



CHAMBER CHATTER

Official Publication of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce
MARCH 2006

Our e-mail address:

bedfordchamberoh@sbcglobal.net

Our website: **bedfordchamberoh.org**

March 15: Dinner/Meeting at Catered Elegance at 5:30 p.m. See attached invitation for more info.

March 22: Next Board of Trustees meeting at 6:00 pm in Train Depot.

April 1: Barnes Roofing Event: 7th Annual Open House

April 18th: Multi-Chamber Event. More info to follow.

April 19th: Joint program with Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce at Hilton Garden Inn of Twinsburg. More info to follow.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Chuck St. John, *Vice President*

St. John Funeral Home

Joanne Reardon, *Secretary*

Light of Hearts Villa

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Rich Novak

Darla Perkins

Heritage Healthcare

Phil Switz

Catered Elegance

John Whittaker

Non-Ferrous Heat Treat

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is Around the Corner

Many improvements are underway at the Chamber. On April 18th, we are having a networking meeting at Birchwood Party Center with the Garfield, Maple, Bedford Hts., and Nordonia Hills Chambers of Commerce. This will be an excellent opportunity to present your business to other markets that border on Bedford. We realize that this is a region, and we are trying to work with other Chambers to expand our businesses reach.

The Membership Welcome Packet is undergoing revision. If you would like a flyer or some type of introductory offer included in the packet, please forward copies to the Chamber office.

Our programming continues to improve with the leadership of Phil Switz, a new board member. Phil is using his knowledge of business practices and connections that he has from his membership on the Twinsburg Chamber of Commerce. Please see the attached schedule of monthly programs. Unlike previous years, we will be offering programming in the summertime.

An underused program that we offer is Business After Hours. This is an opportunity for businesses to open their doors and invite fellow chamber members and the public to your location. It's typically from 4:30-6:30 pm and allows the participants an opportunity to interact with the business in an informal and relaxed atmosphere while learning about the hosts business.

Mike Guyer

Reminder: If you bring in a new member, you can earn \$25.00 off your own membership dues!

THINK SPRING !

Chuck St. John

NETWORKING MADNESS

It was reported to us by Angie & Frank McGroarty of **BEDFORD AUTO CARE** on Broadway Ave. that the Nordonia Hills' Networking Madness evening was very enjoyable. They said that each business owner (about 50 businesses were represented) prepared a 2-minute talk about their business, such as their own business: **BEDFORD AUTO CARE**. When everyone at the table had completed their talk, everyone moved to different tables. Angie said that it was well-orchestrated, and she learned about many area businesses besides sharing info about her own. Thanks for that update, Angie. We believe in sharing info about member businesses, and I would like to say that **BEDFORD AUTO CARE** offers excellent service. Their expertise about vehicles is beyond compare.

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 American's Preferred Employer Plan---a health insurance plan for companies of varying sizes. More info is at www.ohiochamber.com under "Chamber News.

LIGHT OF HEARTS VILLA

Bingo Volunteers are still needed for every Tuesday @ Catered Elegance at 6:45 pm (early birds) & 7:00pm (regular games). Call Janet at 440-232-1991 ext. 560.

Free **Blood Pressure screening** every Monday 11 am – Noon. More info, call 440-232-1991.

Volunteers are needed to Teach/Assist our seniors on the **Computer!** Call Sharon at 440-232-1991, ext. 560. Our free computer classes are for seniors 62 years and older. Sign up by calling 440-232-1991, ext. 560. \$5.00 for Material & Book Fee.

Light of Hearts is currently a processing site for **Cuyahoga County Dept. of Senior and Adult Services**. They have a representative, Cecelia Smith, who comes the 1st, 2nd and 4th Friday of each month to process benefits check-up. Call 440-232-1991.

Donate your **inactive cell phones** today to Light of Hearts 283 Union Street, Bedford.

Member Reminder

Invoices for membership dues for 2006 have been mailed to Chamber members. We would appreciate it very much if it could be paid by the deadline which is March 1st. Thanks much.

ALSO: If any member needs a Plaque showing you are a member of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce, please contact the Chamber office at 440-232-0115.

NOACC NEWS

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Ohio is extending an invitation to all NOACC members to the 2006 Ohio Business Women's Conference and Expo. The conference will offer many tools for growing entrepreneurs. For more info, go to www.hbahcco.org.

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 @ the newspaper office at 440-232-4055.

CT LOGISTICS

BARNES ROOFING PARTY

Barnes is hosting their 7th Annual Opening. The theme this year is 70's Disco. The event will take place on April 1st. For more info and tickets, call: 440-439-1210.

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. Again—this is absolutely **FREE!** Counseling is either 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 for more info."

2006 Ohio Employment Law Guide

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Business & Legal Reports, Inc. is pleased to offer you this guide to provide you with the latest federal and Ohio employment laws and regulations necessary to ensure your business is in compliance. For more info: 866-696-4832 or www.blr.com/ohioguide.

NOACC is now offering Shipping Logistics through **CT Logistics**. This is another benefit offered by NOACC to all Chamber members. It does not matter where your company is located, CT works with all carriers to provide service anywhere at a very competitive rate. For more info: www.ctlogistics.com or director@noacc.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you been thinking about volunteering for something important? Hospice of the Cleveland Clinic is looking for weekday volunteers to support the terminally ill right here in Bedford. For more info, contact Ann Catanese at catanea@ccf.org or call 216-636-8666. Training is provided.

EDUCATION AWARDS

Applications for **Bedford Chamber of Commerce Education Awards** are due in school counselors' offices March 31st. Any student who is a Bedford resident is eligible for this award.

Goodbye

For the past 2 ½ years, I have been the Office Manager for the Chamber of Commerce. I have enjoyed getting to know the many people who live and work in the Bedford area. I don't live nearby, and the long drive has been difficult. I have taken a position with the Lake County Dept. of Health, which is located only 10 minutes from where I live. I'm sure I will see many of you at such events as the Pig Roast and *Christmas in Bedford Falls* as well as the Christmas Party. I wish you well.

Karen

The Bedford Chamber of Commerce needs an Office Manager. The right candidate needs to be proficient in the Microsoft Products: Access, Excel, Word as well as the internet. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9a.m. – 2 p.m. If anyone is interested in applying for the position, please call the chamber office at 440-232-0115. Leave message.