



## CHAMBER CHATTER

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*Official Publication of the  
Bedford Chamber of Commerce*

See Page 4 for Information on Ohio Indoor  
Smoking Ban

**January, 2007**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**January 11** "Business After Hours"  
Heritage Care Nursing &  
Rehabilitation Centers  
Open House 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
(see page 5 for announcement)

Hope all of you had Happy Holidays.

**January 17** State of the City Address  
Bedford City Hall, 7:00 pm

The Christmas Party was very successful and we hope that this is a harbinger of things to come for the chamber. Phil Switz is our new Vice President and he is filled with energy and enthusiasm for the chamber. We welcome his participation.

**January 24** Board of Trustees Meeting  
Chamber Office, 6:30 p.m.

### Other Coming Events

I'd like to thank Chuck St. John for his service as Vice President during the past two years. His tireless service both in health and sickness has provided direction for the Bedford Chamber of Commerce. Continuing in their positions will be Joanne Reardon as Secretary and Dale Witt as Treasurer. Thank you for your continued support in these positions.

**February 21** Dinner Meeting  
5:30 Catered Elegance  
**TAX STRATEGIES**  
Presented by – Dale Witt  
and THE HANTZ GROUP  
(see page 3 for more information)

### **2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael Guyer, L.P.C.C., *President*  
Guyer Counseling

Phil Switz, *Vice President*  
Catered Elegance

Joanne Reardon, *Secretary*  
Light of Hearts Villa

Dale Witt, *Treasurer*  
Dale Witt, CPA

#### Trustees

Lori DeVore  
DeVore Technologies

Rose Grossenbaugh

Rich Novak

Darla Perkins

Heritage Healthcare

Chuck St. John

St. John Funeral Home

John Whittaker

Non-Ferrous Heat Treating

During the last two years we have established many new programs. This year we have a golf outing, and, perhaps an expo in the works. Additionally, we will be polishing programs that we already offer.

The State of the City address is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, at the council chamber of The City of Bedford. Coffee and pastries will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the address will start at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see everybody there.

**Mike Guyer**

## Vice President's Message

It is a 50-degree day as I sit in my office on January 5<sup>th</sup>. I can not believe that this is suppose to be one of our coldest months of the year, and, as equally surprising, another year has passed by. During 2006 the Bedford Chamber had an exciting year. We hosted several events, a great summer season for Parties in the Park, networking sessions, and even got crazy with a few wild animals under the Circus Big Top. It is with your attendance, support and input of these events that the Chamber had a successful 2006.

Thank you for your support.

**GREAT NEWS.....** I am excited to announce the Chamber's First Annual Golf Outing on June 15, 2007, at the Glen Eagles Golf Course. And, YOU could win a new car with a hole-in-one contest on the front and back nine. There will be more information by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

We have guest speakers scheduled for the monthly meetings, and our traditional Party in the Park concerts will be better than ever. We are also working on several other events and special meetings. Keep watch for more information.

We also hope to have chamber members volunteer to serve on a variety of committees that will help to expand the Bedford Chamber in the coming year. It is with your help and support that we can make 2007 a HUGE success.

I am looking forward to working with you and wish you a prosperous and fulfilling 2007.

*Philip Switz*

## ADVERTISING SPECIAL

Bedford Chamber members can run a 4" x 4 1/2" ad in the Bedford Times Register for a cost of \$47.00 per ad per week. Members can run ads as many times as they like without any contract limits. Record Publishing will bill you directly. So contact Angie at the newspaper office, 440-232-4055.

## OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has announced two new programs available to Ohio Chamber members. The first is Corporate Financial Group (CFG), an ISO certified company that specializes in the collections of accounts receivables. The second new program is American Community Mutual Insurance Company, which is offering Chamber members. The first is Corporate Financial Group (CFG), an ISO certified company that specializes in the collections of accounts receivables. The second new program is American Community Mutual Insurance Company, which is offering American's Preferred Employer Plan---a health insurance plan for companies of varying sizes. More info is at [www.ohiochamber.com](http://www.ohiochamber.com) under "Chamber News."

## WORKERS COMPENSATION NEWS

NOW is the time to find great workers' comp savings through your chamber of commerce. **Comprehensive Risk Management** has been the endorsed Third Party Administrator of **NOACC** for over a decade, and has saved chamber members millions of dollars in premiums! So why wait?

To evaluate your current workers' compensation program

To maximize your premium discounts

To consider a more aggressive claims management approach

To decide if your current administrator is providing appropriate counsel

Think...CRM. Call the Chamber at 232-0115 for an AC-3 form for a free quote!

*A Special NOACC New Benefit*

**SMOKING CESSATION BENEFIT**

**Receive \$500 of Smoking  
Cessation Aids for \$66**

Take advantage of a new partnership formed with the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (TUPCF) to promote the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line, 800-Quit-NOW, and receive subsidized nicotine replacement therapy patches. Through The Wellness Council of Northeast Ohio, NOACC is the first Chamber Association in the Country to offer subsidized patches in conjunction with the national Quitline.

The Quitline offers a personal counselor (\$250 value) and 2 four-week supplies of nicotine patches (\$250 value). If you quit smoking or the program before being sent the second four-week supply of patches, you will be sent a \$33 refund of your \$66 payment.

As a chamber member, you and your employees can enroll at [www.healthyohio.org/quitnow](http://www.healthyohio.org/quitnow) or call Vicky Hawke from NOACC 216/447-9900 or Steve Musgrave at 440.354.8057.

**Welcome To The January 2007  
New Members**

American Testing Company Inc.  
Dr. Michael Krasnyansky, CEO  
5475 Perkins Rd.  
Bedford Heights, OH 44146  
440/786-1403

Environmental Testing, Compliance Monitoring and  
Research and Development

Bedford Auto Wrecking, Inc.  
Gregory Misnik, President  
7270 Division  
Oakwood Village, OH 44146  
440-232-6474

Auto Recycling and Repairs

**February 21<sup>st</sup> Dinner Meeting**

**GEARING UP TO FILE YOUR TAX  
RETURN? BE SURE TO JOIN US  
AT THIS DINNER MEETING**

Dale F. Witt and The Hantz Group will be giving a presentation at the Chamber dinner meeting. With everyone gearing up to file their tax returns, the main topic will be Tax Strategies, including:

- Review of the Tax Law Changes
- Maintaining Tax control
- Maximizing Tax Deferrals & Credits
- Maximizing Tax Deductions
- Impact investing has on income tax
- Understanding capital gains
- College planning options and taxes
- Year-end Tax Savings

**In addition to the tax ideas we will talk about the Hantz Group, what we do and what we offer. We look forward to seeing everyone there!**

## OHIO INDOOR SMOKING BAN (ORC 3794)

The following is an excerpt from the Ohio Department of Health, “Frequently Asked Questions.” For more information go to the ODH website, [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov).

**Q13: How does the law define an *enclosed area*?**

A13: An enclosed area is an area having a roof or overhead covering and walls on no more than two sides.

**Q14: Where can people smoke while at work or in public places?**

A14: According to the law, smoking is prohibited in public places or places of employment. Employers attempting to provide areas for smoking may provide an outdoor patio as defined in the law. If smoking is permitted outside the building, it cannot occur immediately adjacent to locations of ingress or egress. Additionally, the law also requires that a proprietor of a public place or place of employment shall ensure that tobacco smoke does not enter any area in which smoking is prohibited under this chapter through entrances, windows, ventilation systems, or other means.

**Q15: Is there a minimum distance from doorways, windows and ventilation systems where outdoor smoking areas may be located?**

A15: The law does not specify a footage requirement. It simply states that the distance must be sufficient to prevent the migration of smoke back into the public place or place of employment.

Columbus and other municipalities have used 20–25 feet as acceptable distances from doors and windows to prevent smoke migration indoors. It is possible that a footage requirement may be specified in the upcoming rules. However, until

rules are actually in place, business owners will have to use their best judgment in determining the optimal outdoor locations for smoking. These determinations should consider the proximity of doors, windows, HVAC units to the prospective smoking area(s) in addition to the prevailing wind direction.

**Q16: Am I allowed to smoke in the vehicle that I drive during work?**

A16: If the vehicle is company-owned, it is considered a place of employment under the law and, as such, is a non-smoking area. If you own the vehicle and do not conduct business with the public from your vehicle then the vehicle would be exempt from the smoking restrictions described in the law.

### No Smoking Signs

**Q20. What are the requirements for the No Smoking signs?**

A20: Posted No Smoking signs must:

- be conspicuously posted in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited, including at each entrance to the public place or place of employment
- display “No Smoking” signs or the international “No Smoking” symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it)
- contain only the 866–559–OHIO telephone number for reporting violations
- be of sufficient size to be clearly legible to a person of normal vision throughout the areas they are intended to mark

**Samples of acceptable signs may be downloaded from the ODH website, [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov). The ODH is not permitted to recommend a vendor.**

## Safety and Health Classes for Ohio Workers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Division (BWC) of Safety & Hygiene Training Center offers 74 occupational safety, health, and ergonomic courses. These courses are offered at the training center in Pickerington at the Ohio Center for Occupational Safety and Health (OCOSH) and at branch sites and BWC service offices across the state including Canton, Cambridge, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Portsmouth, Toledo, and Youngstown.

All courses are offered at no additional cost to Ohio employers who pay into the Ohio workers' compensation insurance fund.

Employers may enroll any number of employees. Courses are designed to emphasize practical application of safety principles, to help develop a safety culture, and to provide current and proposed standards for regulatory compliance.

For more information about BWC courses see [www.noacc.org](http://www.noacc.org) under Ohio BWC Literature or call 216.447-9900

## **Volunteers Needed**

**Are you geared to volunteer?  
Heritage Care Nursing  
and Rehabilitation Centers are  
looking for outgoing people to  
help in our activity departments.**

*For more information, please contact:*

**Jody Smith  
440-439-7976**

## *"Business After Hours"*

### HERITAGE CARE

### NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTERS

Cordially invites you  
to attend our

### OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 11, 2007  
5pm - 7pm

**Tour our newly renovated facilities  
Join us for hors d'ouvres,  
entertainment and a complimentary gift.**

### LOW VISION GROUP MEETINGS

**Do You Have Low Vision  
Due to Eye Disease?**

**There is a group meeting  
every month with the  
Cleveland Sight Center  
at Light of Hearts  
283 Union (Corner of Northfield)**

**Call 440.232-1991, ext.547  
for further information.**

*Save the Date*

*June 15, 2007*

*Bedford Chamber's  
First Annual Golf Outing*

*Glen Eagles Golf Course*