



F O S T O R I A F Y I

March 2009: Volume 60, Number 01

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**Together We Can Make a Difference,
Together We Grow.**

Chamber "AD" Advantage

Ads:

- Farmer + Yoakam Advertising Agency
- Key Bank

Inserts:

- Ag Credit
- TechMark
- Edward Jones-John Irwin
- American Family Insurance

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Chamber Member Investor,

While it has been a pleasure working with you and for you over the past three years, it is time for me to step away from the Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce. After much thought and careful consideration I send this letter to notify you of my decision to leave the position of Executive Director of the Fostoria Area Chamber of Commerce. With the upcoming birth of my second child, I have decided to put my career on hold and stay at home with my children. I will greatly miss the Fostoria business community and the many wonderful people I have come to know.

The Chamber is under strong leadership with the current Board of Directors and I am confident they will continue to move the Chamber in a positive, forward thinking direction. The Chamber has grown in strength over the past few years due to dedicated, active members and strong programs set forth by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors are currently working to fill the position of Executive Director. Their goal is to fill the position by April 2009 prior to the hectic summer calendar of events. I have agreed to stay on until a qualified replacement is found and will remain on in a consulting role until my services are no longer needed by the new Executive Director.

My family is rooted in this community and I hope to remain a part of the positive change the Chamber is working to achieve. It is important to remember the most valuable role of the Chamber is to collectively achieve what no individual can. Our power is in cooperation for the greater good of our community and our state.

Thank you for your years of support, kindness and friendship.

Sincerely,

- Sarah Stephens-Krupp

New Member Benefit for Fostoria Area Chamber Members from the Ohio Chamber.

Visit www.OhioChamber.com

EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS FOR OHIO CHAMBER MEMBERS

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2009 Annual Meeting

Thank you to all our sponsors, donors and attendees!!!!

The Mennel Milling Company
SMI Crankshaft

Key Bank

Fostoria Community Hospital
Peterman & Associates
The Review Times
ACI Construction Co. Inc
First Federal Bank
Clouse Construction
First Ohio Credit Union
Time Warner Cable
Huntington Bank
Arnold Vending
Fostoria Country Club
Findlay NOW
Geary Family YMCA
Goddard Murphy & Co
Bob Evans
Au Soleil Day Spa Ltd.
Perry Corporation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- > Greg Flores, Chair, Fifth Third Bank
- > Greg Knestrick, Chair Elect, Petermnn & Associates
- > Tammi Garrett, Past Chairman, Norton Manufacturing
- > Patti Essman, Treasurer, First Ohio Credit Union

BOARD MEMBERS:

- > Dr. Cynthia Lemmerman, Fostoria Community Schools
- > Jenny Karcher, Perry Corporation
- > Pratt Robinson, Reineke Ford
- > Julie Reinhart, Fostoria Community Hospital
- > Jon Moyer, Lakeland Golf Course
- > Pat McCauley, Time Warner Cable
- > Ryan Reffner, Edward Jones
- > Pam Shumaker, American Heritage Realty
- > Susan Lamarche, First Federal Bank

EX-OFFICIO:

- > Mayor Davoli, City of Fostoria
- > Jim Bishcof, FEDC
- > Marti Frederick, Fostoria Inn & Suites

CORPORATE MEMBERS:

- > Alpha Coatings
- > ACI Construction, Inc.
- > Caliber Auto Transfer
- > Fifth Third Bank
- > Findlay Publishing
- > First Ohio Credit Union
- > Fostoria Community Hospital
- > InterMetro Industries, Corp.
- > Key Bank
- > Morgan AM & T
- > SMI Crankshaft
- > AT & T
- > The Mennel Milling Company
- > ThyssenKrupp

STAFF:

- > Sarah Stephens-Krupp, Executive Director
- > Darcy Kidwell, Administrative Assistant

2009 Cat's Meow Train Pieces Available

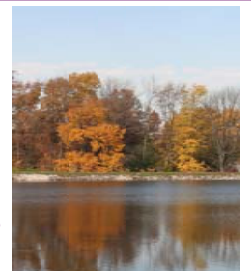


The 2009 Commemorative Train Piece is now available at the Chamber. The piece, sponsored by The Mennel Milling Company, is the fourth in the series of five. The cost for the piece is \$20.

Other pieces in the series are also available. For more information call or stop by the Chamber office.

New "Welcome to Fostoria" Guides

The new "Welcome to Fostoria" guides were unveiled at the 2009 Annual Meeting. The guides were produced with the help of The Focus are available at the Chamber and The Focus. Please feel free to stop in and pick up as many as you like.



*Photo courtesy of
Eddie Durnwald*

Chamber Events

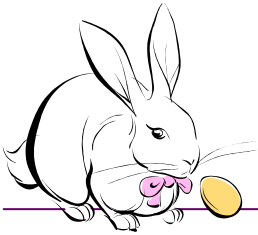
March 26	Community Conversations & Coffee
May 28	Community Conversations & Coffee
June 9	Ladies Golf Classic
July 10	Fostoria Car Show
July 23	Community Conversations & Coffee
Aug. 14	Golf Classic
Sept. 24	Community Conversations & Coffee

Other events will be added throughout the calendar year. We hope this will allow you to mark your calendars for our main events in 2009!

Community Events

March 14-15	Home & Outdoor Expo
March 19	Kiwanis Pancake Day
April 4	Community Easter Egg Hunt
May 16	Armed Forces Day Celebration
June 12-14	St. Wendelin Parish Festival
June 20	NAACP Celebration
June 25	GOBA
June 25-26	Relay for Life
July	TBA Fostoria Festival & Fireworks

For more Chamber and Community Events, visit
www.FostoriaChamber.com



City & Camp Fire Plan Easter Events

Camp Fire USA will host a Bunny Brunch beginning at 10:10 a.m. in conjunction with the Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at Fostoria Middle School.

better alignment = better results

Farmer + Yoakam advertising agency^{llc}

a sound team of brand designers,
strategists, and storytellers -
all focused on you and your business.

farmer-yoakam.com

The Community Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. with staggered start times for different age groups. The Easter Bunny will be available from 9-10 a.m. for pictures.

The cost for the Bunny Brunch is \$3. The Brunch will consist of pancakes served and donated by the Fostoria Kiwanis Club, sausage and beverages. All proceeds will benefit Camp Fire programming in the Fostoria Community.

Both Camp Fire USA and The City of Fostoria are seeking additional sponsors for this event.

For more information on the Easter Egg Hunt, contact The City of Fostoria at 419-435-8282. For more information on the Bunny Brunch contact Camp Fire USA at 419-422-5415.

Member News

THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS

First Step	Chris Schiefer Insurance	Winkler Buildings Inc.
Fostoria Rotary Club	Farmer & Yoakam Advertising	Custom Engines, Inc.
Geary Family YMCA	Agency	Clouse Construction
Hoening Funeral Home	Fostoria Beverage Center	
Mosser Construction	Greenbriar Florists & Catering	
Schreiner Custom Stairs & Millwork	H&R Block	
Seneca County CVB	Hosey Chiropractic, Inc.	
Time Staffing, Inc.	Knights of Columbus	
Vanguard-Sentinel	Liberty Tax Services	
A&L Compaction	MT Business Technologies	
Aqual Seal	North Street Styling	
BR Pallet, Inc.	Northwest Ohio Orthopedics & Sports	
Callies Performance Products	SMI Crankshaft	
Camden Falls	Schaffner Designs	
Cellular Central	Yonker's Insurance & Real Estate	
Centralized Services	Uniboard Inc.	
Charter Steel		

**HELP US WELCOME
OUR NEWEST
MEMBERS!.**

Garner's Garrison

TeckMark, LLC

Liberty Tax Kicks off Tax Season with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting



Liberty Tax, located at 150 Perry Street in Fostoria, kicked off tax season with a Chamber Ribbon Cutting and an Open House. Liberty Tax has been in operation since January 2008 and is owned by Tom

Ackerman and Mary Methner who also own and operate the Clyde location.

Liberty Tax specializes primarily in individual and small business tax returns and offer miscellaneous bank products such as Refund Anticipation loans and debit cards. Liberty Tax offers multiple discounts including coupons at neighborhood businesses and the forthcoming Val-Pack and Town Money Saver.

Liberty Tax has a written guarantee which offers one hundred percent satisfaction and accuracy with tax return preparation. All tax preparers are certified and are available to offer free information and consultations. Liberty Tax also offers a drop off service where tax returns can usually be completed within 24 hours.

Liberty Tax's hours of operation are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome and no appointments are needed. Contact Liberty Tax by calling 419-436-1401 or visit www.libertytax.com for more information.

Save-a-Lot Hosts Grand Opening



On February 18 Save-a-Lot celebrated its Grand Opening. Save-a-Lot is located at 895 N. Countyline Street in

Fostoria and is owned by Fresh Encounter. The new store occupies the building which once housed The Pharm.

Save-a-Lot will offer grocery items for everyday use including fresh meat and produce as well as a large frozen food section. Save-a-Lot is a price driven store that still offers great customer service. Save-a-Lot shoppers will bag their own groceries but will experience significant savings in their overall grocery bill.

Fresh Encounter also owns Great Scot Community Markets which has a location on Plaza Drive. Great Scot and Save-a-Lot are different divisions within the company and are managed and run separately.

Member News

American Red Cross Fostoria Chapter Names New Director

Two months after the resignation of Todd James, former executive director of the chapter, the agency has hired Tiffin native John Sherer to take the reins beginning Monday.

Sherer will be in charge of both the Fostoria and Tiffin offices of the Red Cross. Sherer was chosen by the Fostoria/Seneca County Red Cross hiring committee.

Sherer spent the last three years as the administrator of the Tiffin Moose Lodge, where he played a role in building the lodge membership from 900 men and women to more than 1,700.

He left the Moose Lodge five months ago and, according to Sherer, he is anxious to get back to doing what he enjoys - working locally with people.

Training will be done through working with the members of the board for the first few days, as well as working alongside a representative from the Toledo regional office, who will travel to Fostoria to assist in the transitional

period.

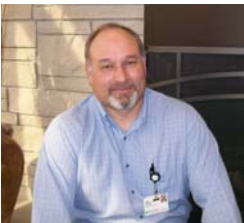
The executive director is accountable for managing the key responsibilities such as addressing disasters including local fires and floods, dealing with communications, coordinating with Toledo's bloodmobile in Seneca County, Wolf explained.

Additionally, as executive director, Sherer will be in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Fostoria and Seneca County Red Cross agencies. He will be responsible for local fundraising, working with volunteers, promoting public relations, working with local and state governments and emergency service organizations related to Homeland Security, according to a press release issued by Sherer.

Sherer has 35 years of marketing, sales and advertising experience and spent 15 of those years as the advertising director at The Advertiser-Tribune. Sherer is the membership chairman for the Ohio State Moose Association and serves on the Tiffin Sewer Commission.

He has two children and lives in the Tiffin area with his wife Sherri.

Fostoria Community Hospital Employee of the Quarter Named– Bob Hemminger



Bob Hemminger, manager, plant operations, was named the employee of the fourth quarter at Fostoria Community Hospital (FCH). He was nominated for being an exemplary employee and role model.

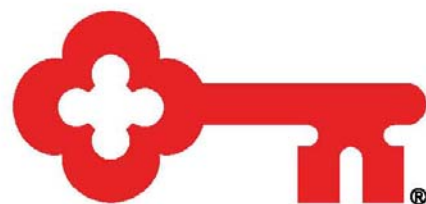
Bob has made customer service a top priority in his department. He sets an excellent example for other departments by always addressing complaints and concerns in a prompt manner, while expressing sincerity in listening to complaints and suggestions. His commitment to customer service is apparent in that he and his team are always willing to help within the hospital and in the community as well.

Bob has demonstrated the importance of teamwork. He understands the importance of interdepartmental relationships, and works to foster working relationships with other departments as well. His enthusiastic and easy-going demeanor, coupled with his sense of humor, makes him very approachable and facilitates open communication with other departments.

Outside of work, Bob enjoys spending time with his family including his wife, Emily; mother, Jewel; children, Kristin, Brandon, Ross and Anthony; and grandson, Austin. He is also active in martial arts as an instructor and CASA (Court Appointment Special Advocate) board member.

Fostoria Rail Preservation Society Receives Grant

FRPS was awarded a grant from the Henry Geary Family Foundation in the amount of \$2015. The grant will be used to purchase a historic Fostoria Railroad Schedule sign rescued from a Delaware auction by Herman VandeKerkhoff. The sign as well as the other work FRPS does helps keep Fostoria's rail heritage alive and well.



Achieve anything.

Member News

Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure is Coming to Fostoria

The 21st Annual Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA) will be returning to Seneca County for the 2009 tour. The tour is scheduled to begin on Sunday, June 21st, in Norwalk. The tour will make its way through Ohio, stopping in Fostoria along the way before returning to Norwalk on Saturday.

The Seneca County Convention & Visitors Bureau will be working closely with GOBA, Fostoria Chamber of Commerce and the Fostoria Area Visitors Bureau to coordinate the group's stay in Seneca County.

Some of the many attractions featured on this tour include Firelands Museum, Thomas Edison Home, world-class bike trails, Bellevue Railroad Museum, Hayes Presidential Center, Schedel Arboretum, beaches of Lake Erie, Cedar Point, Pemberville Historic Opera House, Fr. Meigs Historical Site, American Civil War Museum, Bowling Green Wind Turbine Farm, Wood County Historical Museum, Snook's Dream Cars Auto Museum, Auglaize Village, Fostoria Glass Heritage Gallery; and other historic sites, covered bridges, and nature areas.

The fun-filled week will include the traditional bicycle parade and the gala opening ceremonies in Norwalk, two layover days with bicycling option of 50- or 100-mile loops leading to Sauder Village, Goll Woods, and swimming at Harrison Lake State Park, family-oriented entertainment each night, options for bus excursions, watching professional bike races, and the ever-popular GOBA Song Contest.

This will be the twenty-first year for GOBA. The tour is owned and operated by Columbus Outdoor Pursuits, a non-profit organization, for the benefit of bicycle-related projects in Ohio. GOBA's long time sponsor is Bob Evans Restaurants, whose contributions have made the tour possible. In 2008, 2,500 people from 37 states, Japan, China, the Virgin Islands, and Canada took part in the tour. Included in this number were many families; nearly 20% of the participants are children traveling with their parents, making GOBA the largest family-oriented bicycle tour in the world.

Over the past twenty years GOBA has been instrumental in generating more than \$9.5 million in tourism revenues in the towns along the route, as well as in providing access to Ohio's rural treasures to people from all over the county. "Ohio has an amazing wealth of quiet roads that are perfect for bicycle touring. Besides, GOBA riders find that the lovely scenery, the warm hospitality of the small towns, the interesting museums and parks all add up to one great vacation," Van Winkle state.

Those interested in receiving registration information and tour details can request a brochure by calling 614-273-0811 or by visiting the website at www.goba.com. Brochures will also be available in the spring in Ohio Bob Evans Restaurants and many bicycle shops. Application deadline is May 20, 2009.



SAVE THE DATE

**Ladies Golf
Classic &
Caddy Review**

June 9, 2009

Window Display Opportunities Available

With your Chamber membership you receive the opportunity to place a window display at the Chamber office. We are currently taking reservations for the window for 2009. We have March-May, July and October-November.

Members may have one window display per year and are given on a first come first served basis. Displays run for one month at a time.

If you would like to reserve the window, contact us today.

Fostoria First Gift Certificate Program Halted

The Chamber was notified on March 2 that CertifiChecks Inc, which administered and processed our Fostoria First Gift Certificate program, was immediately ceasing its operation. The company cited extremely difficult economic times as the reason for ceasing its operations.

If your business participated in the program, **DO NOT** accept any more gift certificates as they will be returned by your bank. If you or your customers have unused gift certificates please return them to:

**CertifiChecks Inc.
Attn: Redemption Dept.
P.O. Box 13603
Dayton, OH 45413**

For more information please visit the CertifiCheck web site, www.certifichack.com or contact the Chamber.

We apologize for any inconvenience and will work to keep you updated on any pertinent information in this matter.

Workers' Comp Group Rating -CHANGES IN DEADLINES!

One of the great cost saving benefits of membership in the Fostoria Area Chamber is our Workers' Compensation Group Rating program through CompManagement. There have been a few changes in Worker's Comensation Group Rating this year. On Friday, January 23rd, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation's Board of Directors approved a motion to extend the filing deadline of all group rating programs from February 28th to April 24th of this year. The application extension deadline will allow the BWC to continue to look at ways to improve Ohio's group rating program to ensure greater equity amongst employers that are either in the program or not. The primary emphasis will be for employers to "pay the right rate for the right risk".

The BWC Board of Directors also approved a cap on employers experience modifier (EM) to help reduce significant increases in premiums from one year to the next. The desired affect of this is to provide stability and consistency in premiums for Ohio's employers.

At the same meeting, the BWC Board of Directors listened to the first reading of the rules and plans for a new rating program to be available to employers July 1st. The plan is a "Deductible" program that allows employers to pay the first dollars of a workers' compensation claim (up to the selected deductible amount) in exchange for a discount on premiums.

With all the changes taking place and with more to come, CompManagement is committed to providing you with updates and analysis on how these changes will impact your association and your members. In addition, we are actively preparing to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. To receive a free quote and compare your savings, you must submit an AC-3 form to CompManagement. To download and AC-3 form visit <http://www.compmtgt.com/> Enrollment only occurs once a year, so please make sure to send back the documents needed to ensure your continued participation in our program.

For questions on these items, or anything else, please contact the Chamber's Account Manager, Genny Hart at CompManagement, 1-800-825-6755, ext. 8145.



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Director E-mail: ChamberFost@aol.com

**Together We Can Make a Difference,
Together We Grow!**

County Empl. Statistics			Unemployment Rates:			
Area	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Dec-08	Nov-08	Dec-07
State of Ohio	5,954,200	5,499,300	454,800	7.6	7.0	5.8
Hancock	41,800	38,600	3,200	7.7	6.8	4.7
Seneca	31,000	28,100	2,800	9.2	7.7	5.9
Wood	67,900	62,300	5,700	8.3	7.7	5.4
Tri-County Totals:	140,700	129,000	11,700	8.4	7.4	5.33

<u>44830 Real Estate:</u>	<u>City Income Tax Receipts: December 08</u>
Active Listings: 121	\$507,730.96
Average Active List Price: \$79,222	
New Listings: 48	<u>County Sales Tax Receipts:</u>
Average New List Price: \$66,201	Hancock County (Dec.08) \$ 406,025.64
Homes Sold: 26	Seneca County (Dec.08) \$ 510,710.35
Average Price of Homes Sold: \$74,856	Wood County (Dec.08) \$1,235,650.03