

Whitley County EXPOsed – March 27

It's one day packed with lots of great fun and information and it all starts at 9 am on Saturday the 27th at Indian Springs Middle School. We pack the Carver center with booth after booth of local Whitley County businesses displaying their unique offerings with everything from flowers and candles to home improvement to insurance. Plus, there's a full line-up of entertainment and demonstra-

tions on the main stage with live performances, fashion shows, and the new Mascot Madness! And yes, "Taste of Whitley County" returns with lots of taste-tempting treats!

Booth registrations are now available at the chamber office and on-line at www.columbiacity.org. And sponsorships are still available!



Whitley County Chamber Update A Message from Chamber Board President John Meister

Columbia City Chamber
 President John Meister

At the Annual Recognition Banquet in late October, then Chamber President Jack Moore and South Whitley Chamber President Judy Earnhart unveiled the new logo for the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce. Since that time, the transition team, consisting of representatives of all of Whitley County, have met to build a foundation that will form the new chamber.

A mission statement was formed: to support, promote and advocate business opportunities that provide value to our members and the Whitley County community.

COMMUNICATION, CONNECTION
 AND SHARING will provide the founda-

tion for Whitley business and Chamber members to network with other businesses both locally, regionally, statewide and nationally through Chamber programs and services.

The Chamber will provide opportunities for business to promote themselves first with businesses within the county and then regionally. It is exciting to see businesses grow by connecting and supporting other local businesses. There are many businesses that will benefit and grow just from the visibility a county-wide chamber will provide.

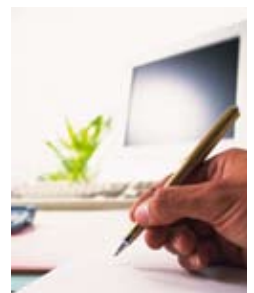
The transition team, along with other community members, are working toward the launch of the new chamber. We appreciate the patience and continued support of our members during this time of building and planning of the new county

chamber. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call either the office or myself.

Starting a Business? Expanding an Existing One?

We have help waiting for you - free business counseling through the Small Business Development Center and the Accelerating Innovation program.

Got questions? We'll do our best to answer them! Call the chamber office and we'll get an appointment for your counseling session set up right away.



CHAMBER BUCKS!

Great for employee awards, birthdays, weddings and more!

Available in denominations of

\$5, \$10, and \$25

Can be used at any participating chamber member business.

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PHP & The Chamber Teaming Up To Help

You Save Money

As a small business owner, you want to do right by your employees. Especially when it comes to healthcare coverage. But it can be a challenge to say the least. On one hand, it's a big expense that grows bigger every year. On the other, you feel a responsibility to provide good coverage. Fortunately there's a local, affordable solution – Health Matters.

Health Matters is a joint effort between PHP and the Columbia City Chamber of Commerce to offer a discount of up to 5% on your employee health insurance. Up to 5%. When you crunch the numbers you'll find that's pretty significant. In fact, in most cases your savings will far exceed the annual cost of your Chamber membership. We know you want to do the right thing. PHP and your Chamber are here to help you do it.

Classes Offered

Classes through the Purdue Extension
Office 260-244-7615

February:

- Feb. 2 & 4– MS PowerPoint
- Feb. 16 & 18– MS Publisher
- Feb. 23 & 25– Basic Computer, Internet & E-Mail

March:

- March 2 & 4– MS Word
- March 9 & 11– MS Excel
- March 16 & 18 – MS PowerPoint
- March 22, 24 & 25– MS Access

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545 N. Line St.
Columbia City, IN
260-244-7222

www.profedcu.org

PHP 2009-2010

Scholarship Program

The 22nd Annual Student Scholarship program is underway for 2009-2010 for high-school seniors planning to enter a health-related field. A one-time scholarship of \$3,000 will be awarded to the first-place winner, \$2,000 to the second place winner and \$1,000 to the third place winner. Applications must be postmarked by February 26, 2010 to be eligible for consideration.

Application forms may be downloaded by visiting www.phpni.com and if you have any questions concerning the scholarship program, please call Carmen Parker at 260-432-6690, ext. 331.



Pathfinder Kids Kampus Receives \$6,093

from Turkey Trot Proceeds

Pathfinder Kids Kampus received a check from McDonald's Denise Sather, Markle Bank's Lee Pasko, and El Shaddai's Jason Fields on Wednesday, January 20th for \$6,093 for proceeds raised at the child care center's Turkey Trot fundraiser on Thanksgiving.

Lisa Mettler, Administrator of Pathfinder Kids Kampus, and John Niederman, President of Pathfinder Services along with several children from Pathfinder Kids Kampus accepted the check on behalf of the child care center.

The Pathfinder Kids Kampus Turkey Trot generated over \$6,093 towards the Pathfinder Kids

Kampus Scholarship fund. Overall, the race had 337 Runners and 57 Walkers participate in the race, an increase of over 110 participants from last year's race.

10-Hour Voluntary OSHA Training Seminar

Don't spend precious dollars sending employees to the big cities to receive training they can receive right here. The Seminar is scheduled for February 17 & 18 at the Government Center with certified instructors from Genesis Management. There's still time to register! To do so, either print the registration form off of our web-site at www.columbiacity.org, or contact the chamber by e-mail at office@columbiacity.org or by phone at 248-8131 and we'll be happy to get a registration form to you.

March Impact Deadline

Any information or press releases that you wish to have included in the March edition of the Impact newsletter need to be received by the office no later than February 15. Inserts need to be received by February 22. If you wish to place an insert, please call Michelle at the chamber to reserve your space!

New Whitley County Map Now Being Sold

This is the first time we have ever put together a map that includes the major towns and cities in Whitley County! The ads are currently being sold by chamber representatives and will continue to be sold until all the ad spots are filled. Please note: we are not using any company to produce the map so if you are contacted by ANY company claiming to be doing a chamber-sponsored map, it isn't us! We will be selling the ads ourselves, producing the map ourselves and using a local printer, so be aware! Make sure to be a part of the first ever Whitley County Chamber map!

PHP and your Chamber.
The local answer to the healthcare crisis.

PHP, in conjunction with the Columbia City Chamber, is offering a discount up to 5% on employee health insurance. All you have to do is be a Chamber member or join today, and have a business with 2-50 employees that are eligible for coverage. For details contact PHP at 800-982-6257 or call the Chamber at 248-8131.

PHP
The insurance your health deserves.
www.phpni.com

Member Press Releases!



Gotcha Covered

122 W. Van Buren St., Columbia City, IN
 Ph: 260-248-2749 •Fx: 260-248-4759
 E-mail: ssrichcreek@gmail.com
 Web: www.gotchacoveredlogo.com

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed new chamber member Gotcha Covered with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony held earlier in January. Gotcha Covered is located at 122 W. Van Buren St. in Columbia City and has been owned by Steve and Sharon Richcreek since July of 2008. They purchased the screen-printing operation, known as Gotcha Covered II, shortened the name, and then expanded the services to include embroidery, sign and banner graphics, plus lettering for trucks, trailers, storefronts and windows. Their location on Van Buren St. houses a well-stocked showroom full of variety of sports and spirit wear as well as other decorated apparel.

Gotcha Covered is open for business Monday through Friday, 9 am – 5 pm and can be reached for special orders by any of the contact means listed above. Present for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony were (front row, left to right) Owner Steve Richcreek, Mayor Jim Fleck, Owner Sharon Richcreek, Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher, June Keiser, J&J Insurance (back row, left to right) Dan Weigold and Nicole Penrod, City Council; Greg Fahl, Orizon Real Estate; Carrie Hoffman, Huntington University EXCEL; Cari Wells, 1st Source Bank; and Trudy Miller Longhenry, Simonson Estates Apartments. Best wishes for a long and healthy business life in Columbia City!



U.S. 30 Countryside Antiques

8049 W. U.S. 30, Larwill, IN 46764
 Ph: 260-327-3050

Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed new chamber member U.S. 30 Countryside Antiques with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on January 15th. Owners Steve and Darlene Hess opened the business under their ownership on December 1st and are proud to welcome antique lovers 7 days a week: Monday through Saturday, 10 am – 5:30 pm, and Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm. The business boasts approximately 30 dealer booths in the mall with lots of great pieces and unique treasures.

Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were (front row, left to right) Darlene Nelson, Orizon Real Estate; Deb Judy, STAR Financial Bank; Edith Menzie, Countryside Antiques; Owner Darlene Hess with business mascot Chevy; Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher; Owner Steve Hess (back row, left to right) Bill Foulke, Northeastern REMC and Chamber Board of Directors; Chamber Ambassador Greg Fahl, Orizon Real Estate; Jim Argerbright, STAR Financial Bank; Chamber Ambassador Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; and Dennis Norris, Norris Insurance Agency. Welcome to the business community and to the Chamber of Commerce!



Pathfinder Community Connections and Huntington Habitat For Humanity Partner

On Tuesday, January 26th, Beth Stevens, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator for Pathfinder Community Connections, John Niederman, President of Pathfinder Services, Inc., and Steve Miller, Executive Director for the Huntington County Habitat for Humanity announced the partnership.

“By forming this partnership, we are hoping the gap from homelessness to homeowner will be a complete continuum,” stated Stevens from Pathfinder Community Connections. “When the family enters our Transitional Housing program we will work with the family as we always have, but after 12 months we will begin the process of transitioning our families to homeowners. The family would not purchase the home they are living in, but would work toward becoming a Habitat partner homeowner building and purchasing their own home. in the Huntington Community.” Stevens concluded.

“Habitat is excited about this opportunity to partner with Pathfinder. This an opportunity for the two agencies to focus and coordinate their resources and expertise to make a major impact in a homeless family’s life and future,” stated Steve Miller Executive Director of Huntington County Habitat for Humanity.

Thank You for Renewing Your Partnership in the Chamber!

Thank you for your continued investment in your local chamber!

Better Than Grandma's Bakery	KFC/Long John Silvers	Stepping Stone Preschool & Childcare
CenturyLink	Lake City Bank	Stevens Forwarding, Inc.
Culligan Water Conditioning, Inc.	Murphy Jewelers	Teghtmeyer Ace Hardware
First Source Bank	Orizon Real Estate	TNT Floral & Gift Shoppe
Freedom Academy	Precision Plastics	Whitley Co. Commissioners
Goin' Postal	Redman Plumbing & Heating	Whitley Co. Soil & Water Conservation
H&R Block	Reiff Construction	
Huntington University EXCEL	River Bluff Management	
Joe Cochran Agency, Inc.	Sears	

Welcome New Members!

Rhoades Automotive, Lamonte Rhoades
 S. Line St., Columbia City, IN, Phone: 260.229.0147



Contest Results From this Year's Fire & Ice Festival

A big thank you to our event sponsors:

Columbia City Elks Lodge, J&J Insurance Solutions, Myers Tison Hockemeyer & McNagny, Parkview Whitley Hospital, Scientific & Regulatory Consultants, TK Ladd Architecture, Gordon's Food Service & Columbia Locker. The festival would not have been as frosty without our ice cream eating contest sponsor: DQ Grill & Chill!

This year's festival children's activity sponsors:

Whitley County YMCA, Whitley County Shrine Club & Northeastern REMC. The chili cook off brought some spice to the festival- thank you to our chili cook-off sponsor: Whitley County Council On Aging.

Other special thanks go to Kelley Sheiss – craft bazaar organizer, MacAllister Machinery – generator use, Post & Mail & Churubusco News for their promotional considerations, R&R Signs – for all the sponsor signage, Johnson Farms Ultra Electronics - sound system and Dairy Queen – prizes for coloring contest.

Thank you for all your hard work-hats off to the "Fire & Ice" Committee: Co-Chairs: Stan & Doris Horne, Teresa Ladd, Linda Hyndman. Members: Candice Yeakle, Dennis Norris, Dave Crabill, Jackie Stahl, Jacie Worrick, June Keiser, Tammy Woodward, Charlie Brindley and Kelley Sheiss

Winners of the Ice Carving Competition:

- 1st Place: Jim Houser – Rooster
- 2nd Place: Ryan Eckert – Ice Age Squirrel
- 3rd Place: Jeff Bane – Seal
- People's Choice Award: Ryan Eckert

Chili Cook-Off:

- 1st Place Best Overall – AJ Saldivar
- 2nd Place Most Unusal – AJ Saldivar
- People's Choice Trophy – AJ Saldivar
- Honorable Mention – Eddie Beagles

Ice Cream Eating Contest Winners:

- 5 and under – Lyle Baron
- 6-8 year olds – Ivan Smith
- 9-12 year olds – Michael Kurtz
- 13 and over – Lauren Barr

Coloring Contest Winners:

- 5 & Under: 1st – Katie Bolinger
- 2nd – Elizabeth Huber
- 3rd – Jenna Hesting

6-8 year olds:

- 1st – Mykaela Crowell
- 2nd – Heidi Bolinger
- 3rd – Ava Underwood

9-12 year olds:

- 1st – Bailee Glass
- 2nd – Taylor Glass



IMPACT

The official publication of the
Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (260) 248-8131 • Fax: (260) 248-8162
www.columbiacity.org

Our Chamber Mission

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life in our community by leading, supporting and facilitating business.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

John Meister– President
Melinda Woll– Vice President
Deb Roy– Treasurer
Teresa Ladd– Secretary
Jack Moore– Past President

Board Members:

Jim Banks, Doug Brown, Bill Foulke,
June Keiser, Teresa Ladd, Judy Moore,
Franz Morsches, Ben Romine,
Jay Starr, Grant Trier, and Cari Wells

Chamber Staff

Pat Hatcher, Executive Director
Michelle Culbertson,
Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Production

Graphics: Peggy Ewing–ADS, Inc.

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Working for members, through members! Discover the benefits of being an active chamber member!

www.columbiacity.org



Business of the M O N T H

Awarded by the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team

January's Business of the Month Sycamore Village

Sycamore Village
611 W. County Line Rd. South
Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Phone: 260-625-4025

Fax: 260-625-3466

www.thehearth.net



The first Business of the Month honor of 2010 was given to Sycamore Village by the C.C. Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team. Sycamore Village was established more than two years ago on the edge of Whitley County as a premiere assisted living and secure Alzheimer's living facility. Owned by Hearth Management, Sycamore employs a staff of 67 whose goal it is to bring a sense of well-being and peace of mind to its residents by bringing them the "comforts of home" where all their needs are met.

The Village is designed to be an environment where the residents can enjoy beautifully decorated rooms, conversation with friends by the fire-

place, and many avenues of fun without ever leaving the facility.

As a member of the chamber and the local community, Sycamore Village has been involved in the chamber Ambassador Team, numerous event committees, and Rotary Club, exemplifying the value of becoming a committed part of a business community.

They also have been involved with projects such as Operation School Bell, the Linus Project, fundraising for Alzheimer's programs, and even encourage their residents to stay involved by supporting their efforts to make blankets for the people of Haiti.

Residents and staff alike turned out for the ceremony to accept the Business of the Month award certificate which was presented to Sales & Marketing Director Kristi Maloney by Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher. Also in attendance were fellow Sales & Marketing Director Deb Riley and Executive Director David Deffenbaugh. Along with the certificate, Sycamore Village will receive a free ice cream cake courtesy of DQ Grill & Chill.



February's Business of the Month: Starr CPA & Associates

** If you would like to nominate a Chamber member as Business of the Month, please submit a short synopsis via fax (260.248.8162) or email (office@columbiacity.org).*

Business Briefing

Luncheon

Business Briefing Luncheon
Fri., Feb. 19, 11:45 am- 1 pm

Topic:
**Optimal Health in a Fast-Paced Society,
Strategies for Improving
the Health of You and Your Business**

Program By:
Dr. Jeffrey Gladd
at Parkview Whitley Hospital

Cost:
**\$10 for chamber members—
\$12 for non-members**

Sponsor:
**Parkview
Whitley Hospital**

Also, other organizations will be on hand
to give you and your employees information
on ways to reach your wellness goals.

Improving the Health of You and Your Business

As the health of our nation worsens in the face of rising costs of healthcare, the financial burden is falling directly on the employer. Add to the direct cost of healthcare the rising rates of absenteeism and presenteeism of employees.

A recent national Healthcare Cost Survey states that high performing companies “see that good health is good business.” Learn from Dr. Gladd the essential strategies for becoming a high performer in lowering health care costs and improving health for your organization.

Dr. Jeffrey Glad is board certified in family medicine and a recent graduate of the two-year Fellowship in Integrative Medicine directed by Dr. Andrew Weil, MD at the University of Arizona.

Four years ago he dedicated his lifestyle to whole foods eating, lost 50 pounds and transformed his philosophy of medical care. Dr. Gladd is the Medical Director of Parkview Center for Integrative Medicine where he works with individuals in achieving optimal levels of health and well-being.

Business Briefing Schedule

March 19 – TBA

April 16 – “Identity Theft” sponsored by STAR Financial Bank, 11:45 am at the Eagle’s Nest Event Center.

May 21 – “Working Smarter” - Strategies for working smarter and not harder! Place & Time TBA.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 16, 2010 • Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
Phone: 260-248-8131 • Email: chamber@columbiacity.org
If you reserve a meal, and you do not attend the luncheon,
you will be invoiced for your reservation.

COLUMBIA CITY AREA
Chamber
of **COMMERCE**
working for members, through members



**COLUMBIA CITY
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**



Your Chamber's Mission...
The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life in our community by leading, supporting and facilitating business.

2010

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 19, Business Briefing Luncheon, 11:45 am at Parkview Whitley Hospital

Dr. Jeffrey Glad joins us to speak on "Optimal Health in a Fast-Paced Society, Strategies for Improving the Health of You and Your Business." In addition, local organizations will be on hand to share information on programs that will help you to achieve you and your employees' wellness goals. Sponsored by Parkview Whitley Hospital.

Friday, February 19, Father-Daughter Dance – Contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 260.248.5180 for more information!!

Wednesday & Thursday, February 17 & 18 – OSHA 10 Hour Voluntary Training Course, 8am – 4pm, Room A-B of the Whitley County Government Center.

Seats are still available! To sign up, either call the chamber office, or visit www.columbiacity.org to print the registration form.

Friday, March 5, First Friday Conference Call, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Join other chamber members in the chamber conference room as we listen in on updates and ask our questions of members of the Indiana Chamber concerning issues that are important to you. Topic will be available soon, so watch for chamber e-mail blasts with more information.

Friday, March 19, Business Briefing Luncheon, 11:45 am

More information to be announced shortly! Save the date and time!

Saturday, March 27, Whitley County EXPOsed! 9 am – 4 pm at Indian Springs Middle School.

Leadership Whitley County's "A Taste of Whitley County" returns as well as a great line-up of business booths to visit, on-stage entertainment, the second year for the "Fashion" and "Re-Fashion" shows, demonstrations, with some new elements including Mascot Madness where you can meet and greet local business and organization mascots in full costume! Stay tuned for more details! And registrations for your booth are now available at the chamber and on-line at www.columbiacity.org.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS –

March 27 – Whitley County EXPOsed – 9 am – 4 pm at Indian Springs Middle School

April 21 – Administrative Professionals Luncheon

April 24 – South Whitley Town Wide Garage Sale

May 8 – Opening Day – Farmer's Market

June 17 – Chamber Golf Outing

For further details on these events or other events in our area, contact the chamber at 260-248-8131.

Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
201 N Line St, PO Box 166
Columbia City, IN 46725

<http://www.columbiacity.org>