



Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce

A Message from the President

As you all know by now, I believe good things happen when people get involved. Saturday June 28 was that kind of day in Mantua. The Portage County Soap Box Derby came to town along with hundreds of people...and it sure felt like a good time was had by all! "THANKS" to a lot of great volunteers.

First of all, congratulations to the two winners, Chad Heritage in the Super Stock Division and Christina Matthews in the Stock Division. GOOD LUCK in Akron!!

Now, a little story about what makes volunteers special. There were volunteers from other regional Derby sites and some from other states, who traveled here at their own expense to make sure the races went as smoothly as possible for the kids.

In the semi-finals there was an accident between two cars. I was totally amazed that after making sure the participants were okay, all racing came to a halt and everyone involved in the derby, including competitor's teams, had one focus – that was to repair the cars involved so that they could continue racing. That accomplished, parents of the other racers took up a collection to cover the costs of parts necessary to fix the cars so the racers would not have to pay for them. Christina Matthews is a champion today because they made sure she could race again.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Monthly Meeting at Mantua Township Hall

Feature: Mantua Township Trustees

Also...visit the Historical Society's museum

Wednesday, August 20 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Buchert Park Lodge in the Village

Feature: Mantua Village Council

Wednesday, September 17 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting at Shalersville Township Hall

Feature: Shalersville Township Trustees

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Mantua Community Yard Sale – Saturday, August 9

Mantua Rotary Club is sponsoring the second annual sale from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The cost to participate is \$10 and should be sent to JoAnne Frame, 5144 Coldbrook Dr., Mantua, OH 44255. The cost will cover advertising and fliers with maps, available at each participating household and at a central location on the day of the sale.

Potato Festival – September 5, 6, 7

The Potato Festival provides a great opportunity to promote your business. Over 7,500 people attend the weekend festival each year and the parade route through the Village is always lined with spectators.

You can set up a booth in the park and display your product by contacting Peggy Painley or participate in the parade on Sunday afternoon by contacting Phyllis Pryor. Just call the Festival office at 330-274-0770, leave a message, and the appropriate committee member will return your call.

You can help with event planning by attending volunteer meetings at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 28 and Monday, August 25 at the Buchert Park lodge.

Garrettsville Business Showcase – Thursday, October 2

Turn the page for details...

Oktoberfest – Saturday, October 4

This evening of fun, German-style food, beverages, music, and dancing will also serve as a fundraising event and membership drive for the Chamber. Only 150 tickets will be sold for the event at Main Street Place (10783 Main Street) in Mantua. The Oktoberfest is in planning stages now. If you would like to assist in any capacity, whether it be helping cook, serve, prep, clean up, etc. or if you have tents, picnic tables, or patio sets, please contact Becky Newell at 330-274-3238 or bbjnewell@aol.com.

Christmas Tour of Homes – November 14, 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23

Tickets for the third biennial Christmas Tour of Homes in the Crestwood community may be purchased at the Red Caboose at Mantua Station Drug Store on Main St. On Thursday evening, November 13, the Candlelight Tour will feature all the homes that are decorated plus an array of hors d'oeuvres and pastries served at the home of George and Helen Hazlett on First Street in the Village. Reservations for the candle-light tour, which costs \$15, must be made in advance with Virginia Goodell, 330-274-2376. Village merchants, don't forget to decorate and plan extended business hours to benefit from the additional visitors in town.

Behind the Scenes at the MSFD

Twenty Chamber members initiated the conference room of the Mantua-Shalersville Fire Department's new building during the Chamber's June Meeting.

Among the first to see the completed facility, the group enjoyed an in-depth tour, then a brief meeting in the comfortable conference room. Ken Justus and Brooke Byers proudly led their visitors around the building and explained how much thought was put into its design. Impressive in size and amenities, the station was built to accommodate growth over the next 50 years, so it would not be necessary to request additional funds from the community.



The much-needed additional space will eliminate overcrowding at the existing firehouse:

- six men who share one desk will get individual workspaces
- fire/arson investigation interviews can be conducted in private offices
- files will be stored on-site
- a computer station will enable fire reports to be promptly entered after every call
- walk-ins seeking medical attention (100 per year) can be treated in a well-equipped exam room rather than the back of the ambulance
- gear can be safely stored in a room with ventilation to remove carcinogens after a fire
- vehicle maintenance can be performed in service bays away from other vehicles
- laundry facilities will allow staff to be responsible for their own uniforms, bed linens, etc.



In addition, the station will serve as a shelter for the community in the event of a natural disaster. The kitchen is large enough to serve a crowd, there are several restrooms, and a diesel generator system can supply power for 26-48 hours. The generator and other large-ticket items were purchased in conjunction with the Kent and Rootstown Fire Departments to get the best deal.

Watch for news of the MSFD's open house this summer at www.mantuashalersvillefire.com.

Is Your Workplace Heart-Safe?

The facts: Everyday 600 people die of sudden cardiac arrest. The chance of surviving a cardiac arrest declines by about 10% for each minute without defibrillation. Beyond 12 minutes, the chance of survival is only 2-5%. For each 100 patients that arrive in the ER and have been treated with CPR alone:

- 95 die
- 2-3 survive a few days
- 1-2 have a chance of full recovery

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) delivers an electrical current to the heart which can return it to a normal beating rhythm. Anyone trained in CPR can use an AED to save a life! Contact the MSFD at 330-274-3535 to find out how you can get an AED for your workplace and for information on CPR classes.

Volunteers Bring the Chamber to Life

Have you received a phone call from Chamber-volunteer, **Rikki Haas**? A long-time resident of the area, Rikki volunteered her time to contact businesses to share membership information and update the Chamber mailing list. You may also hear from **Norma Sargent** with Chamber updates. Please be sure to provide the following information so you can keep informed of activities in the area:

- correct mailing address
- name of contact person
- email address
- phone number
- fax number



Pam Raines of Solon Sand is helping secure keynote speakers for monthly meetings. You won't want to miss presentations by:

- Portage County Regional Planning Commission
- Turnpike Commission
- Local government officials and committees
- ODOT
- Local organizations such as garden clubs, historical society, Rotary, Lions...

If you want to hear from a specific group or have suggestions for future programs, please contact Pam at 330-274-8241 or at SOLONSAND@aol.com.



Village Liaison, **Tammy Meyer** of Maxum Mortgage, will be working with merchants in the Village to capitalize on increased traffic during area special events such as the Soap Box Derby, Potato Festival, and Christmas Tour of Homes. If you have suggestions to make the most of these opportunities and draw attention to your business, contact Tammy at 330-274-2001 or tammy@maxummortgage.com.

Thank you Rikki, Pam, Tammy, and Norma for sharing your time and talents to strengthen the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce and make our community an even better place to live, work, and play!



Chamber Days at Six Flags

All work and no play? Not if NOACC (Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce) has anything to do with it!



Gather the family and save on admission to Six Flags Worlds of Adventure during NOACC Days, Sunday, July 27 and Monday, July 28. Mantua-Shalersville Chamber members are eligible for special pricing. Tickets are just \$20 each and can be purchased at the NOACC ticket booth at the park entrance

(on the ride side). Just identify yourself as a Chamber member.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Float on Down the River with Camp Hi

Camp Hi Canoe Livery on Abbott Road in Hiram Township is a family business dating back to 1966. The livery was started by George & Helen Hazlett on property owned and operated as a private resident camp by Helen's father, Robert Gruening, for over 40 years.

The family tradition continues as management has passed down to daughter Kendra Hazlett Becker assisted by husband, David, and children, Dylan and Madeline.

The livery is open from mid-April through October and features scenic Cuyahoga river trips of 7 miles, 10 miles, 13 miles and occasionally 2 days, with primitive camping on the waterfront. Kayaking has become popular so the fleet now consists of approximately 50 kayaks, 100 canoes, and 2 party canoes accommodating up to 6 adults.

Canoeing an unspoiled, scenic river is a mini adventure and provides a pleasant and educational activity for families, schools, youth groups, and private clubs. Picnic area is available along the riverfront and pavilions can be reserved. The livery number is 330-569-7621.

Giving Back to the Community

The Communications Factory in Mantua recently awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Keely Davidson, a graduate of Stow-Munroe Falls High School. Keely was chosen for her academic success, participation in extra-curricular activities, and volunteerism. She plans to study biology at Hiram College. Another deserving area senior will be awarded a scholarship next year. Interested students should check www.communicationsfactory.net for the early-2004 announcement.

The Economy of Workplace Smoking

Guest speaker at the May Chamber meeting, Aaron Bohannon, Coordinator of the Portage County Tobacco Prevention Coalition housed at Robinson Memorial Hospital, shared information about the effects of employee smoking. Having smoked himself, Aaron joined the Coalition to help other smokers quit and help businesses provide safer work environments. Some facts:

- Eight in ten smokers WANT to quit.
- Smoking is the leading cause of preventable deaths, responsible for 30% of cancer deaths.
- Smokers add \$300 per year in health care costs and \$45 per year in injury and Worker's Comp costs.
- Ohio has the fourth highest rate of smoking in the U.S.
- Ohioans could save \$560 in taxes if smoking were reduced by 20%.
- Workers exposed to secondhand smoke triple their risk of developing lung cancer.

The coalition can help you implement a smoking cessation program including incentive ideas for employees who quit. They can bring their 15-, 30-, or 45-minute educational presentation to your site. For information call 330-297-2483, email Aaron at abohannon@rmh2.org, visit www.tobaccofreeohio.org, or attend a free Coalition meeting at Robinson, room RMAB 150 at 11:00 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month. Lunch is included so please RSVP.

Promoting Business in Northern Portage

Don't miss the Garrettsville-Hiram Area Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase at James A. Garfield High School, Thursday, October 2 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

For a \$100 booth fee, you can market your products and services by distributing samples, selling products, holding a drawing...

Even if you're not ready to participate as an exhibitor, plan to attend this event to get ideas for the Mantua-Shalersville Area Business Showcase, which will be held next year.

For more information, contact Joann Vance at jvance@middlefieldbank.com or 330-527-2121 or the event chairperson, Chuck Klamer at 330-527-4336.

WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED?



Don't accept any rate hike without contacting NOACC.

Does your business have from two to 50 employees? See if NOACC can provide a better health plan at better rates. NOACC delivers:

- Choice health plans from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.
- Rates usually reserved for larger companies.
- Access to Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals health systems, and other quality providers.

NOACC (Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce) is a group of 100+ chambers and 28,000 members. To receive a FREE no-obligation quote from NOACC and Anthem: Call 866.466.6222 or visit <http://www.noacc.org/benefits/health.html> or fax your request for a quote to 216.447.9861.

Chances are, you won't be disappointed.



Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of Community Insurance Company, An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. *Registered marks of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Welcome New Members:

Ellen Imhof, DVM, Mantua Veterinarian Clinic
Don MacLearie, Individual
Traci Pack, Tax Pros

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!

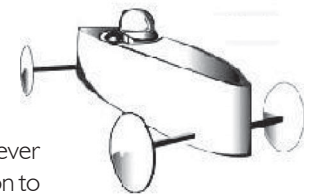


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I would also like to use this space to thank a few local people who really helped make this event the great success it was. I will try to be somewhat general so I don't forget anyone but if I do, you still have our thanks.

THANKS

- To Mayor Hopkins and Village Council for having the vision to welcome the Derby to town.
- To Chief Buchert and his department for helping to make it a safe day for our visitors.
- To the Lions Club for pushing the county committee to bring the race to Mantua.
- And last but not least, THANKS to the Chamber Members who logged many hours that day helping with whatever we could. We were the ones in those sharp yellow shirts with the new Chamber logo on them. Special mention to Woot's for the straw and Dean Stebbins for the truck to get it to the course at 7am and back at 7pm.



There will be more opportunities to showcase Mantua in the VERY near future. Just check this issue for upcoming events.

Hope you had a great 4th. Enjoy the summer. Get Involved, Stay Involved!

Ed Kent



“The world is moving so fast now-a-days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it.”

Elbert Hubbard

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
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