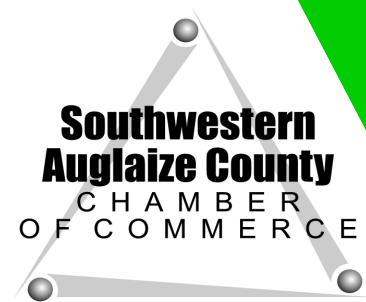


The Chamber Points

Serving Minster, New Bremen and New Knoxville since 1998



Volume 12, Issue 2

March - April 2010

Our Chamber enters the world of social media!

Things have changed since the Chamber of Commerce formed in 1998. One of the changes that can most benefit our chamber is the development of social media on the internet.

One of the primary functions of our chamber of commerce is to promote member businesses and organizations in an effort to help them grow and serve our communities. We've always done well with the traditional media outlets: radio, TV and newsprint, and we're fortunate to have strong relation-

ships with organizations in each of those outlets.

However, in today's world we need to be able to reach out to more people more effectively. So, we've taken steps to increase our presence on the internet. We've renovated the chamber website (www.auglaize.org) and now we've "taken the plunge" into social media.

After recently attending a Chamber of Commerce Executives of Ohio conference in Columbus where social media was discussed and presented, it became clear

to me that we need to boost our online presence. The SWAC Chamber now has a presence on both **facebook** and **twitter**. We'll utilize these outlets on an almost daily basis to disseminate information about SWAC C of C members, events and promotions.

You can find us on facebook by searching for "*southwestern auglaize county chamber of commerce*" and then simply become a "fan" of our page. To find us on twitter, just search for our "handle" of "*swacchamberguy*" and that will take you to our twitter page where you can become a "follower" and receive our "tweets."

With these social media outlets, you can now keep up with us online and on many mobile devices!

Spring Fever Weekend!!!

We have a new retail merchant event coming to the Golden Triangle March 4, 5, 6 & 7: "**Spring Fever Weekend.**" Eight local merchants are participating in the event this year and it is shaping up to be an interesting weekend.

The idea came out of the Chamber of Commerce "R -n- R" (Retail and Restaurateurs) networking meetings that began back in December. Linda Kuenning of Western Ohio True Value Hardware thought it would make an "interesting, valuable weekend" for her clients if she offered several free "how-to/do-it-yourself" type seminars over the course of an entire weekend. As the R -n- R meeting progressed, some really great ideas began to take shape.

Some merchants are offering seminars, some are offering promotions and opportunities for savings. All of them are really thrilled to have the opportunity to expand

their usual marketing efforts to include this thrust. Each merchant will have their own schedule of events. So, times and dates will vary. Visit the Chamber website at www.auglaize.org for details on all that's being offered.

This year's Spring Fever merchants include

Minster Flowers and Gifts
Coldwell Banker South Shore Realty (New Bremen)
Topsy Turvy Toys
The Looking Glass Salon
Emmy's Bridal
Cornerstone Shop
SecurCom (Minster store)
Western Ohio True Value Hardware (Minster store)

Get out of the house and visit these merchants during the 1st Annual Spring Fever Weekend!

"Joining together to do what none of us can do alone..."

Chamber Member Spotlight

Garmann/Miller and Associates

38 S. Lincoln Dr. P.O. Box 71

Minster, OH 45865

(419) 628-4240 e-mail: gma@garmannmiller.com

"...taking pride in helping shape the communities we serve."

Garmann/Miller and Associates is a full-service architectural and engineering firm established in 1992 in Minster, OH.

Our three senior architects have over 60 years combined experience. A recently established engineering department greatly compliments our architectural staff and creates a one-stop solution for all your building and renovation projects. In addition, engineering is available to assist businesses and contractors with state approvals, power and mechanical upgrades and complete engineering design work.

The firm believes strongly in the principle of providing exceptional quality.

At Garmann/Miller Architects and Associates, we understand the impact a building has on its community. After all, the product of our efforts will be here for many generations to come.

Garmann/Miller's success has been the result of a strong work ethic and customer satisfaction. Our ability and willingness to "Listen" to the client has delivered projects "Best" suited to meet their needs.



Executive Board

Rob Albers

President

Lisa Davidson

Vice President

Chris Fyock

Treasurer

Board Members:

Janet Hall

Jay Purdy

Sean Stroh

Sheila Hirschfeld

Ben Baumer

Dennis Gaertner

Staff:

Scott M. Frey

Executive Director

Pam Sager

Administrative Assistant

Chamber Calendar of Events

March

4	Grand Lake Young Professionals	5:30 pm at Easy Restaurant US 33 St Marys
4-7	<i>SPRING FEVER WEEKEND</i>	Retail merchant event
4	Quarter Auction for NK Legion	7:00 pm at the NK American Legion Hall
9	Chamber Board Meeting	11:30 am at the NK Village Admin bldg
17	Agape Ministries Bag Sale	9-4 pm at Agape Ministries in St Marys
18	VALU Class: "Industry/Econ Dev."	Tour Auglaize County manufacturers
21	"Spring Fling" Catering/Event Show	12-2:30 pm at the Minster K of C Hall
25	Community Career Connection	6:30 - 8:30 pm at New Bremen High School
28	<i>WCSM/CHAMBER HOME SHOW</i>	12-4 pm at YMCA South Branch

April

13	Chamber Board Meeting	11:30 am at the Chamber office
15	VALU Class: "History/Tourism"	Tour Auglaize County Historic/Tourist sites
17	United Way "Day of Caring"	Call (419) 739-7717 Volunteers Needed!!
21	<i>STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH</i>	11-1 pm at YMCA South Branch
22	Mercer/Auglaize CVB Annual Mtg	11-1 pm at WSU Lake Campus Dicke Hall

Crescent Players Present:

Meredith Willson's "The Music Man"

Yep, there's "trouble right here in River City!" Join professor Harold Hill, Marion and the entire Music Man cast in the James F. Dicke Auditorium at New Bremen High School April 8, 9, 10 & 11. You can purchase tickets at Western Ohio True Value Hardware in Minster or by calling 419-628-4166. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for K-12 kids and seniors. Tickets are \$12 and \$10 at the door.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce is to foster cooperation within the communities of Minster, New Bremen and New Knoxville, actively working to strengthen and promote the growth of our businesses, support our citizens through local activities, and enhance the quality of life in each community.

Please welcome your newest chamber members!!

January

Social Internet Consultants— Mr. Wes Wyatt 143 Bear Dr. New Bremen, OH (419) 629-0702; **Ward Construction**— Mr. Barry Rosebrock 385 Oak St. Leipsic, OH (419) 943-2450; **American Title Resources, Inc.**— Mr. Joel Allread 600 South Broadway Greenville, OH (937) 548-8300.

February

MAC Athletics, Inc.— Mr. Craig Oldiges 126 N. Paris St. Minster, OH (419) 501-2662; **Freedom Train**— Mr. Gary Katterheinrich 11932 SR 29 New Knoxville, OH (567) 204-6063; **Free Christian Church of God**— Ms. Roni Bakle PO Box 473 Continental, OH (419) 596-3103; **Stammen-Paragon Insurance**— Ms. Pam Kaiser 22 S Franklin St. New Bremen (419) 586-7500

From your Executive Director: An additional benefit of chamber membership...

One of the most “*under utilized*” benefits of chamber membership is our printing and copying service. While we certainly don’t wish to take away from our printing services member businesses, we do offer discounted pricing for chamber members to make copies and have their materials printed. Most of the customers who do make use of our services order copies and printing pieces in very low volume runs of 1,000 pieces or less. Our pricing for chamber members is as follows: \$.05 per page for B/W and \$.20 per page for color. Besides the cost savings, the convenience of not having to leave the Golden Triangle for your smaller run printing and copying jobs is appreciated by our members. So, give us a call if we can be of service to you!

Shop Locally



Look for the Chamber logo

Chamber rolls out new member business promotion!

We’ve begun a new business promotion event we’re calling the “Business Open House.” We held the first event at Paul Chiropractic in New Bremen in January and the event was a big success! Dr. Paul was very pleased to welcome over 25 visitors between 5:30 and 7:30 pm at his newly renovated office.

If any local business would like to host such an event, please contact us at the chamber office by phone or email and we’ll get something set up. There’s no charge for chamber members to take advantage of this new promotion. It’s a great way to showcase your business and take advantage of your membership in such a large and vibrant network of businesses and community organizations.

We will help you market the event and we’ll also be there to help you welcome guests. The key to making this a success is to be creative with your event or promotion, serve a few snacks and arrange for a give-away or two. We’ll get the word out through all of our media outlets and invite the public to attend, in addition to inviting chamber members. It’s a real winner!

Lock One Community Arts welcomes the African Children’s Choir to New Bremen

Be prepared to fall in love with these young “lights of hope.”

For over twenty years, the African Children’s Choir has selected the most needy and most vulnerable children in their countries as musical ambassadors. Their goal is to help break the cycle of poverty by raising public awareness and funds in an effort to change many more African children’s lives.

With intricate and fun rhythms, they entertain with popular and native African music, dance and bright costumes. They’ll help you recall the simple joys of childhood with their infectious smiles.

The African Children’s Choir has multiple choir teams traveling across the US and around the world. They have engaged and thrilled audiences in nearly every conceivable venue, including a national TV appearance on American Idol with Josh Groban.

The performance will be Sunday April 18, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the James F. Dicke Auditorium. Tickets are \$20/\$15 call (419) 733-0252 or visit www.lockone.org

Auglaize County Blood Mobile

St Marys	Mar 1st	12 - 6	Wayne St. UMC	New Knox	Mar 5th	12 - 6	American Legion
Wapakoneta	Mar 25th	11:30 - 5:30	St Joseph	St Marys	Mar 29th	12 - 6	Eagles (appt only)
Wapakoneta	Apr 12th	1 - 6	American Legion	Minster	Apr 19th	12 - 6	Knights of Columbus
Waynesfield	Apr 21st	11 - 5	Wayne/Goshen HS	St Marys	Apr 26th	12 - 6	Union Hall Local 200

For appointments, questions or information call:

419-738-3213 or 1-800-GIVE LIFE

CHAMBER SHORTS

A ROUNDUP OF NOTES FROM CHAMBER BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS FROM AROUND THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE!!!

- **Heritage Manor** December employee of the month **Samantha Menke** is the Residential Activities Coordinator for the company. She has been an employee for 10 months and was nominated by her co-workers and supervisors because of her "good-heartedness and willingness to go above and beyond." Congratulations Samantha!!
- The Masonry Institute of Dayton has awarded the "Citation of Excellence in masonry" to chamber member and architecture firm **Freytag and Associates, Inc. (Sidney)**. They were presented the award for their design of the Fort Loramie Elementary School.
- Fortune magazine recently ranked **Edward Jones** No. 2 on FORTUNE magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For 2010". **Ross Brown**, financial advisor in New Bremen, tells us that the firm has been on the list 11 years. FORTUNE editors said "The investment adviser weathered the recession without closing any of its 12,615 offices or laying off a single employee."
- Recently, the **Leugers Insurance Agency (Maria Stein)** recognized three employees for their service to the company. A 25-Year award was presented to **Jean Bergman**, A 10-Year award was presented to **Aimee Grieshop**, and a 5-Year award was presented to **Kim Firks**.
- **Dean Jim Sayer** has announced his retirement from the **Wright State University-Lake Campus (Celina)**. I know everyone here in the Golden Triangle would like to not only wish Dr. Sayer a happy retirement, but also say "thanks very much" for 2-1/2 years leading the campus. **Congratulations and Best Wishes Dr. Sayer!**
- **State of the Heart Hospice (Greenville, Coldwater and Portland, Ind.)** was recently awarded the "2009 Business of the Year" by the Jay County Chamber of Commerce (Indiana). Congratulations!
- **The Messenger Press (Carthagen)** recently received two Silver Awards from the National Association of Printing leadership's second annual "Marketing Plus" awards. They won in the categories of corporate re-branding and corporate identity. Congratulations!
- **Garmann/Miller (Minster)** Recently hired Randy Groff as a Revit Specialist/BIM Manager. Groff is a 1993 graduate of the University of Toledo where he received his Associate Degree of Applied Science in Computer Aided Drafting and Design Technology.
- **Locust Street Consulting (Minster)** is the new name of the marketing firm run by **Marissa Lundstrom**. The firm used to be known as "Locust Street Designs." The mission of the firm is to assist non-profit organizations and small businesses in achieving their fund raising and marketing goals through innovative marketing communications, training and creative services.
- **Wright State University- Lake Campus (Celina)** won top design honors in the American Institute of Architects' competition for the newly renovated campus building, receiving an "Honor Award" for the AIA Cleveland Chapter competition. The project was judged to be the best of six design winners in the renovation category.
- **Agape Ministries (St Marys)** is currently working to increase the size of their operating facilities by 10,000 square feet. Once the construction on the new building (next door to their current facility at 1220 E. Spring St.) is complete, they plan to move the thrift store into the new building. This will enable them to expand operations in the existing building to include additional programs and services. Their customer base has expanded and grown so their ability to expand with that growth will enable Agape to serve more people.

LOOKING AHEAD

- WE'RE HOPING TO BE MOVING INTO THE LOCKKEEPER'S HOUSE IN MAY
- THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OPEN WILL BE FRIDAY JULY 16, 2010
- AN HISTORIC LUNCHEON MAY TAKE SHAPE IN NEW KNOXVILLE!!
- APRIL 21, 2010 "STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON"