



Chamber Chatter

March 2009

The Official Publication of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT...

Spring is Around the Corner!

With the economy in decline we have secured a presentation by SCORE with the goal of providing information that may lead to streamlining or enhancing a business or service.

They are funded by the small business administration and staffed by retired successful business persons. They provide free confidential business advice and counseling tailored to small business. Their presentation includes a description of the mission, skills, and counseling process. As well as how to start up a business, permitting, and low cost marketing alternatives.

April's program will be presented by Creative Konnections, a multi-media marketing company. This portends to be a very interesting presentation. It will be April 15th, so put it on your calendar, if you haven't already! I hear the menu might be "After Tax Beans and Wieners".

Mike Guyer
Vice-President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hello Everyone!

Well can you believe it? Spring is almost upon us, finally warm weather is on the horizon. That means its time to clean up our yards, turn our clocks ahead, turn over our flower beds and do some spring cleaning. Its like the genesis of our existence or the rebirth of our being. No matter how you look at it this means we are going to be warm again. And thanks to the sun and warmth we will have again our positive attitudes toward our everyday routines; talking to our neighbors over the back yard hedges and enjoying the sounds of our neighborhoods coming to life with children's laughter, lawn mowers buzzing and mom's yelling out the door that dinner is ready.

During this time of spring cleaning and rebirth don't forget that your Chamber is here and we are planning some of those moments of friendly get-together's for your spring and summer enjoyment. We have the Party in the Parks, the New Member BBQ, the Pig Roast, our fall Golf Outing, the Circus and our regular scheduled meetings. Please remember to keep us a part of your plans and join us at any and all of our programs and meetings.

Unfortunately I must now bring you information of a horrible breach of trust by an employee of the Chamber of Commerce. As some of you may have heard or read I discovered at the beginning of the year some errors in our accounts reporting. Upon further investigation I found that our Office Manager had used a debit card associated with the Chamber checking account to obtain funds for her personal use as well as pay personal bills and even purchase meals. These withdraws and payments started in January of 2008 and went till the end of December 2008. Although attempts were made on her part to put the money back into our accounts she never was able to replace the total amount. Upon many, many attempts to contact her by phone over a two to three week period and not getting any response I, with the boards backing, turned over our documentation and evidence to the Bedford Detectives Bureau. Upon investigation they opted to press charges and are attempting to gain restitution for us.

Currently we do have most of our bills paid and have enough money to get by the next few months until restitution is made. We currently have put into place several new checks and balances to make sure this does not happen in the future and are looking into the break down of checks and balances that allowed this to happen.

I want you to know that your trust in the board of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce is justified and we will continue to improve and implement means of protection for your investment in the chamber of which support our many programs.

As I conclude I would ask that you please keep in mind, as these economic times get tougher more and more hard working and devoted employees may stray from the path of honesty and integrity. Please review your own checks and balances and don't let good people have the chance to stray. Have a wonderful week and we will see you at our dinner meeting on March 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

Philip Switz
President

Next month's speaker



Creative Konnections Marketing, Inc. will be our guest speaker at our **April dinner meeting**. The topic of discussion will be: "How to Market and Advertise in Today's Economy"

Creative Konnections Marketing was founded in 2005 by Christina Kern. Elaine Sever joined the company in 2006 where both ladies have grown the agency with clients in the Cleveland market and throughout the United States.

They specialize in analysis of marketing strategies, development, media planning and buying. These ladies pride themselves on obtaining new clients, taking their current advertising dollars and purchasing the most effective campaign to build the clients business.

With over 15 years of combined experience, they have worked with many industries from restaurants, car dealerships, law firms, home improvement companies, and much more.

In 2008, they were sought after by several franchises around the country to speak about advertising and marketing during a political year.

Their success record speaks for itself. I recommend joining us **Wednesday, April 15th** to hear more.

St Peter Chanel News...

Fundraiser To Benefit Scholarship And Hospital

The St. Peter Chanel High School Community invites you to a luncheon at The Bertram Inn, 600 North Aurora Road, benefiting the Kim Masseria Scholarship at Chanel and The Ireland Cancer Center on Saturday, April 4, 2009. A Silent Auction begins at 11:00am with lunch served at Noon followed by Keynote Speakers.

Kim Masseria, the late mother of St. Peter Chanel graduates Anthony '99 and Michael '02, received care at The Ireland Cancer Center of Cleveland. In her memory, support is being asked for these two organizations that were of great importance to her. All proceeds from this event will be equally divided between the two organizations. Twenty dollars of the \$50 ticket is tax deductible. Please call the school at 440-232-5900 or visit www.stpeterchanel.com for more information.

Library News...

Southeast Branch
70 Columbus, Bedford OH 44146
440-439-4997

G2P Teen Game Day

Date Change!

Saturday, March 14, 2009 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Wii bowling and board games!! Get out of the cold! Bring your friends and have a great time together! Snacks will be provided.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, March 21, 9am to 3pm.

Mark your calendars for the library book sale! A wide selection of books, VHS videos, audio books and more will be sold at bargain prices for dollar-savvy shoppers. Add to your library without emptying your pockets.

All About Chocolate

Thursday, March 26 / 7:00 p.m.

Chocolate! Find out everything you've always wanted to know about America's favorite flavor. Local chocolatier, Olympia Candy, located in Strongsville, will supply all the delicious details and free samples!

Book Discussions

Thursday for Books

3/19 *The Road From Coorain* by Jill Ker Conway Join us for lively discussion on a variety of titles. Copies of the book are available a month in advance for check-out.

Thursdays, February 19th / March 19th / 7:00 p.m.

African American Authors Book Discussion

3/31 *Good House* by Tananarive Due Explore works by diverse authors. Copies of the book are available a month in advance for check-out.

Tuesdays, January 27th / February 24th / March 31st / 7:00 p.m.

April Newsletter!

**We Will Be Introducing A New
Newsletter Format!!**

**Please submit any information that you
would like us to included in the
April Chamber Chatter.**

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