

# Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

## A Message from the President

Well the first quarter is over and April 15<sup>th</sup> has come and gone. Hopefully you all had a good 2002 and 2003 is off to a good start.

Please remember that the Chamber can, and wants to help you be successful.

There's a bank that advertises that there is no such thing as fate in bringing business customers together. They say that they go out of their way to make business connections for their clients. Well that's what the Chamber is all about, making connections. Over the next few weeks a representative of the Chamber, Rikki Haas, will be contacting you to update the information we have about your companies. The more information we have about you and your business, the more we can share with potential customers. Please give her a few minutes of your time to answer her questions.

At the last meeting I also touched on the anticipated increases in Workers Compensation premiums. Stay tuned! We will be having more information on how the Chamber, through our partnership with NOACC, may be able to help in this area also.

Have a good month!

Get Involved, Stay Involved!

*Ed Kent*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Mantua Village Neighborhood Watch Yard/Garage Sale

Find treasures galore at the second annual sale on **Saturday, May 24** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Buchert Park. Call 330-274-0549 with questions.

### Summer-in-the-Park Art Fest

The first annual Summer-in-the-Park Art Fest, presented by Crestwood Band Patrons and The Western Reserve Art Society, will be held on **Saturday, June 21** 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Buchert Park in the Village. Artists - for information on displaying your creations, contact Chris Chaykowski at 330-562-0729 or [WestResArtSoc@aol.com](mailto:WestResArtSoc@aol.com).

### Potato Festival Committee

Join Potato Festival volunteers at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, May 19 and Monday, June 23** in the Buchert Park lodge to help plan the September event. For details, contact Joan Sweet at [jsweet@middlefieldbank.com](mailto:jsweet@middlefieldbank.com) or 330-274-0881.

### Garrettsville Business Showcase

Set up a display or visit to get ideas. For details on the **October 2** showcase, contact Joann Vance at [jvance@middlefieldbank.com](mailto:jvance@middlefieldbank.com) or 330-527-2121.

### Christmas Tour of Homes

Merchants in the Village are encouraged to decorate in early-**November** and plan extended business hours during the tour. For information, contact Virginia Goodell at 330-274-2376.

### Put Money Back in Your Business

Chamber members benefit from the collective bargaining of Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce. Save on workers comp, insurance, credit card processing, business planning, web site development, and more. Visit [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) for details.

### Mantua Corners Construction

Left turn lanes are being added to St. Rt. 44 at the intersection of St. Rt. 82 and a new traffic light will be installed. Though only one lane may be available at times, traffic will be maintained during the reconstruction.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Wednesday, May 21 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Shalersville Town Hall

#### Shalersville Township Officials

Hear about what's happening in the Shalersville area.

### Wednesday, June 18 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department

#### Speakers TBD

### Wednesday, July 16 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Mantua Township Hall

#### Mantua Township Officials

News from Mantua Township.

## What's New in the Village of Mantua?

Mayor Claude Hopkins brought members up-to-date with Village news at the April Chamber meeting. Significant accomplishments for the Village in 2002 include the completion of Reservoir Drive, extension of the Headwaters Trail from McDonald's west to Mennonite Road, finishing a new zoning code, supplying new playground equipment for the parks, and reaching agreements with Portage County regarding sewer and water service.

### Reservoir Drive

The long-awaited resurfacing of this road off High Street, along with installation of water and sewer, was completed when funds became available.

### Headwaters Trail

The extension west out of town, left only one section of the trail through the Village incomplete. By the time you read this, the final section will likely be in place! A 90' bridge over the Cuyahoga River, near the Village park, was funded through grant money, with no cost to area residents.

### Zoning Code

Last revised in 1991, the code and a zoning map were brought up to date in 2002.

### Water & Sewer

The Village water and sewer plants have been expanded with future growth in mind. The excess capacity allows the Village to extend service out of town to the new school buildings, the fire department, and the turnpike plaza. Portage County pays the Village for the services.

### Sate Audit

State Auditors check the books of municipalities every two years. The Village passed the 2001-2002 audit with no problems.

### 2003 Projects

The Sigtist graciously donated two signs to the Village so the "Welcome" signs north and south of town on St. Rt. 44 can be upgraded. Community organizations are also encouraged to provide new signs for the display area.

Due to the increased traffic on Main Street, turning lanes have been considered near McDonald's, the high school, and at High Street. However, the state must assess the need for these lanes and any traffic study this year would be affected by the construction taking place at Mantua Corners.

The Village is proud to continue offering services to keep the area clean. Curb-side trash pick-up is scheduled twice each year. The spring pick-up will be Saturday, May 3 at 6:00 a.m. Brush pick-up begins the first Monday in May and continues through the first Monday in October. Many municipalities are not able to offer these services as frequently as Mantua.

Township "trash days" are also coming up:  
Shalersville Township      Saturday, May 3  
Mantua Township              Saturday, May 10

## Conservation...the BIG Picture

At the April Chamber meeting, Chris Craycroft, Executive Director of the Portage Park District explained her organization's role and told the rest of the Headwaters Trail story.

The Portage Park District is a political subdivision governed by a volunteer 3-member Board of Park Commissioners who are appointed by the Portage County Probate Judge. Funding is provided by the Portage County Commissioners, state funds, private donations, and grants. Its mission is to conserve our natural and cultural heritage for the benefit and well-being of Portage County Citizens.

In addition to overseeing the Headwaters Trail, the Park District is responsible for 175-acre Towner's Woods off of Ravenna Road near Brady Lake, 103-acre Dix Park off of St. Rt. 44 north of Ravenna, 95-acre Chagrin Headwaters Reserve near Chamberlin Road in Mantua Township (not yet open to the public), 66-acre Breakneck Creek Reserve in Kent (in restoration), and The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail.



The Headwaters Trail will soon be complete between Garrettsville and Mantua Township. The next phase will connect Mennonite, near Mantua Center Road, with Chamberlin. Three private owners control the former railroad corridor here and one actively uses a portion. To avoid this area, the trail may diverge from the corridor, following the edge of privately owned land, or a bike lane may be added to the road. The final phase, between Asbury Road, and St. Rt. 700, also requires negotiation with private land-owners. A purchase agreement is in place and the Park District has applied for grant funds with hopes to develop this section next year.

Eventually the Headwaters Trail could be part of the North Coast Inland Trail, connecting Indiana with Pennsylvania and continuing on to Washington DC! Extending the trail East out of Garrettsville into Warren will connect it to the North-South Great Lakes to River Greenway, which is being developed from Lake Erie in Ashtabula County to the Ohio River in Columbiana County.

The PORTAGE Hike and Bike Trail will connect Ravenna, Kent, and Stow, leading to the Metroparks in Summit County and the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail, another North-South trail system.



Economic studies show the value of trail systems such as these. More Americans demand that green places be protected as a way to maintain their quality of life. Many businesses rate the livability of cities when determining where to locate. They look at schools, housing, proximity and abundance of outdoor recreational spaces. Trails and greenways bolster property values and make adjacent properties easier to sell.

The Portage Park District not only preserves the natural beauty of our area, but plays an integral part in ensuring Northeast Ohio continues to prosper.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### From Our Yard to Yours

Solon Exc. Sand & Gravel, Inc. has been in business for 55 years. It began in 1948 with Howard Sargent of Shalersville and Charles Pulsford of Bainbridge doing excavating, mainly in the Solon area. They put in many of the roads and dug many basements for the homes that were built at that time. Over the years the business turned more to mining and delivering sand and gravel than excavating. Mr. Pulsford retired in 1987 and Mr. Sargent continues to run the operation today.

Sand and gravel are industrial minerals that were formed by continental glaciers 10,000 to 2 million years ago. The largest sand and gravel deposit in Ohio is a 15-mile wide by 50-mile long area that exists in Geauga, Portage, Summit and Stark Counties. Ohio ranks 4<sup>th</sup> nationally in the production of sand and gravel used in construction. Additionally, Portage County is 4<sup>th</sup> statewide in sand and gravel production. Mining companies cannot pick and choose where they would like to mine, they must go where Mother Nature has created this valuable natural resource.

Solon Sand can deliver almost any type of aggregate – sand, gravel, limestone, as well as topsoil to contractors, businesses, and individual homeowners. The only restriction is that it must be 10 tons or more. Material can be dumped, spread, or “shot.” Drivers can spread a driveway so that almost no raking is needed. The shooter or slinger drivers can “shoot” material from a conveyor on the back of the truck. This is mainly used in new construction for backfilling basements.



Individuals or contractors can also pick up material at the yard located at 10925 Mantua Center Road. Available materials are sand, gravel, limestone and topsoil. The gravel is available in sizes ranging from a pea up to a baseball. The limestone ranges from fine up to softball size. Solon Sand is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. - noon and can be reached at 330-274-8241.

## State-of-the Art Track

The Crestwood All Sports Boosters Club is sponsoring a fundraiser for an all weather track at the site of the current high school track/football field.

The existing track is often unusable due to poor drainage. Last year, the track team had to pay to use Ravenna’s all weather track for meets because spring rain created so many puddles on Crestwood’s track.

The project includes a new football field, crowned with proper drainage, and a new track with a paved, rubberized surface that can be used all year. These upgrades will benefit the high school and middle school track teams (over 180 members), the football teams, band, and soccer teams, as well as athletes in other sports who will have a place to condition year-round. Physical education students and the community will also have year-round access to the track for walking and running.

The total project will cost approximately \$300,000. The school board has verbally agreed to pay half if the booster club raises the other half. Already \$50,000 has been raised.

Call Dana at 330-569-0072 for information on the “3-Digit Lottery Drawing” to be held in June. Tickets are \$5 each, with a chance to win \$50 each weekday and \$100 on Saturdays.

Business-owners...show your support and challenge others to match or beat your donation!



### Welcome New Member:

Gloria Vechery, T.L. Service Center

## Did Someone Say FREE Advertising?

Educate others about your business...without paying a dime! Your membership dues give you access to a captive audience at Chamber meetings and to the extended business community through this newsletter. Present a two-minute Business Highlight speech at one of the Chamber’s monthly meetings or write a Member Spotlight article for the newsletter. Don’t miss the opportunity for free publicity (first come, first served)!

If you would rather pay for advertising, you can do that too! Provide 250 copies of your 8.5” x 11” flyer to be inserted in the Chamber newsletter for only \$30 or provide art to be copied for \$60. Business card size display ads are also available for just \$25. Display ads will be published on a first come, first served basis when space is available.

To schedule your Highlight presentation, contact Ed Kent. Forward your newsletter submissions to Michelle Barnauskas or call for basic writing and design advice. Turn the page for complete contact information.

## Chamber Goals

- To advance the commercial, industrial, educational, agricultural, and civic interests of the area
- To work together to support and promote local businesses and their products
- To work with elected officials to promote proper planning and growth
- To support and work toward local harmony for the betterment of citizens and businesses in the Mantua-Shalersville Area

Whether you are a main-street merchant or a mom & pop business on a back road, you need the Chamber and the Chamber needs you!



## Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

For Chamber information, contact Ed Kent at 330-274-0881  
ekent@middlefieldbank.com

For newsletter inquiries, contact Michelle Barnauskas at mlbarnauskas@hallrich.net  
330-678-0684 x223

## Get Involved!

Business entities, organizations, clubs, and individuals in and around the Mantua-Shalersville Area are invited to join the Chamber. You do not need to attend meetings to receive membership benefits. Participate at your own pace, on your schedule. We share a commitment to the community and we all hold a stake in the future of the area. Get involved!

For more information, contact one of the Chamber officers listed below:

<b>Yearly Dues:</b>	
Individual Patron	\$25
0-5 Employees	\$50
6-20 Employees	\$100
21+ Employees	\$150
Village/Township Offices - No Charge	

President:	Ed Kent, Middlefield Bank	330-274-0881	ekent@middlefieldbank.com
Vice President:	Paulette Nichols, Bank One	330-274-2257	pjmnichols@aol.com
Treasurer:	Cindy Janson, Pastimes	330-274-9002	past9002@aol.com
Co-Secretary:	Edie Benner, Advanced Rehab	330-274-2747	bennerek@aol.com
Co-Secretary:	Becky Newell, Benner Masonry	330-274-3238	bbjnewell@aol.com



**“Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes but they never quit.”**

Conrad Hilton, Hotel Executive

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**Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce**