

CHAMBER CHATTER



August 2009

The Official Publication of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce

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Visit our Website at:

www.bedfordchamberoh.org

Our e-mail address is:

bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net

A Message From The Vice President

Summer Vacations!

Even with the lack of sunshine and warm temperatures that a summer can bring, it's still the time of year for vacations. Hopefully, everybody is able to recreate in some way, even in this economy.

We still have the opportunity to host Business After Hours. I think we have one potential candidate for this event, and we can run it as many times as we wish. Essentially you open your doors to other chamber members and the public in an effort for them to get to know you. Usually they run 4:00-7:00 P.M., lighter fair and beverages provided. These events have been highly successful in the past.

The Golf Event is coming up, see Mike Romito for details.

As many of you know, the Sun News is going to cease operations in our area. The Bedford Chamber of Commerce will look for new advertising venues for your marketing programs.

Have a safe summer,

Mike Guyer, Vice President



2009 Chamber Golf Outing

**Friday, September 11
Astorhurst Country Club**

*EVENT SPONSOR: UH BEDFORD
MEDICAL CENTER*

\$85.00 per person ~ Foursome \$340.00
Dinner only \$35.00 ~ Noon Shotgun
Price includes: Lunch 11:00-12:00
18 holes of golf with cart and steak dinner

EVENT SPONSORSHIP \$1000.00

Name on program cover
Signage on sign-in table and door prize table
One hole sponsorship

BEVERAGE SPONSORSHIP \$750.00

Recognition in program
Signage at lunch and dinner
One hole sponsorship

*LUNCH or DINNER SPONSORSHIP
\$500.00*

Recognition in program
Signage at lunch or dinner buffet
One hole sponsorship

HOLE SPONSORSHIP \$100

Program recognition
Signage on golf tee box

DOOR PRIZES

Any door prizes you would like to donate will receive program recognition! All Items MUST be received by Sept. 7, 2009.

Please contact Mike Romito to donate or sponsor: 440-232-1441



2009 Safety Forces Levy

Dear Residents and Business Leaders of Bedford,

This struggling economy has been difficult for everyone and it may get worse before it gets better. The residents and businesses of Bedford have been hit hard by this recession and the City of Bedford itself is no exception. The City of Bedford in the past few years has been facing large reductions of State of Ohio revenue that is normally paid to the city. There is also a loss of local income tax dollars that together will come to a \$2.7 million dollar shortfall.

The City of Bedford will be placing a Safety Forces Levy on the ballot on November 3rd of this year to address this shortfall. It will be used to maintain and improve the current staffing levels in the Police and Fire operations. This allows our operating budget to continue with the excellent services with which we are accustomed. This is why we live in Bedford. Our Safety Forces and our Services are second-to-none.

The last time we voted for an operations tax increase was back in 1991 – 18 years ago. This levy means that we will need to pay an additional approximate cost of \$15.00 per month and \$13.00 per month if you deduct real estate taxes on your federal tax return. While this may seem like a lot considering we are already pushed to the limit with everything else we are paying for, let's look at what else we can get for \$15.00. One large pizza or two medium pizzas can easily come out to \$15.00, while two movie tickets or dinner for two at a fast food restaurant can cost more than \$15.00. If we give up just one of these per month, we can continue to have the best Safety Forces and Services that we enjoy today.

If this levy fails, we will have to pay extra for these services that enhance our quality of life. To start, we will be paying extra for garbage collection in the amount of \$20.00 per month. This however, will not cover the entire deficit. The city will need to come up with other ways to make up the \$1.2 million difference. But how can the levy passage of \$15.00 cover the deficit, but \$20.00 for the refuse fee fall short? The levy passage will affect businesses and residents in Bedford while a failure of the levy will only affect the residents of Bedford. This is why it is so important to pass the Safety Forces Levy.

I know that there will be many questions regarding these issues. We have put together Citizens for the Quality of Life Committee and as chairperson of this committee, I invite you to come out to the Parties in the Park or the weekend festivals on the square and look for our table. Our committee members will be more than happy to answer your questions. Find out why this levy is in everyone's best interest!

The City of Bedford in the past few years has been facing large reductions of State of Ohio revenue that is normally paid to the city.

2009 Safety Forces Levy Information Sheet

On November 3, 2009 Bedford voters will consider increasing their real estate tax rate by 8.9 mills (\$15.00 per month). The increases will specifically be used to fund our safety forces and the proceeds will not go into the general fund.

Why is this necessary now? The City of Bedford is facing an annual \$2.7 million dollar deficit. The cause of this is a result of the reduction of State of Ohio revenue paid to the City in the amount of \$700k and a \$2 million dollar loss of local income tax dollars annually.

Public Communication: The City of Bedford held three (3) public ward meetings earlier this year to discuss various revenue enhancement recommendations and the public's response to these suggestions. This information was also reported to the public through articles in the Bedford Sun Banner. After numerous discussions with the City Council and the administration, the above levy was determined to be the most logical way to fund the estimated \$2.7 million dollar deficit.

How will the funds be used? Initially, the funding will be utilized to maintain the current staffing levels in the Police and Fire operations, and avoid any future reductions of staff.

What cost-saving measures have already taken place?

- 11 full time equivalent positions have been eliminated through retirements, resignations and attritions. Police (3 officers), Fire (3 fire medics), Recreation Department (2), Service Department (3). These cuts have reduced our workforce by over \$712K per year.
- Employee wage concessions have taken place for 2010.
- Starting in March of 2008, the City of Bedford implemented a hiring and wage freeze.
- Program reductions have taken place, including the suspension of the 24 hour sewer call service, cancellation of the annual Fireworks and shortened the swimming pool summer season.
- The City of Bedford's road and sidewalk program has been cancelled for 2009 (\$350k).

All capital purchasing has been suspended by all departments, significant reductions in purchase of office supplies, reduction in the purchase of road salt. Cancellation of all travel (excluding mandated certification coursework)

- Significant employee participation in health care coverage (\$200k annually).
- The City's operating budget has been reduced from a total of \$18.4 million in 2008 to \$17.7 million in 2009 (a reduction of \$700k).

When was the last general fund operational tax increase approved by voters? Eighteen (18) years ago. In 1991, the City of Bedford increased the tax rate to 2%.

What will this cost you (the taxpayer) to continue and enhance your quality of life services? The median Bedford home is valued at \$100k. Therefore, with the passage of this 8.9 millage levy, your increase will result in an additional \$185 per year (approximately \$15 per month) above your current tax bill. Residents that deduct real estate taxes on their federal tax return can save an additional \$2 per month, making their net payment \$13 per month.

What if this levy does not pass? The City of Bedford will be required to impose a refuse fee of \$20.00 per month (this will only generate \$1.1 million dollars annually). There will also be significant reductions in the staffing levels as a result of layoffs. This will ultimately result in the reduction and cancellation of quality of life services throughout all of the municipal departments. Every safety, recreation and quality of life service, ranging from youth programs to senior services, will be subject to cuts or elimination.

Helen Briggs, Chairperson/Resident

Tesa Tench, Treasurer



Cuyahoga County Public Library ~ Southeast Branch

Summer Programs

Go Green Robotics Camp

AUGUST 3-7, 1:30-3:30 P.M.

Building and programming our own robots — now that is cool! Go Green takes campers on a five day fun and fact filled mission to help the environment. Creativity and problem solving are encouraged to perform eco-friendly tasks. Using the LEGO Mindstorms systems that interact by infrared beam to our computers, campers will build turbines, recycling facilities, and more!

This program is open to ages 10-16 years old. This camp runs from **Monday, August 3rd through Friday August 7th from 1:30-4:30 P.M.** You can register now online or call the library. Registration is required and limited.

It's in the Bag!

Did you know Americans discard more than 300 million plastic bags a year? Go green with reusable book bags from Cuyahoga County Public Library. These handy and practical bags are for sale at the check-out desk for \$1.00. Do something good for your world.

Annual Ice Cream Social

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 AT 7:00 P.M

Get together with your neighbors for an evening of music and ice cream. Will be held outdoors if weather permits. Sponsored by the Friends of the Southeast Branch.

PC Help

You may schedule extended time, up to one hour, on library PCs located in our large meeting room. We can provide one-on-one tutoring, extra time to complete job applications, FAFSA forms, unemployment forms or online test taking. Time must be scheduled, by appointment only, on Friday and Saturdays mornings from **9:30 to 11:30 A.M.** Appointments will be taken based on computer and meeting room availability. Call **440-439-4997** to make an appointment.

Basic Computer Skills for Job Hunters

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 AT 6:30 P.M.

A hands-on workshop to introduce job seekers to the skills needed for today's job search—setting up an email account, attaching a resume to an email, the basics of Microsoft Word, the Resume Wizard in Microsoft Word, and registering for online job applications and job search engines. Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 P.M.

Finding the Real Deal – Free Legal Forms Your Lawyer Would Bill For!

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

Finding free legal forms on the Internet can be difficult—unless you know where to look. Melissa Barr, Cuyahoga County Public Library's legal specialist, will show you how to locate commonly used, free legal forms such as small-claims court complaints, modification of child support and living wills. Registration required.

Water Color Tips & Techniques

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 AT 7:00 PM

Watercolorist and graphic designer will demonstrate techniques and shares ideas for creating fresh, watercolor paintings. Registration required.

For more information contact:

Cuyahoga Public Library ~ Southeast Branch
70 Columbus Road, Bedford • 440-439-4997



Berwyn Technologies

Berwyn Technologies will continue to offer a **50% labor discount** to residents and business in the city, when they purchase products from us. Residents and businesses in Bedford get free pickup/delivery as always. Senior citizen discounts are also available. Thanks!

Chris Bulanda

Visit us on the web! www.berwyntech.net

NOACC NEWS

Do not forget to check the NOACC website for all of the member discounts you can receive including the sign up for BWC and health insurance with discounts to benefit our members! Go to www.bedfordchamberoh.org and click on the link to NOACC for your savings!

Southeast YMCA

CPR Training - Every Month

Do you or your staff need CPR training? The Southeast YMCA offers a Red Cross CPR certification class each month. Times: 6:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M. For more information, call Kyle Wilkinson at **216-663-7522**.

*Maureen Mizerak, Executive Director
Southeast YMCA*

460 Northfield Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146
Telephone: 216-663-7522 · Fax: 216-663-9043
Email: mmizerak@clevelandymca.org

Member-to-Member Discounts

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for businesses that would be interested in offering member-to-member discounts to other Bedford Chamber businesses and their employees. This would be a great way to promote your business and support other businesses in our chamber. If you are interested please call our office at (440) 232-0115.

Attention Bearcats' Fans:

Bedford High School is teaming up with Side Effects, Inc. to install a new scorer's table in the gymnasium at no cost to the school. The scorer's table will be used for boys' and girls' basketball, girls' volleyball, wrestling and any other sporting events held in the gymnasium. Band competitions as well as a wrestling invitational, and the annual Hoops on Northfield are also held in the Bearcats' gym.

Local advertising sponsors will be featured on advertising panels and will be seen at all times on the scorer's table. All ad panels will be full color, backlit, professionally designed and will provide your business prime exposure to thousands of spectators each year. In addition to the local community, fans from the surrounding areas will attend the many events that take place in the gymnasium.

Your price includes art work, installation and 3 years of prime exposure in the Bearcats' gymnasium.

The cost is \$2,500 for 3 full years of advertising on the front of the scorer's table. The advertising panel is approximately 1.5' x 2' (only 4 spots available).

In addition:

Bedford High School will include the following incentives for sponsors at no extra cost:

- Sponsor Night for your business to hand out fliers or coupons
- A Fan Rewards Pass
- PA announcement of each sponsor during each event at the athletic site
- Dedication Night Ceremony- all business sponsors honored during one home game

**All incentives are coordinated through Bedford High School.*

This advertising sponsorship opportunity is industry exclusive. If you choose to become an advertising sponsor, your competitor is not permitted to participate in the project. When your contract is up for renewal, we will offer you the first right to renew. This is an exciting project that will not only provide a state-of-the-art scorer's table at no cost to the school, but will also provide a long-term revenue stream for the athletic program. I am certain that loyal Bearcats fans will reward your sponsorship with their patronage.

Please direct all questions to Jake at Side Effects Inc., (937) 704-9696 ext. 267.

Thank you for your continued support of Bedford High School and Bearcats' Athletics.

Sincerely,

Jake Holznecht, Project Manager
Side Effects, Inc.

Jake@sideeffectsinc.com



**Chanel Firebird Boosters
2009 Casino Bus Trip
To Mountaineer Racetrack
Casino in West Virginia**

Saturday, October 3, 2009

This is a ONE DAY TRIP – Leave at 10:00 A.M. and you're back by midnight. It's a great way to meet Chanel parents – Maybe you just need a day away...

**Bring your friends –
Have some fun!**

Cost \$30.00 (includes \$15.00 of Casino Coins) (That means the trip only costs you \$15.00.)

**Alcoholic Beverages
Permitted!**

**Bottled Water and Snack
Provided!**

**50/50 Raffle and Bingo
on the Bus!**

**Reserve your seat NOW –
Limited Seating**

We will be leaving from St. Peter Chanel High School. Each bus can accommodate 54 people.

When: Saturday, October 3, 2009

Bus leaves at 10:00 A.M. and returns at midnight

Where To: Mountaineer Racetrack Casino in West Virginia

Each person will need to present a valid state issued photo ID.

Any questions please call Gina DeBaltzo at (216) 780-4063.

Zeppe's of Bedford Auto Mile

320 Broadway Avenue · 440-232-3100



\$5.99 Lunch Specials!!

Lunchtime Calzone and 20 oz. Beverage
(Cheese or Pepperoni only)

Lunchtime Rigatoni, Side Salad, Garlic Twists and 20 oz. Beverage

Small Fresh Tossed, Grilled Chicken or Chef Salad and 20 oz. Beverage

7" Meatball OR Hot Sicilian Sub and small order of JoJo's

Small Boneless Wings, small order of JoJo's and 20 oz. Beverage

Also...

Fresh Pizza By The Slice!

- Cheese \$2.25
- Sausage or Pepperoni \$2.75
- Specialty \$3.00

Slice of Pizza, Small Side Salad and 20 oz. Soda

Slice of Pizza, Bag of Chips and 20 oz. Soda

Slice of Pizza, Cup of Soup and 20 oz. Soda

Offers available for pick up or delivery!

Not valid with other discounts or coupons.

\$10 minimum order for delivery please!



Holy Spirit Academy is looking forward to beginning its 6th year! There are still a few openings for enrollment in grades K-5. Call (440) 232-1531 for information.

Also...

Cookbooks For Sale

Cookbooks to support Holy Spirit Academy School are still available for sale. They are \$8.00 and make great gifts! Contact: Lisa DeLuca at (440) 439-2537.

Holy Spirit Academy
470 Center Rd., Bedford 44146

**UH Bedford
Medical Center
Free Community
Education Talks**

6:00-7:00 P.M.

Community Room in the lower level of UH Bedford Medical Center, 44 Blaine Avenue,

Wound Care

Thursday, August 6

Urology Issues

Thursday, September 3

Cardiac Care

Thursday, October 1

Pains You Shouldn't Ignore

Thursday, November 5

Reservations required:

(216) 767-8852

andrew | mizsak + associates

government relations, lobbying, &
public affairs consulting

Ever have a question and the only person who had the answer was an elected official? Ever say “There ought to be a law...?” Ever want to gather a group of people and say “We should go to the Statehouse and make our voices heard?”

If your answer to any of those questions is yes, then Andrew Mizsak & Associates is here to help!

Andrew Mizsak & Associates is a Bedford-based government relations, lobbying, and public affairs consulting firm that aims to serve small businesses, local governments, and individuals who need assistance in navigating the waters of the state-level governmental process, or those who wish to build and foster relationships with public officials.

Our firm’s Principal, Andrew Mizsak, has over 10 years of government experience at various levels of Ohio government (State, County, and Local), and can offer to you the ability to increase your company’s awareness on issues affecting small businesses, as well as help you and your employees become more engaged in the process of working with public officials. In this economy, where actions by the Ohio Legislature and Executive Branch are having an effect on nearly everyone, Andrew Mizsak & Associates can help you get your voice heard.

Andrew Mizsak & Associates’ number one quality is that we treat all of our clients like family. We will give you the personal attention you deserve, and can provide you with accessibility and support anytime, anywhere.

Should you desire more information about Andrew Mizsak & Associates, please contact us at 440-550-9620 or via e-mail at amizsak@sbcglobal.net

2009 Parties in the Park

- August 5** Wayne Tomsic (variety-polka)
August 1 Northcoast Mix (variety)
August 19 Billy Kaye Band (polka-variety)
August 26 Wolf Band (variety, polka, swing)
September 2 Frank Moravcik Band (the best in polka)

Parties in the Park Food Vendor Gionino’s Pizza

Parties in the Park Area Sponsors

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anonymous Donor | Meadowbrook Market Square |
| Ben Venue Laboratories | National City Bank |
| Berwyn Technologies | Mayor Dan Pocek |
| Robert Carson & Associates | Safely Home |
| City of Bedford | South Pointe Hospital |
| Coffee Cup Restaurant | St. John Funeral Home |
| Embassy Healthcare | Taylor Chair Companies |
| Holy Spirit Academy | UH Bedford Medical Center |
| Hukill Chemical | US Bank |
| LaGra Jewelers | VFW Post 1082 |
| Light of Hearts Villa | Woodside Village |



Bedford Chamber of Commerce · www.bedfordchamberoh.org
Email: bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net

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