



AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS CHRONICLE

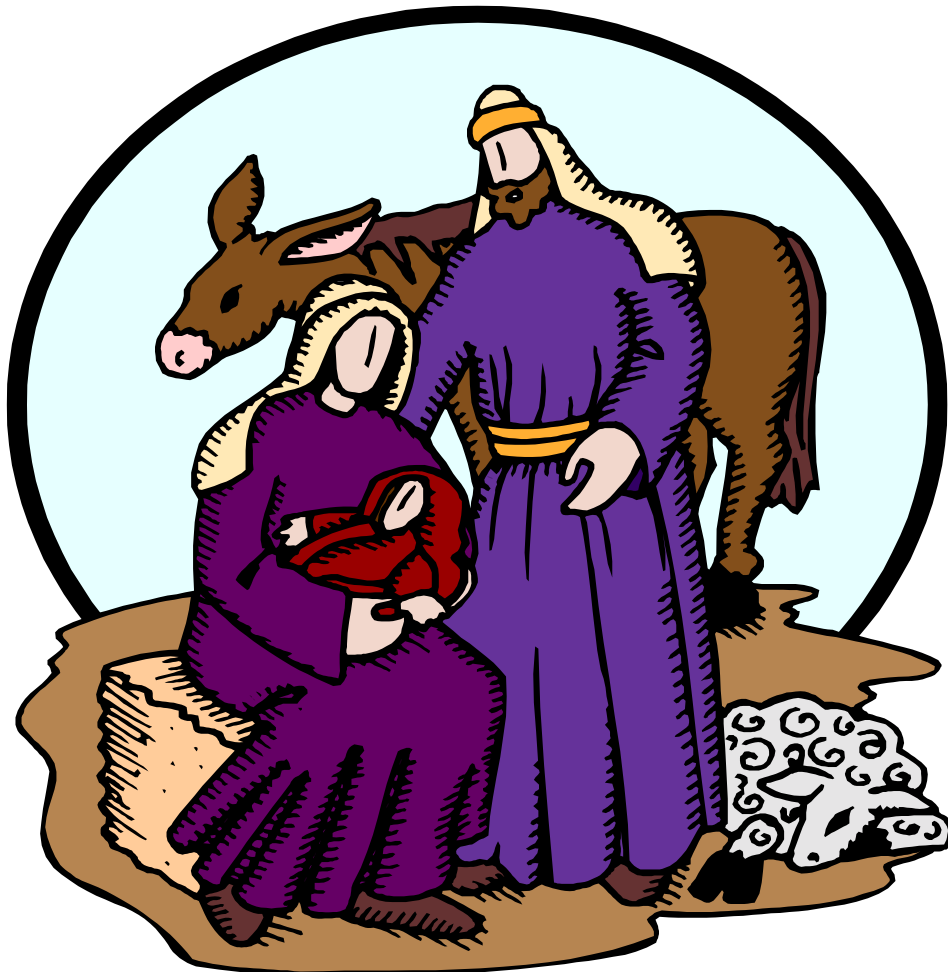
Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce
111 S. Wabash St., P.O. Box 371
Wabash, Indiana 46992

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

Galen Bremmer, Editor

November/December 2004

**May the Light of
this season bring
you peace and joy!**





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.

Congratulations to **WABASH COUNTY REMC** for partnering with Omnicity to offer Wireless High Speed Internet Access to Wabash County. Details can be found in an article inside this newsletter.

Congratulations to **HAYES LEMMERZ INTERNATIONAL** on being awarded a grant of \$15, 292.00 from Indiana @ Work. The money will be used to assess the skills of current and new employees as they gear up for their new contract. These funds provided by Governor Joe Kernan will assist the workforce skills in Wabash.

Brent Dawes and Steven Pugh have announced that they have purchased the Wabash practice from American Express Tax and Business Services, Inc. and renamed the new business **DAWES & PUGH CPA'S, LLC**. Their office location and staff will remain the same. Please update your records.

Congratulations to **PEABODY RETIREMENT COMMUNITY** for being featured in a segment on WANE-TV on Thanksgiving Day, November 25.

AMERICARE OF WABASH announced the opening of new 3rd floor private suites in an Open House November 18. These luxurious rooms are for private pay and Medicare reimbursement residents. Another fine option added to care available to Wabash County residents. Stop by and have Rod show you the fruits of his hard labor.

Congratulations to **FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST** on being named the Top Entrepreneurial Lender in the State of Indiana by Entrepreneur Magazine.

PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLAN is pleased to announce their 17th annual Scholarship Program. Anyone knowing of a high school senior planning to pursue a career in a health-related field should contact the Chamber office for an application for six scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 to a post secondary college, technical school, or university. All Wabash County High Schools are eligible with a February 28 deadline.

Congratulations to Infotex, an affiliate of **BUCHARI, MCCARTY & METZ**, on being selected to beta-test an enhanced version of its offsite e-mail filtering system "Sifter". This secure e-mail system will filter outgoing as well as incoming e-mails. Anything with sensitive information in it will be quarantined. Contact Bobette Fagel at 800-466-9939 for more information.

CHAMBER ANGELS FLYING -Though this is the time of year when Angels are doing their best work all over town, we at the Chamber owe a debt of thanks to **WABASH ENGRAVING (ADVENTURES IN ADVERTISING)** for voluntarily re-lettering our front door. Paul noticed the lettering was getting dog eared and surprised us with new clean lettering.

HOW DID YOU USE THE CHAMBER THIS MONTH?

Over the course of a year, I am probably asked one question more than any other, "What does the Chamber do for me?". There are many programs begging to be used. Each month, I will pick one and highlight it. USE YOUR INVESTMENT!

For the past year I have written about one Chamber Membership benefit each month. I hope that it has been helpful. NOW IT IS YOUR TURN. I would like to have each of you contact me with your top choice for a membership value item that you would like to receive from your membership! That's right - just ONE. Contact us in the easiest way possible - e-mail (wacc@wabashchamber.org), fax (563-6920), phone (563-1168) or note (P O box 371). Better yet, stop in and see us at 111 S. Wabash Street. Our Chamber Chair, Dave Rutledge, has promised one new significant benefit during his term. We want to know YOUR choice. So, please let us know just what you would like to see from your chamber!

WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET AVAILABLE

It has been a long time coming, but the first fruits of the Wabash County Broadband Committee have been realized with the announcement by **Wabash County REMC** that they have partnered with Omnicity to provide wireless high speed internet service to all of Wabash County. The service is currently available to the densely populated areas of the county and should be available to all by spring. Orders are being taken by Omnicity by calling 1-877-477-7873. This is a faster, more economical alternative to DSL services currently available. Options are available for many different speeds starting at \$29.99 for residential and \$41.95 for business use.

The Broadband committee was established jointly by the chamber and WEDCOR several years ago to encourage investment in technology in Wabash County. Greg Nixon was instrumental in the formation of this committee. Recently, WEDCOR has assumed the role of administrating this effort. Look for more good news coming in this field.

GIFT CERTIFICATES A SUCCESS OVER \$75,000 SOLD DURING CHRISTMAS MONTH

Wabash businesses have responded to the call that we try to make shopping in Wabash a priority by purchasing over \$75,000 in Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates. We hope that Chamber members are now seeing these certificates come through their cash registers for the next month or so. Remember to have your employees welcome these certificates from your customers and to make redemption an easy process. The one request that we ask is that you do not outright redeem the certificates for cash. You may give change for purchases subject to your own business policies. In most cases, the certificates have been created in low denominations so that change to be given will be limited. Over 10,000 certificates have been printed. Remember this is a year round program. You may purchase them at any time.



REMEMBER - SBDC & BURTON REPS

A field representative of the Congressman will be holding office hours at the Chamber, January 4 and 18. Special Assistant Matthew Prine, of Burton's Indianapolis office, will be available to the public at the Chamber office from 10 AM to 2 PM. No appointments are necessary, as walk-ins are welcome anytime, with patrons being served on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, if there is a special need or an individual that would like to schedule additional time, appointments can be made by calling the Chamber office at 563-1168.

A reminder, too, that small business counseling is also available at the Chamber by the Small Business Development Center Kokomo field office. Jennifer Vandeburg is available for appointments the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month from 9 AM to 4 PM. Appointments are now being accepted for January. They are 1 hour in length. Anyone currently involved in a small business or contemplating start-up is welcome to call. A special workshop for those contemplating a new business venture will be held Wed. January 19 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Any type of small business management questions are welcome. Call the office for more information.

WELCOME DRIVE MEMBERS

(please add to your Buyer's Guide)

Animal Shelter Virginia Reahard 810 Manchester Ave. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3511

BJS Landscaping Bill Simpson 184 Sheridan St. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3817 FAX: Lawn Care of all varieties.

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ Michael Eaton 2147 North State Road 15, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4109 FAX: (260)563-1261

Baker Insurance Jon Baker PO Box 351, 234 South Miami Street, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3463 FAX: (260)569-1110

Bertsch Services Jeff Wood 1182 Manchester Ave. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-6735 FAX: (260)563-3575 jwood@bertschservices.com Full line vending service company providing anything from snack machines, coffee and soda machines, to fresh food machines. Also provide an outstanding coffee service and have a full line catering department. Motto is "People serving People" doing it since 1948.

Billing's Flowers & Gifts Mary Melching, 41 West Market Street, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4291 : Full line florist. See us for any floral needs. Hallmark gift shop, year round Christmas Store.

Boat Motors Parts Warehouse James Whiteside 1812 South Wabash Street, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3868. New and used Boat Parts of all kinds.

Dick Rider Dick Rider, 563 Sommers Ave. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-6604

Dickos - Peterson, Metz Realty Suzie Metz 130 S. Wabash Street, PO Box 741, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-8802 FAX: (260)563-8801

Dr. James Ford Historic Home Mark Fearnow % Charley Creek Foundation, PO Box 454, Wabash, IN 46992

Extreme Auto Accessories Erron Nealis 1167 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-1812

Family Optometry Robert Hutchinson, 520 Manchester Ave., Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-0884 FAX: 563-3284 drhutch@kconline.com Complete eye exams and contact fittings. Treatment of eye disease, infections, and foreign body removal. Latest equipment including OCT visual fields and glaucoma checks.

Fearnow Appraisals Beverly Campbell, 6677 Elliot Road Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-5320 FAX: (260)563-3556 appraisals@kconline.com Real Estate Appraisal Service

Get Nailed Aimee Emrick, 1 South Wabash St. Wabash,

IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-7608 getnailed@hotmail.com Get nailed is a full service nail salon with a relaxing atmosphere and is staffed with four of the finest nail technicians around. Over 20 years experience.

GoodFellas Pizza Terri Weaver, 1093 Stitt St., Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-1162 Pizza – Retail – Goal is not to make the most pizzas but the Best Pizzas. Carryout or delivery.

Gunners Trading Post - Fur, Inc. Phil Welty, 878 W. Waterworks Road, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-0900

Keller Accounting Service Jim Keller, 28 1/2 East Hill Street- Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-9050 FAX: (260) 569-1819 Jdkeller4@hotmail.com Preparation of Income Tax returns of all kinds. Preparation of payroll and related tax returns. Monthly, quarterly, and yearly record keeping, bookkeeping, and accounting.

Kentucky Fried Chicken/Long John Silvers Mike West, 899 N. Cass St. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-8955

Kitchens Plus Carole Hiner, 1770 S. Wabash St, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-6317 FAX: (260)569-9919 kitchenplus@onemain.com Custom cabinetry and countertops. Gift and home décor shop.

Lovebug Floral Boutique Nelda Love, 255 Stitt Street, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-1013 FAX: (260)563-5118

Lynne's Lien Searching Lynne Schafer 213 West Fulton Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-9001 FAX: (260)569-9005

McCoart's Auto & Repair Mark McCoart, 4 Shopping Center Lane, Somerset, IN 46984 Tel.: (765)981-4342

Modoc's Market Michael Beauchamp 205 S Miami St Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-1281

Mosier's Tarps Jeff Mosier 4021 S - State Rd. 15 Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3332

Northern Light L.L.C. Greg Metz 40 East Hill Street Suite 100 Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4045

Prairie Hen Tavern & Restaurant Steve & Celia Briggs 256 S. Miami Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)569-1254

Q C Communications, Inc. Mark Holland 7867 W. 100 S. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4453 FAX: (260)563-0963 Building fiber optic networks for high speed internet in communities all over the United States.

Risher TV Center Lee Risher 685 N. State Rd. 15 Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-6372 :

Rush St., Inc. Barbara and Jerry Stevens 254 S. Wabash Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260) 563-6340 Authentic Chicago style eatery. Vienna Beef Products. Gourmet Hot Dogs. Bread Bowls.

Schlemmer Brothers Metal Works Kent Henderson
108 W. Canal Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3417 FAX: (260)563-3002 kent@sBMW.com Custom metal fabrication. For over 100 years specializing in steel, stainless steel, aluminum, copper, and galvanized. Retail majestic and Vermont castings, stoves, fireplaces, gas logs and furnaces. Alternative fuels, wood, gas, coal, pellet, corn and electric.

Sports Unlimited Bill Barrows 1604 S. Wabash St. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4686 FAX: (260)563-7683

St. Bernard School Marilyn Ellert , OSF 191 North Cass Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-5746 FAX: (219)563-4898 stbernard@kconline.com

Stanley Steemer Carpet Cleaner Manager 3496 W. - Delphi Pike Marion, IN 46952 Tel.: (260)563-6666 :

Sunshine Pack & Ship Bob & Sue Mitting 1315 North Cass Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-7372 FAX: Full Line packing and shipping service center. Fully insured. Professional packing and custom crating. Ship UPS, USPS, Fed-X, and all major freight carriers domestic and international. No size restrictions. Also, copies, laminating, fax-send & receive, notary, mailbox rental, business cards, rubber stamps & gift wrapping.

The Body Connection Susan Mattern 999 Manchester Avenue Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-8329 FAX: Massage Therapist who specializes in individual needs. Deep tissue & trigger point therapy, Swedish massage, craniusacral therapy, myofascial release & healing touch body work.

The Bronze Palace Tina Burger 127 Manchester Ave. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-7230 FAX: Six 20 minute tanning beds and one 15 minute super bed available along with hairstyling services. Also offer airbrush tans and tattoos. Full line of tanning lotions and hair care products.

U. S. Cellular Denise Maxwell 3665 Park Place West, Suite 100 Mishawaka, IN 46545 Tel.: (574)273-8734 FAX: (574)273-9450 denise.maxwell@uscellular.com

Wabash Appliance & Electronic Dan Karns 1105 North Cass Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-0603 FAX: 260-563-0605

Wabash Christian Church Cecil Cook, 110 West Hill Street, Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4179 FAX: (260)563-4170

Wabash Realty, LLC Christy Kisner 425 S. Wabash St. Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-4662 FAX: rkisner@verizon.net

Welding Service, Inc. Tom Ehret PO Box 241 150 Smith Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-2363 FAX: (260)563-0321

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS

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

Community First Bank &
Trust
Bickford Cottage of Wabash
Miller's Merry Manor
First Federal Savings Bank
Frances Slocum Bank

Beacon Credit Union
Pettit Printing, Inc.
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Yohe Realty, Inc.
Wells Fargo Bank
Richard Ford

Wyrick Autos Bill Wyrick, 808 Manchester Avenue Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-3916 FAX:

Youth Service Bureau Donna Bogert 421 W. Canal Street Wabash, IN 46992 Tel.: (260)563-7727 FAX: (260)563-3921

FastBreak Gourmet Coffee Company Philip Keefer 1313 North Cass Street Wabash IN 46992 Tel: (260) 563-6093 Gourmet coffee shop with a drive through window. Specializing in lattes and cappuccinos. Featuring a coffee of the day – light roast, dark roast, and decaf. Also iced drinks, frozen frappes, and fruit smoothies. Open 6 AM. Seasonal items and flavors.

Summit Radiology, Inc. James D. Bode 6119 W. Jefferson Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46804 Tel. (260)432-1568 FAX: (260)432-4969 Providing radiology services to Wabash County Hospital

Wabash Country Club Scott Shardalow 378 North State Road 15 P O Box 311 Wabash IN 46992 Tel.(260) 563-4151 FAX(260)569-1124 The Wabash Country Club is a private club located in the historic Honeywell Country Estate. It is a place where businessmen and businesswomen meet to network. Offering something for the whole family: dining, swimming, tennis, children activities and more.

The Write Stuff-Darrell Boone 4680 South Baily Road Wabash IN 46992 Tel.:(260)-563-2243 FAX: (260) 563-2243 dboone@myvine.com The Write Stuff helps businesses achieve their goals through a variety of communication products including brochures, newsletters, Web content, direct mail pieces, manuals, training materials, users guides and more. Complete project management.

The Center for Sports and Physical Therapy Jeremy Wayman 1310 Manchester Avenue Wabash IN 46992 Tel.(260) 563-5630 FAX:(260) 563-0157 cfsp@netzero.com Provides the most up to date and state of the art physical therapy treatments available with a highly qualified staff. We treat muscle, bone, joint, and spine disorders from sprained ankles to rotator cuff injuries to low back and neck pain. Committed to health and wellness.

BOARD MEMBERS - 2004

Lynn Yohe, Chair
Yohe Realty, Inc.
Dave Rutledge, Chair Elect
Wells Fargo Bank
Doug Lehman, Vice Chair
Douglas C. Lehman, PC
DeAnne Clifton, Treasurer
Beauchamp & McSpadden
Skip Daughtry, Past Chair
Beauchamp & McSpadden
Galen L. Bremmer, President
Wabash Area Chamber of
Commerce

Beth Miller
Our Children, Our Future, Inc.
Brad Perrott
YMCA
Vince Harrell
Retired, Wabash County
Extension Office
Greg Pettit
Pettit Printing, Inc.
Paul Heidbreder
Wabash Plain Dealer
Howard Halderman
Halderman Farm Management
Jeff Galley
G & S Metals
Larry Hoover
Quality Electric
Steve Beck
Ford Meter Box
Kerri Mattern
Wabash County Hospital
Trisha Metzger
First Federal Savings Bank
Michael Bechtol
Bechtol Grocery Company
Steve Hentgen
Grandstaff-Hentgen

INDIANA BOASTS LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE AREA

Indiana continues to have an unemployment rate that is lower than all its neighbors except Kentucky. Neighboring states are all above 6%. More and more people are getting back into the workforce. Note that in Wabash County in October, we had over 200 more people employed than in 2003. Our unemployment rate dropped 6 rankings.

	<u>UNEM</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NATION</u>	<u>EMPLOYED</u>
10/04	5.9 %	5.4%	24	5.1%	16,150
09/04	5.9 %	5.2%	19	5.1%	16,650
10/03	5.4 %	5.1%		6.0%	15,940

SBA LOAN CLINIC HOSTED BY CHAMBER

Your chamber in partnership with the Small Business Development Center will be hosting a small Business Administration Loan Clinic on Tuesday, January 25 from 4 PM to 6 PM in the Chamber Office Conference Room. There is no charge for the seminar. This is an excellent opportunity for those small business owners to research funding sources for the growth of their business or for those contemplating opening a new business that will need funding to learn about options. Though many banks in Wabash County offer SBA loans, a representative from Frances Slocum Bank will be attending to present the needs of the financial institution. Call the Chamber office to reserve a space at the clinic.

LUNCH & LEARN SEMINAR

January 13, 2005



Developing Accurate, Functional Job Descriptions

Presented by:

Chad Towner, RediMed VP
of Compliance & Rehabilitation

Sponsor:

First Farmers Bank & Trust

Noon - 1 pm

Beacon Credit Union Adm. Bldg.
586 S. Wabash St.

Cost:

\$10 member / \$20 non-member
Lunch Included

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call the Chamber office 563-1168

Please notify us of any changes on address label



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

BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

Date: February, 2004 7- 8:30 a.m.

Business Sponsors -

Wabash Co. Hospital Foundation

Bob's Media Blasting

Wabash True Value/Just Ask Rental

Beauchamp & McSpadden Insurance

Peabody Retirement Community

Emcee: Dave Rutledge, Wells Fargo Bank

Next BBH: December 8

Meet Your New Chamber Members!



