. The Chamber looks forward to continue working with the City and other community groups to achieve excellence for our community.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

What a great job our **County Highway Department**, under the direction of Larry Rice, and our **City Street Department** (Scott Richardson), did during the recent heavy snows. The employees put in many long hours ensuring the daily route to work was cleared as soon as possible so the citizens of this county would experience only the most minor of delays in resuming their normal traffic patterns. On behalf of the business community, the Chamber says, "Thank-you" for a job well done that ensured we were soon back to BUSINESS as usual.

From the Better Business Bureau – Media Alert!

The Northern Indiana BBB has received several calls from consumers and businesses about individuals disguising themselves as the BBB. The caller is telling the individual that they are with the BBB and need to "verify personal information." Unfortunately, the number where the call is coming from is blocked, so there is no recorded number showing up on phone displays. Although no individual or business has been scammed, we caution consumers and businesses to not be taken in by anyone identifying themselves as being with the BBB. We will NEVER ask for personal information.



Mayor Robert Vanlandingham speaks to community leaders at the 2007 State of the City address.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS + BUSINESSES = WORKFORCE STRENGTH

By Kimberly Pinkerton, President

We hear so much about business-education partnerships, but how are we really doing? Business owners report they can't find employees with strong work ethics, and educators are frustrated that there seem to be many roadblocks in getting opportunities for our students with businesses. So, I'm throwing out a challenge: in the near future, businesses will be receiving a letter inviting them to embrace the WorkEthic Program in our county. Here is a chance for business/education to truly work together for the future of this county. This program was developed through Indiana Workforce Development and is a WorkEthic Certification which improves the "soft skills" of the emerging workforce and reinforces the value of a positive work ethic. Through the WorkEthic Certification, employers can evaluate work readiness of potential employees. Students displaying strong work habits are rewarded and recognized for achievement of standards." (www.in.gov/dwd/partners/workethic_eg.html)

What does this mean? It means **students** have an opportunity to develop and demonstrate that they have competencies in discipline, attendance, community service or internships, grades, organization and punctuality, teamwork, and respectfulness, among others. Students sign on to participate and are evaluated by a team of administrators. Businesses must also embrace the program by pledging to recognize the WorkEthic Certificate and to **implement it as a fundamental criterion** for internships and standard hiring practice.

This program **absolutely must have the employers' participation** to ensure success. You asked for it – the schools are willing to do their part by their certification process under the Indiana Workforce Development standards – so the Wabash and North Manchester Chambers of Commerce and the Economic Development Group of Wabash County, in cooperation with the county's educational institutions, are gearing up to launch this program county-wide. County employers will receive an informational letter with more details. Take time to read it, check out the website listed above, and be ready to invest in the future of our county's workforce by signing on as a program participant. 100% participation = 100% investment in our future. Let's ensure business and education truly come together for growing a strong workforce right here in Wabash County.



HONOR STUDENT LUNCHEON

Honor Student Luncheon preparations are moving right along and the event is slated for April 12. For those of you who may not be familiar with the event, The North Manchester and Wabash Chambers co-host a networking event for the top 20% of our County's high school graduates. In an effort to help relieve the Indiana Brain Drain, we match students with business representatives in their area of interest at a luncheon here at the Honeywell. Our speaker addresses the students with roots/wings types of anecdotes, with emphasis on why we want them to come back to Wabash after their secondary education and to utilize their skills here. We have the business representatives introduce themselves and also let students know of any summer jobs or internships available. Manchester College is our Education sponsor for 2007 and Stuart Jones will be the emcee. Letters will be going out in the very near future, soliciting business representation for the luncheon, as well as sponsorships to cover the cost of student lunches. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact event Chair Trisha Metzger of First Federal Savings Bank or call the Chamber office. We sincerely appreciate your past support of this event and look forward to seeing many of you again this year.

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



March 8	12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch & Learn Seminar Chamber Conference Room
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 17		St. Patrick's Day
March 22	7:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Ag Day Breakfast Wabash Co. REMC Community Room
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**



Ag Day Breakfast

A Wabash County Chamber of Commerce Event

March 22, 2007

**Wabash County REMC
Community Room**

\$5 in advance or \$6 at the door

Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

sponsored by Frances Slocum Bank &
First Merchants Trust Co.



Topics - 8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.



Grain pricing to Ethanol

by Grain Growers LLC

Crop Inputs for 2007

by North Central Co-op

Outlook on Farmland Values

by Halderman Farm Management

Estate Planning for Farm Owners

by First Merchants Trust Co.

Q & A

Sponsors: McKillip Seeds, Agro Chem, Grain Growers
LLC, North Central Co-op, Halderman Farm Management,
First Merchants Trust. Co.,
Wells Fargo Bank

RSVP by March 14

Tel: 260-563-1168 or email
beth@wabashchamber.org





Wabash County Chamber of Commerce
presents



Business After Hours

Door Prizes



You Are Invited To An Open House

Refreshments

At

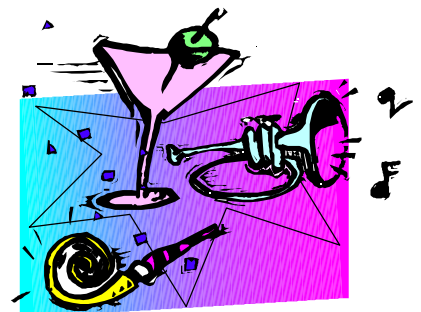
Networking

First Farmers Bank & Trust 1004 North Cass Street Wabash

Free

March 28

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



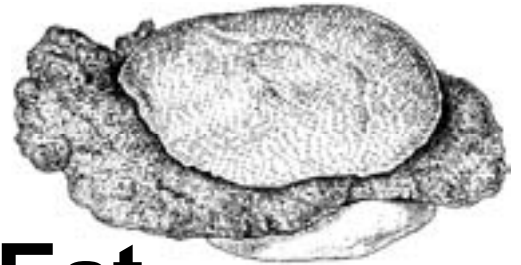
This is **YOUR** opportunity to visit a Chamber member business and learn exactly what that business does. To make your reservation contact the Chamber at 260.563.1168,

Fax: 260.563.6920 or email beth@wabashchamber.org

Reservations Requested



Wabash County



All You Can Eat Tenderloin Dinner

Saturday, March 24, 2007



**Knights of Columbus
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Adults — \$7.00

Children — \$5.00

Carry-outs Available



***Contact the Wabash Police Department
for Tickets***