

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS CHRONICLE

Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce
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Galen Bremmer, Editor

October 2003

Beacon Credit Union Named 2003 Business of the Year

Skip Daughtry, Board Chair, announces Beacon Credit Union as the 2003 Business of the Year. Beacon has been a leader in growth and service to our community for many years," stated Daughtry.

Bruce Ingraham, Beacon Credit Union President, responded, "It is with great pleasure that we accept this award on behalf of the 30,000 member-owners of this financial cooperative. This recognition affirms our commitment of providing quality products and services to residents and businesses in north central Indiana with a basic and conservative business approach."

Beacon can trace its birth to Indianapolis in early 1931. Boston merchant Edward Filene was crossing the country introducing the idea of financial cooperatives. Wabash County preacher and farmer, Gus Thompson returned from that meeting and became the driving force behind the creation of Wabash County Farm Bureau Credit Union.

The Credit Union has been fortunate to have had five visionary managers throughout its history. Following Thompson was Darrell Hawkins who served as Manager from 1947 to 1952. Van Wilson served the longest tenure, 28 years from 1952 to 1980. Ovid McKinley managed from 1980 to 1981. Bruce Ingraham has served as President since 1981.

Seventy-five people met to organize the Credit Union. Their initial combined deposit was \$37.50. Today the approximately 30,000 members have over \$435 million on deposit through the many investment opportunities offered by Credit Union. They also utilize over \$289 million in loans.

Today, the Credit Union has ten facilities including three offices and an administration building in Wabash. In May of 2001, Wabash County Farm Bureau Credit Union changed its name to Beacon Credit Union to better reflect its far reaching goals. Beacon now employs 118.

Beacon Credit Union has grown into one of the leading credit unions in the State of Indiana, currently ranked fifth in total asset size, surpassing \$500 million in total assets in June 2003. In keeping with the vision set forth by its founders, Beacon is one of the largest agricultural lending credit unions in the nation.

Beacon Credit Union will be honored at the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, November 6 at the Honeywell Center. Reservations are available by calling the Chamber office at 260-563-1168.



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.

Please note the physical address change for the **WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND THE WABASH COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**. They are now located at 1101 Manchester Avenue. Their mailing PO Box address and phone numbers will remain the same. Their new fax number is 260-563-4728.

You may now see a selected portion of the 79th Annual Fine Arts Exhibition from Hoosier salon right now at the **HONEYWELL CENTER'S CLARK GALLERY**. Artists are current Indiana residents or have lived in the state for at least a year and are members of the Hoosier Salon Patrons Association. Stop and see the exhibit until October 26.

PHYSICIANS HEALTH PLAN OF NORTHERN INDIANA has named Randy M. Kummeras their new Chief Financial Officer. He comes to them from the Toledo office of Ernst & Young.

Your **WABASH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** takes great pride in announcing that **Kim Pinkerton**, our Administrative Assistant, has been accepted and is currently enrolled in Huntington College's EXCEL Program working toward an Associate of Science degree in Organizational Management. We are pleased to help Kim promote higher education dreams to reality.

Please join us in congratulating **JOHN BOYER**, owner of **BOYER LOCK & SAFE INC.**, on being named a **CERTIFIED FORENSIC LOCKSMITH** by the International Association of Investigative Locksmiths. He traveled to New Jersey to take the national test required to become part of this very select group that opens his practice to new levels in criminal investigation.

The Hands of Hope staff from **THE FAMILY SERVICE SOCIETY** would like to remind you to save October 23 marking Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a soup supper and candlelight vigil at the Bright Congregational Church, 4th and Walnut in North Manchester. There will be a memorial service in remembrance of those killed the past year as a result of domestic violence. The supper starts at 6:30 with the program at 7:00 PM

IVY TECH STATE COLLEGE in Wabash is now issuing photo identification cards to its students, faculty, and students. Businesses that would like to take advantage of this marketing opportunity by offering some kind of discount to those holding a card are encouraged to call Clark Shearer at 563-8828 to discuss the details of the program. The College will publish any offers to students.

Baker and Daniels, a prominent business legal advocacy firm, will be conducting their 17th annual Employers' Forum October 15 in Fort Wayne and October 23 in Mishawaka from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Call the Chamber office for the agenda or registration information. Cost is \$75 per person. Looks like a good session.

Have you seen the new Opportunity Candle? **ARC OF WABASH COUNTY** is selling an environmentally friendly refillable candle in a crock. The candles are made by persons served at ARC. Two sizes are available - 1 pint low crock and 6 oz. Ramekin crock in red hot cinnamon, hot apple pie, mountain stream, forget-me-not, or sliced pear. Cost is \$18.50 for the pint (\$7.50 for refill) or \$15.00 for 6 oz. (\$4.80 refill). The **WABASH COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT** participates in this project. What great gifts for your employees. Order or refill at 595 South Miami Street, or call 563-8411.

MAGGART PONTIAC CADILLAC INC. welcomes Bill Bayliss to their sales team. Contact bill at 563-4161 to make him feel welcome.

The **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY** Great Lakes Division has promoted Tina Harland to Executive

(Continued on page 3)

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!

We will start this month highlighting this newsletter. Once a month we publish this piece that is mailed to 525 businesspeople representing over 400 businesses. The most popular part of the newsletter is the "MEMBER NEWS" I would not be disappointed if we had the whole page allotment filled with member news. After all, businesses want to read about themselves. I constantly remind members that they should submit any information about their business for inclusion. I have not turned down any MEMBER information yet. Even if you have a special sale or promotion. New Employee. Honored employee. New line. Management Change. Milestone celebrated. Accomplishments. Contests Won. All of these items are welcome in the member news and best of all - ITS FREE. If your news item is large enough, it may warrant an entire article. Just include us in your distribution at P O Box 371, fax 563-6920, or e-mail wacc@wabashchamber.org Newsletters are written the last week of the month and distributed the first week of the month - give or take. Want more exposure, draw up your own flyer or insert to be stuffed inside the fold of the 8 ½ by 11 sheet folded in ½. It can be ½ fold or tri fold. Just have to have 525 of them and all must be identical. Cost is only \$50. Weight has not been a factor - at least yet. Inserts must reach us by the 1st of the month. What better way to network your services or celebrate with fellow businesspeople.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS EXPO

Hey, Wabash County Businesses! There is a networking opportunity for you coming October 16 at the Johanning Civic Center in Kokomo. The 2nd Annual Business to Business Expo will be held from 10 AM to 5 PM. Come for the day or for just a short period of time to see what neighboring businesses might have to offer you. Inside Indiana Business', Gerry Dick, will host a morning workshop, Walker Information's Marc Drizin a luncheon session, and representatives from DaimlerChrysler, Delphi Delco and Haynes Int. an afternoon session.

Member News *Continued from page 2*

Director for the Mid-Indiana region that includes 13 counties - Wabash being one.

WELLS CHIROPRACTIC introduces the new ABS/DRS system to Wabash. This state of the art medical machine delivers spinal decompression in a safe, comfortable manner to patients. Call 563-8841 for appointments or visit 265 Hale Drive. Thanks for your investment to keep Wabash up with technological advances in the industry!

Attention Wabash NEBS customers! NEBS has a disaster relief program that will replace any of their products damaged in our recent storms whether by flooding or building damage. If you need to re-order any products damaged, all customer service 1-800-225-9540 and mention mailcode 59039 and they will replace the damage free of charge. The program also offers extended payment terms for an additional 60 days if you call Accounting at 1-800-722-7090 and mention the same mailcode. Business helping business.

Congratulation to Bev Holmquist **MANPOWER BRANCH MANAGER**, on being appointed to the North Central Indiana Workforce Investment Board (WIB). Thanks for representing our community on this important board. The group is dedicated to the strategic thinking necessary to build a strong and credible foundation for a regional workforce.

THE WABASH COUNTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION is taking nominations for the Healthcare Hero of the Year Award for 2003. Nomination forms are available at the Foundation office, hospital front lobby, ER, or by calling 569-2254. Deadline is October 17. Any healthcare volunteer, professional, or worker who works or resides in Wabash County is eligible. Guidelines are on the nomination form.

Congratulations to Angie Penix of **AMERICAN EXPRESS TAX AND BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.** on passing the CPA exam taken last year. She joins Brent and Steve as CPA's in the firm. Angie completed her undergraduate degree in accounting and the masters program at Manchester College. She and her husband Mike attend Friends Church.

CANDIDATE FORUM AND MAYORAL DEBATE PLANNED

The Government Affairs Committee of the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce announces two very important dates for the Wabash Community. Arrangements have been completed for a Candidate Forum to be held Tuesday, October 21, 2003, starting at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Wabash Middle School. The public is invited and there will be no charge. All candidates on the ballot inside the city of Wabash, with the exception of Mayoral candidates, have been invited to participate in the forum. Vicki Williams, chairperson of the Government Affairs Committee states that there has been an excellent response from the candidates. She will moderate the session. The forum will open with statements from each candidate not to exceed 5 minutes. The statements may contain the candidate's platform and answers to a prepared list of suggested questions. Questions from the floor will then be presented to all candidates. Questions will be written and submitted to members of the committee before being given to the moderator. All candidates for the office addressed in the questions will be invited to respond with a 2 minutes time limit.

Two days later the public is invited to the second very important event - a Mayoral Debate. This event will again be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Middle School Auditorium - this time on Thursday, October 23, 2003. Both mayoral candidates have agreed to debate using a strict debate format. Once again, there will be no charge for attendance. Once again, after debating prepared topics, there will be a period of question and answer time from the audience using the same procedure as the forum. In addition, the Chamber will be taping for re-broadcast on local radio and cable TV stations.

If the public would like to submit debate topics or suggestions for the pre-arranged questions, please submit to the Government Affairs Committee at The Chamber, P. O. Box 371, Wabash. The Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce would like to see a good crowd in person at both of these very critical events in the life of our community.

SUPPORT ANNIE

Just a reminder that the Wabash Area Community Theater is presenting Annie Get Your Gun Friday and Saturday October 10 & 11 at 7:30 PM in the Ford Theater of Honeywell Center. There will also be a matinee Sunday at 2 PM. This Irving Berlin classic is sure to be a crowd pleaser with many tunes you know and love. It's the story of Annie Oakley played by Emily Wenrich. Over 50 area residents will have stage parts for the play with many others assisting in sets, costumes, stage, and other support roles. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the Honeywell Center Box Office. Attendance at this year's production will contribute greatly to the future of the organization.

NORTH CASS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION REORGANIZES

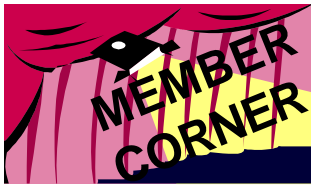
The North Cass street businesses have banded together again this year to attract customers to their businesses during the upcoming holiday season. Under the collective name North Cass Business Association, the group is seeking any business north of Stitt street that would like to participate in some retail promotions geared toward drawing customers into their businesses to join the group with a contribution of \$50. Members are discussing administrative issues as well as a free turkey giveaway climaxing with Santa's arrival, discount coupon flyers, Santa hours and home, and activities to be held next spring. Current members are Carl Sands, **Daywalt Pharmacy, First Farmers Bank and Trust, First Federal Savings Bank, Frances Slocum Bank, Glik's, The Herb Shop, Indiana Lawrence Bank, Love Bug, Maxx Tan, Miller Furniture, Mittings Electronics, Nowak's Hallmark, Ponderosa Steakhouse, Samuel Mancino's, Subway, the Paper, Video Sideline, Wabash Engraving, Wabash True Value, Wabash Plain Dealer, Wells Fargo, WKUZ Radio, and Yohe Realty.** Contact Chris Benson at Nowak 563-3614 or Sue Mitting at Mittings Electronics 563-8774 for more information. The Chamber appreciates all organizations assisting in the promotion and growth of Wabash businesses.

INDIANA CHAMBER ROAD SHOW RETURNING

At the invitation of a group of area Chambers of Commerce, the Indiana State Chamber will be bringing their popular legislative Road Show back to the area. Two years ago Wabash hosted the event at the Honeywell Center with the Marion Chamber. This time, we are again a partial host along with the Logansport, Peru, North Manchester and Rochester Chambers. The Road Show will be held Thursday, November 20, at noon, at the Logansport Mall Community Room. Cost will be \$15. Flyers of invitation will be sent or you may register by calling or sending to our local Wabash Chamber. Please put the date on your calendars so that we have a good Wabash representation. All 2004 state legislative issues will be addressed in a preview format as the state Chamber lobbyists take to the road to discuss their positions on the hot issues for the next session.

CHAMBER ANGELS RETURN

The conference room of the Wabash Area Chamber of Commerce is now functional again thanks to the generous donation of tables and chairs from **YOHE REALTY!** Thanks also to **K & R OFFICE SUPPLY** for making it possible for us to make the purchase locally and donating an additional table. Our Wabash businesses are really Angels!



Spotlighting Chamber Members!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(please add to your Buyer's Guide)

D. HILTON SPARKS MD, PC - 400 Ash Street, Wabash, Indiana 46992. Contact D. Hilton Sparks MD, FACS, President. phone 260-569-2321, fax - 260-569-2918. Dr. Hilton Sparks MD, FACS is a Board Certified general surgeon providing a wide range of surgical procedures including advanced laparoscopy, endoscopy, and cancer care. As a new resident, he hopes to become involved with local projects and the community.

CRYSTAL GLASS & EXTERIORS, LLC - 150 Southwood Drive, Wabash IN 46992 Contact Doug and Amy A. Kroft, Owners. Phone - 260-563-1911, fax 260-569-1229. Doug and Amy Kroft as new owners of this business offer their expertise in new glass, screen, and mirror products as well as repair. Replacement windows of all brands are also in their specialty line.

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

HOSPITAL GALA TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY

The **WABASH COUNTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION** is in the process of planning the 2003 GALA to be held Saturday, November 15. Proceeds from this year's event will go toward Charity Care - a low income, uninsured home healthcare patient program, and a new cardiac monitor for the Emergency CareCenter. Sponsorship gifts are needed from local businesses along with sponsorships of specific items dealing with the GALA. In addition tickets are now on sale for the event as well as the Cash Raffle to held that evening. The foundation is proud that all donation proceeds will stay right here in Wabash County. You will be supporting something that may help out your own family or friends and neighbors. Call Karen Newhouse at the Foundation office 569-2254 to see how you can help. Remember to buy your tickets for the GALA and the Raffle!

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>MEMBER</u>	<u>JOIN DATE</u>
Allen Insurance Agency	1985
Alumitech	1994
American Diabetes Association	2002
American Express Tax & Business Service	1985
ARC of Wabash County	1978
Avalon Village Townhouses	1984
Bain, Mary Anne DDS	1993
Biltz Agency, Inc.	1986
Bowen Center	1981
Bucheri, McCarty and Metz	1989
Burger King	1994
Centennial Wireless	1993
Cintas The Uniform People	1993
Community Foundation of Wabash County	1993
Companion Animal Hospital	1985
David L. Mann, CLU CFP	1978
Daywalt Pharmacy	1977
Edward Jones & Company	1979
EJP - Midwest	1988
Family Dentistry of Wabash	1984
Family Physicians Associated	1985
Ford, Marilyn	1986
Ford, Richard	1991
Frierhood Tire & Alignment	1992
Ear, Nose, Throat Assoc., P.C.	1986
Heartland Career Center	1994
Hoffman Nursery & Landscaping, Inc.	1983
Honeywell House	1992
Imagistics (Pitney-Bowes)	1999
Integrity Builders of Indiana, Inc.	2002
J&K Aquarium & Pets, LLC	2002
Kroft Construction	1992
Lovebug Floral Boutique	1992
Maggart Pontiac Cadillac	1990
McKillip Seeds, Inc.	1978
Mi Pueblo	2000
Miller's Merry Manor West	1983
Mitting's Electronics & Computers	1983
Myers & Son Jewelers	1977
Office Concepts, Inc.	1989
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	1986
Orthopaedics Northeast, Inc.	1987
Physician's Health Plan of Northern Indiana, Inc.	2000
Pizza Hut	1985
Pleasant Home Farm, Inc.	1981
Portraits by Kimberly	1994
Reynolds Oil Company	1978
South Side Supply	1983
Swingsets, Inc.	1994
Thermafiber Inc.	1977
Wabash Chiropractic Center	1977
Wabash City Schools	1984
Wabash County Farm Bureau Inc.	1992
Wabash Inn	1985
Wabash Valley Landfill	1988
Wabash Veterinary Hospital	1985
Wells Chiropractic Center	1988
White's Residential & Family Services, Inc.	1987
Yohe Realty	1979
Young's Water Conditioning	1993

Whatever your business needs may be, remember to shop **WABASH** first!

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

**HARSHBARGER REPORTS COUNTY
 GROWING**

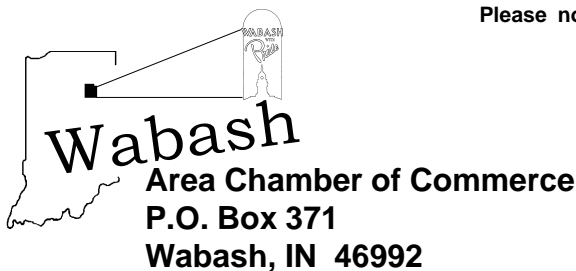
Dr. Richard Harshbarger, Professor Emeritus Manchester College delivered some good news to Wabash County in his monthly economic briefing. His local economic index rose to 122.4 (1985=100). This index indicates growth in the 2nd quarter of 2003 and is above the same period a year ago and above the December 2002 figure. His index uses industrial demand for electricity (up 3.5%), local bank deposits (up 1.4% not adjusted for inflation), employment (up 1.7%), and housing starts (flat). The unemployment rate had remained at 5% through June, but preliminary figures for June show a jump to 7.5%. However, employment numbers are also up. Keep in mind that the old rule of thumb taught in econ in the 80's was that unemployment rates of 5% or below were considered full employment. With recovery commencing in the national economy, conditions in Wabash County also are improving and should continue as indicated by the increasing output.

	<u>UNEM</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NATION</u>	<u>EMPLOYED</u>
07/03	7.5%	5.4%	18	6.3%	16,310
06/03	5.0%	4.9%	45	6.5%	17,030
07/02	5.6%	5.2%		5.9%	16,780

CHILI FOR CHARITY

Watch for this new event coming Saturday, October 18, 2003 at Paradise Spring Historical Park. The aroma of chili will be in the air as the best chili cooks in the midwest will gather to compete as part of a CASI sanctioned Wabash Cannonball Chili Cookoff. Organizers Wild Bill Gerting and Steve Bowman are looking for sponsors - \$50 for base, \$120 for mid-level, and \$200 for major. Or, you may donate a raffle prize. Of course the ultimate would be to form a team and bring your pot and ingredients down to cook your special recipe. Proceeds will be divided between FOP's Shop with a Cop, Wabash County Animal Shelter, Hospice, and Habitat for Humanity. For more details call Bill at 563-7770 or Steve at 563-1559. Let's make this ANNUAL.

Please notify us of any changes on address label



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BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS

Date: **October 8, 2003** **7- 8:30 a.m.**

Business Sponsors -

**Wabash County Hospital
Wabash Area Community Theater
First Farmers Bank & Trust
Wabash Co. WASA - Tobacco Coalition**

Emcee: **Greg Smith, WKUZ**

LUNCH & LEARN

November 13, 2003

Recognizing Drug & Alcohol

Abuse in the Workplace

Presented by:

Dr. Kay Roy, The Bowen Center

Sponsor: Wabash County Hospital

Noon - 1 pm

Cost \$10 member / \$20 non-member

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call the Chamber office 563-1168

The next BBH (after August) is October 8,

est 2nd 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 2nd 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-

