



# Chamber Chatter

January 2009

*The Official Publication of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce*

## **2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Phil Switz, President**

Catered Elegance Party Center and Catering

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

Guyer Counseling

**Joanne Reardon, Secretary**

Light of Hearts Villa

**Dale Witt, Treasurer**

Dale Witt, CPA

**Trustees:**

**Lori DeVore**

DeVore Technologies

**Clyde Dubeansky**

Sterling Oaks Independent Living Community

**Scott Gongos**

St. Peter Chanel High School

**Gina Pieragostine**

Re-Max Haven Realty

**Mike Romito**

Romito Funeral Home

**Scott Shick**

National City Bank

**Visit our Website at:**  
[www.bedfordchamberoh.org](http://www.bedfordchamberoh.org)

**Our e-mail address is:**  
[bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net)

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

### State of the City Address and Dinner

Catered Elegance, 1160 Broadway Avenue  
Bedford, Ohio, 44146

6:30 pm – Networking

7:00 pm – Dinner

7:30 pm – State of the City Address

Dinner- \$10.00 Members and Residents

\$15.00 Non-Members and Non-Residents

State of the City Address portion is free to  
all.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year,

I know we all live a busy lifestyle trying to juggle work, family and our social events. Next thing you know, WHAM! The year is gone and the holidays have passed by us and the New Year has started. This can be a good thing. Your chamber is here to help you have a wonderful and prosperous 2009. As I sit here writing my first "Presidents Column" I am reminded of one of my favorite holiday movies, "The Bells of St. Mary's." I've watched it many, many times, I could probably recite most of it by heart. The best part to me is the bantering back and forth between Father O'Malley, Bing Crosby's character, and Sister Benedict, Ingrid Bergman's character. They had a wonderful relationship of give and take, and mutual admiration and respect for each other.

That's how I have come to feel about a lot of the people I have met through the Bedford Chamber of Commerce. It is such fun to come to our dinner meetings, educational and networking events, because there is that give and take. We are a stronger chamber when we come together and learn from each other, and do business with each other. One of the famous lines from Father O'Malley on his first day, " - one of the shortest speeches you'll ever hear - It's a holiday. Everyone take the day off!"

Now, you may not take the entire day, but be sure to take time to attend some of our many chamber events and programs. You'll be glad you did. And I am sure, with everything we are working on, you will find

they are well worth your time. Just as Bing says, "If there is anything you ever need, just dial 'O' for O'Malley," I hope that if there is anything that we can assist you with at the Chamber, please, just dial 440.232.0115. We would welcome your input, your suggestions and your participation, and hopefully we can help you and your business grow.

Have a great month and we will see you at our State of the City dinner meeting on January 28, 2009.

Philip Switz  
Catered Elegance

### Message from the Vice President Mike Guyer

WINTERS HERE!

Hope the holidays went well! A very promising year is underway for the chamber. Many new projects are under way and you will be reading about them in future editions of this newsletter. We have a very solid board with lots of energy and ideas about how to improve your business.

Congratulations to Phil Switz as our new board president and Clyde Dubeansky as our new board member. Returning members are Lori DeVore, Scott Schick, Gina Pierogostine, Mike Romito, and Scott Gongos.

Don't forget to attend The "State of the City" on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. See the attached invitation.

Mike Guyer

### A Message from the Past President

Now that I am referred to in the past tense, I thought a brief note to all would be appropriate.

For me, 2008 was a good year concerning the Chamber. Oh yes, there are many "should of, would of, could of" opinions that make it easy to criticize, but we are only volunteers doing the best we can. With the help of an excellent Chamber Board, we have once again tried to grow as a Chamber, and we have, so 2009 should be another positive year.

There are many who have helped, but to avoid overlooking someone, I prefer not to

mention names. Let's just say that those who were there when needed know who they are and to those I say Thanks.

I have made it clear that I will continue to be an active member of the Bedford Chamber. No longer being a Board member may just give me the opportunity to concentrate on some matters that need more attention, at the direction of our new president.

One person I do need to publicly thank is our office secretary Jeri Smith. We worked together very nicely and that made things much easier for me as president.

In closing, may I encourage our membership to become pro-active for the Bedford Chamber. Attend the meetings and events and get to know one another better. With the economy being a concern, all of us should be net-working our businesses among our Chamber members.

Thanks- It was a good ride!

*Chuck St. John*

### 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.**

### News from your Bedford Chamber of Commerce Office

In my last mailing for dues I mailed information for the new BWC plan for 2009 through NOACC. I hope this is something that your company can take a part of and save money by doing so! If you need more information on this benefit or any other benefit I can help with please call the office at 440-232-0115. I look forward to working with our businesses this year!

### Payroll and Supply Discounts for Members

There is now a discount available to our members through the chamber and NOACC for payroll through Heartland and business supplies through Independence Business Supply Company. Please go to our website at [www.bedfordchamber.org](http://www.bedfordchamber.org) and I have put the forms and information up under chamber member benefits. I can also mail them to you if interested. Just call 440-232-0115 and let me know!

### **SCORE - Counselors to America's Small Business**

For Chambers of Commerce Members: **SCORE** is offering free and confidential mentoring to help keep your business on track. **SCORE** counselors are experienced business owners or managers who have had the same or similar concerns in their business careers that you might be experiencing. They will listen and guide you through ANY concerns you might have at your business or a **SCORE** location. **SCORE** offices are located in Lake, Geauga, Lorain, Huron and Erie Counties. The main office is located at 1350 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Or stop in or call 216-522-4194 to arrange an appointment. Check out: [www.scorecleveland.org](http://www.scorecleveland.org) for more info.

### **NOACC NEWS**

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

Save money on Health Benefits without pinching pennies. As a chamber member with 2-50 employees, you can get a discount on any health plan from **Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield** — including industry-leading HSAs, HRAs and HIAs.\* While your competition is busy cutting corners, you get preventive care programs, prescription drug coverage and one-stop shopping for a complete benefits package. Click here: [www.chambersaver.com/noacc](http://www.chambersaver.com/noacc) to request a FREE quote online. You can also contact

your broker or call 800-551-3119 for more information. \*Discount only applies to Chamber members who do not already have Anthem insurance.

- **Big benefits for small business-** NOACC and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield have teamed up to save you money on your group health insurance. As a chamber member, you have access to a full range of health insurance offerings, from traditional to industry-leading consumer-driven health plans like HRAs and HSAs.

- **Save money with members-only discounts-** Chamber members who do not already have Anthem insurance are eligible for a discount on group health plans.

- **The convenience of one-stop shopping-** Take advantage of the administrative convenience of one-stop shopping for all your health, prescription, dental, vision, life, disability and employee assistance benefits.

- **Get more for your money with Healthy Solutions-** Go ahead. Compare Anthem's Healthy Solutions to the competition's programs. With Anthem, your employees get comprehensive wellness and disease management programs. Online resources to help them make smart decisions about their care. And, innovative tools that help them choose a hospital based on their specific needs.

Save the penny pinching for the supply closet. Click here:

[www.chambersaver.com/noacc](http://www.chambersaver.com/noacc) to request a FREE quote online. You can also contact your broker or call 800-551-3119 for more information

### **News from our Current Members**

#### **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](http://www.berwyntech.net)

### **ST. PETER CHANEL HIGH SCHOOL**

St. Peter Chanel Annual Benefit Auction Proceeds support scholarships and provide financial assistance to programs at St. Peter Chanel High School. Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 6:00p.m. Landerhaven Grand Ballroom 6111 Landerhaven Drive, Mayfield Heights, Ohio. Tickets are \$60 per person Please RSVP by February 6, 2009 For more information, please contact: Pat DeFranco at 440-232-5900, ext. 145 or Julie Kennedy at 440-232-5900, ext. 133

#### **50 Years of Chanel Basketball**

St. Peter Chanel High School  
Alumni Basketball Reunion Game  
Friday, February 6, 2009  
St. Peter Chanel Firebirds  
vs. Elyria Catholic Panthers  
5:30 p.m. Meet and Greet in the school  
cafeteria  
Honoring  
1959 First Team  
and  
1999 State Champions  
All Chanel Basketball Alumni are  
invited to attend the Reunion Game  
Come and meet Firebird alumni  
basketball players, coaches and teammates.  
Make your reservation today!  
Call Mrs. Pat DeFranco at 440-232-5900 ext  
145

### **Holy Spirit Academy**

**SAVE THE DATES!!  
Scholastic Book Fair!**

**Holy Spirit Academy PTO will be  
sponsoring the Scholastic Book Fair on the  
following dates:**

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 1:00 pm  
Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 1:00  
pm

**Come and shop the extensive selection of  
books for children, teens and adults! 370  
Center Rd., Bedford (St. Pius X)**

### **Light of Hearts Villa**

Spiritual Gathering Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
of the month except in July. 11:30am-  
12:30pm

### **Bedford Historical Society**

**Save the Date! March 7, 2009** is our annual  
Reverse Raffle. The main prizes will be  
\$1000 and there will be a cash bar and live  
music. Ticket cost \$45.00 per person. Tickets  
will be available through the museum or from  
Trustees.

### **UPCOMING CHAMBER DATES TO SAVE!**

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Chamber Dinner  
Meeting

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Chamber Dinner Meeting

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Chamber Dinner Meeting

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009-Chamber Dinner Meeting

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Parties in  
the Park

September- Chamber Golf Outing- More  
information coming

These are tentative dates based on last years  
schedule! Please watch for more dates and  
upcoming events in future news letters.