

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

We're Making an IMPACT! Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Monthly Newsletter

Issue: December 2009

•  
[www.columbiacity.org](http://www.columbiacity.org)

•  
The Chamber  
Ambassador Team Awards the  
December Business of the Month:

***Midwest America  
Federal Credit Union***



During this holiday season  
more than ever,  
our thoughts turn gratefully  
to those who have made  
our progress possible.

And in this spirit we say,  
simply and sincerely,

Thank You  
and Best Wishes  
for the  
Christmas Season  
and a Happy, Healthy,  
Prosperous New Year

•  
*Happy Holidays  
from your Columbia City  
Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors,  
Executive Director Pat Hatcher  
and Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Culbertson*

COLUMBIA CITY AREA  
**Chamber**  
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## There is still time to win a Trip!

It's simple! We all know some business that would really benefit from chamber membership and involvement. Don't wait anymore to make the call! Encourage them to join today! And if you are the chamber member with the most paid new members by the deadline below, your name will be entered in the drawing for a choice of several trips provided by CenturyLink!

### Here's what you do:

Bring in a business that becomes a paid member of the chamber. This business must be a new chamber member or one that has not been a member for at least three years as of November 1, 2009.

The business must officially join and pay for their membership by December 31, 2009. Once the business has paid for their membership, your name will be placed in a drawing for the trip!

### What you can win:

The winning chamber member will receive a certificate entitling them to one of three trips: Las Vegas, Mexico or a cruise to one of three destinations. For further information on the length of the trips, etc... call the chamber office!

December 31st will be here quickly, so don't delay!!!!

## Wonderland of Lights Continues with Sleigh Rides Offered

It's a wonderful Columbia City area tradition: a quiet drive through a festival of lights provided by local business men and women as a gift to the community or in honor of a special person. Take a few minutes and drive through any weekend through December 27th. Friday & Saturday nights from 6-10 pm and Sundays from 6-9 pm, with the exception of Christmas Day.

And if you haven't had the opportunity yet, call the chamber and reserve a ride through the lights with that special someone in an open horse-drawn carriage or sleigh. Rides are available for \$23 on Saturday, December 12th, so call soon!

**PROFED**  
Professional Federal Credit Union

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

[www.profedcu.org](http://www.profedcu.org)

## '10 Chamber Map Coming Soon

A new Chamber map project is almost ready to launch giving you the opportunity to advertise your business to all of Whitley County. Columbia City, Churubusco and South Whitley communities will all be featured as well as a map of the county. We will be selling ads ourselves so if you are contacted by a company claiming to produce a chamber supported map – it isn't us! Wait for the official word from one of our representatives!

## Whitley County "Fire & Ice" Festival – January 23 & 24

"The Arts" is the theme for this year's festival and will see the return of the craft bazaar on Saturday at the Center and the Chili Cook-off on Sunday. Enjoy the ice sculptures on display all day Saturday and watch the competition on Sunday. And see the insert in this newsletter to order your own ice sculpture!!!

## Whitley County

### EXPOsed – March 27

Our expanded business expo returns to Indian Springs Middle School for a big one-day event including the can't miss "Taste of Whitley County." Look for more information on booth rental soon!!

## Chamber Bucks For Christmas!

We are so pleased to be able to offer our new in-house Chamber Bucks program to you for the holidays! Stop in or call ahead to place your order for a Christmas present that suits everyone – the gift of shopping! Bucks are available in denominations of \$5, \$10 and \$25! And they are good at local chamber member merchants!!

### CHAMBER BUCKS AVAILABLE!

Denominations of  
**\$5, \$10, and \$25**

Can be used at any participating chamber member business.  
ORDER TODAY! 260-248-8131

## Welcome New Members

### C&R Plating Corporation

Dennis Blough, President

302 Factory Avenue, Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-248-8148 Fax: 260-248-2080

Local manufacturer of metal industry products

### Children's Attic

Deborah Grimes, Owner

367A N. Line St., Columbia City, IN

Phone: Not available at time of publication

The Children's Attic is a children's boutique featuring high quality used clothing

### Lions Club of Columbia City

Lee Aumsbaugh, President

795 Bluegrass Drive, Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-244-7583

The Lions Club is a local service organization dedicated to improving the community in which they live.

### US 30 Countryside Antiques, Inc.

Stephen Hess, President

8049 W. US 30, Larwill, IN

Phone: 260-327-3050

Retail Antique Shop

### Whitley Tire & Auto Care

Steve Kirtlan, President

258 Frontage Road, Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-244-1822 Fax: 260-244-6229

Whitley Tire & Auto offers automotive maintenance services, diagnostics, and repairs

### Wireless Zone

Rachel McMeeking, President

529 N. Line St., Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-244-2929 Fax: 244-1900

Web: [www.wirelesszone.com/columbiacity](http://www.wirelesszone.com/columbiacity)

The Wireless Zone is your local Verizon cell-phone service provider

**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](http://www.phpni.com)

# Member Press Releases!



## Whitley Tire & Auto Ribbon Cutting

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed Whitley Tire & Auto, both to the business community and to the Chamber, with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 2. This is a second location for owner Steve Kirtland, who owns a similar business in Wabash. Located at 258 Frontage Road, the business offers numerous auto maintenance services including oil changes, brake and tire services, transmission flushes and maintenance as well as diagnostics and repairs. For shorter waits, they offer an enclosed customer room with amenities and if your service requires a longer wait, shuttle service is provided as well.

Present for the welcoming ceremony were (front row, left to right) technician Paul Kern, Kirtlan's daughter Andrea, owner Steve Kirtlan, Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher; Sue Roman, Miller's Merry Manor; Jo Robertson, Midwest America Federal Credit Union; (back row, left to right) technician Tim Coyle; Service Writer Tim Long, technician Danny Wallace, Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; and June Keiser, J&J Insurance Solutions.

Congratulations and many wishes for a long business life in Whitley County!

## CenturyLink Announces Continuation of Chamber Program

Before Embarq merged with CenturyTel in October, Embarq supported the chamber membership by offering special discounts and business bundle discounts to customers who were also part of their local chamber. As CenturyLink emerged on October 19, the chamber program was in question, but a recent announcement brings the good news that a program will continue in some form! Details have not yet been released, but please keep checking your newsletter for further updates!!

## PHP Broadens Discount for

## Chamber Member Businesses

Did you know that the average savings of a chamber member business that uses PHP insurance is over \$2000? If you are a chamber member business, please take a moment and investigate whether you could be saving "big bucks" by using Physicians Health Plan.

PHP has broadened the guidelines to include member businesses with 2 – 50 eligible employees. The difference is that one word – "eligible." Maybe you have more than 50 employees, but the only number that matters is how many in your company are eligible for insurance. And being a chamber member means you could receive up to a 5% discount off of community-based rates.

We urge you to take a moment and just make sure you are getting the most for your insurance dollar. Call 1-800-982-6257 and ask for a sales representative to see what PHP can do for your business!

## 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](http://www.phpni.com) and if you have any questions concerning the scholarship program, please call Carmen Parker at 260-432-6690, ext. 331.

## R.D. Schrader won Best of Show for the Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company

R.D. Schrader, local Columbia City Auctioneer, recently won Best of Show for the Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company promotional video at the 2009 Indiana Auctioneers Association Yearly Convention. This year's convention, held at the Swan Lake Resort in Plymouth, recognized auctioneers from all over Indiana for their work in property marketing. Schrader received 8 awards overall which included: Full Color Real Estate, Full Color Personal Property, Photography, Audio and Visual Media, Black & White Real Estate, as well as the Best of Show.

## Renewing Members

Thank you for your continued investment in your local chamber!

Bloom Gates Sigler & Whiteleather  
Buchanan Automotive  
Coldwell Banker Realtors  
Community of Hope Grace Brethren Church  
Comfort Keepers  
Community Development Corp. of NE IN  
Edward Jones Investments – Tom Bartram  
Farmers Mutual Insurance  
Five Star Distributing  
Goodwill Industries  
Harold Copp Farms, Inc.  
Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance  
J&J Insurance Solutions  
J&K Communications  
James McConnell, DDS  
Jerry's Tire Service  
John Meier, DDS  
John T. Camden Construction  
Line Street Veterinary Hospital  
Mancino's  
Micropulse  
Miller's Merry Manor  
Morsches Builders Mart  
Myers Tison Hockemeyer McNagny  
Northeastern REMC  
Pak-A-Sak  
Pathfinder Services, Inc.  
Preferred IT Group  
Real Estate Equities  
STAR Insurance Agency  
State Farm Insurance  
The Center for Whitley County Youth  
The Papers, Inc.  
TK Ladd Architecture  
Tom Drew Insurance  
Walker & Associates  
Whitley Co. Council on Aging  
Wigent Excavating  
Yagel Grain Systems



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Ebenezer Scrooge was the master of ceremonies displaying the gift baskets full of winnings! Bob McGregor draws the lucky winners names.



## DISCOVER Your DOWNTOWN Winners!

Local attorney Gregg Hockemeyer donned a different hat for the DISCOVER your DOWNTOWN drawing and transformed into Ebenezer Scrooge as master of ceremonies. Scrooge embodied the spirit of giving as the Downtown Merchants, in cooperation with the Chamber, gave away over \$900 in certificates and prizes to make Christmas a little merrier for a few blessed souls! The winners are—

- Grand prize winner – Brian Harvey
- 2nd prize – Nicole Oldfather
- 3rd prize – Jane Frazier

The Columbia City winners, will receive their prizes in a special way. On December 12th, the winners will be treated to a carriage ride underwritten by STAR Financial Bank and some other special treats provided by BrewHa and Talk of the Town. Winners will personally receive their prizes from the participating merchants.

We wish to thank all of the 24 participating businesses, promotional considerations by the Post & Mail and Talk of the Town, and all of those who took the time to DISCOVER their DOWNTOWN!

## 10-Hour Voluntary OSHA Training Seminar Rescheduled

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 18-19 at the Government Center with certified instructors from Genesis Management. See the insert in this newsletter to reserve your spot!

## Holiday Hours for the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber office will close at noon on December 24 & 31, and will be closed all day December 25 and January 1.



# IMPACT

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



# Business *of the* M O N T H

Awarded by the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team

## *November's Business of the Month Jerry's Tire*



### **Jerry's Tire Service**

**1045 E. Business 30  
Columbia City, IN 46725**

**Phone:  
260-244-5927**

The Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Business of the Month for November was established in September of 1977 and has been family owned and operated service ever since. Almost everyone that works there is part of the family, and even those who aren't relatives are treated like family.

Jerry's Tire Service, located on Old Business 30 just outside of Columbia City, is a quiet supporter of a host of community events and organizations. In 2009 alone, they have been involved as a sponsor in some way of more than 15 different entities, including the CCHS Columbian, Mizpah Shrine, Jaycees, 4-H, VFW, Junior Achievement, JFL, Boys Basketball Boosters, and the July 4th fireworks.

For 32 years of investing in Columbia City, both in the business community and the community as a whole, the Ambassadors of the Chamber were on hand to bestow the honor. Present for the photo were (front row, left to right), Brian

Smith, Pat Hatcher, Chamber Executive Director; Jerry & Marilyn Smith, owners; daughter Laura Shoda; Sue Roman, Miller's Merry Manor; Trudy Miller Longhenry, Simonson Estates; (back row, left to right) Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; sons Scott & Larry Smith; Carrie Hoffman, Huntington University EXCEL; June Keiser, J&J Insurance; Lee Aumsbaugh, Aumsbaugh Flooring; grandsons Jordin and Jerry Shoda; and employee Mike Snyder.

We wish continued success and longevity to Jerry's Tire and we hope they enjoy the ice cream cake provided by DQ Grill & Chill!



**December's Business of the Month: Midwest America Federal Credit Union**

*\* 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).*

**January 23-24,  
2010**

**Courthouse Square &  
Downtown Columbia City  
Churubusco  
South Whitley  
Columbia Plaza  
Towne & Country Plaza**



**SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES**

Media sponsor \$250  
Children's Activity sponsor \$150  
Prize Sponsor \$600  
Carver's Hospitality Sponsor \$250  
Carver's Meet Sponsors Reception \$500

1 BLOCK OF ICE \$175  
2 BLOCKS OF ICE \$300  
1 BLOCK & SPONSORSHIP \$275  
2 BLOCKS OF ICE & SPONSORSHIP \$400

• **Saturday, 8 am— Finished Ice Carving Demonstrations**  
**Activities at The Center:**  
Ice Cream Eating Contest  
Children's Activities  
Craft Bazaar (10 to 1)

• **Sunday, 12 to 3 pm**  
**Ice Carving Competition - Courthouse Square**  
**Activities at The Center:**  
Chili Cook-off (12 to 2, awards at 3pm)  
Craft Bazaar -12 to 3

**REGISTRATION** (Deadline January 8, 2010) check enclosed  invoice me

Each block of ice is 40X20X10" of crystal clear Canadian ice. Festival sponsorships includes pre-festival publicity. Each block of ice carved to your specifications.

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Carving \_\_\_\_\_ # of blocks of ice \_\_\_\_\_ Festival sponsor?  yes

Preference of Design  Ice Carver's Choice  My Preference of Design (Describe below)

1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Media Sponsor (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_ Prize Sponsor \$600) \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Choice \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Activity Sponsor \$250 \_\_\_\_\_  
Carver's Meet Sponsors Reception (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_



# Meet Me *at 5*

Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce  
A Networking Event for After Hours

*An opportunity to meet other business people in a relaxed environment where you can loosen the tie a little, network and enjoy some refreshments.*

**Thursday, December 10, 5:15-6:30 pm  
at: Aumsbaugh Flooring**

Just off US 30 and Lincolnway on DePoy Dr.,  
next to First Church of God, Columbia City

Admission:

\$2 and your business card

(Admission goes toward a door prize - must be present to win.)



Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce, 201 N Line St., Columbia City, IN  
260-248-8131 [www.columbiacity.org](http://www.columbiacity.org)

# *Wonderland of Lights*

*The Wonderland of Lights Light Show at Morsches Park  
Adds Merriment to the Holiday Season.*

*Now Open Weekends through December 27!*

## **Light Show Hours**

Friday and Saturday night hours will be 6 – 10 pm and Sunday evening hours will be 6 – 9 pm with cost of entry being a free-will donation. Sleigh rides will once again be available for selected evenings and can be scheduled through the chamber office at 248-8131.

## **Wonderland of Lights Volunteers Still Needed**

There are still a few openings for you and your organization to provide volunteers to man the entry booth at the Wonderland of Lights. Volunteers arrive at 5:45 pm and can man the booth for the entire evening or take shifts of a couple of hours. Your organization will receive a sign to be placed outside the booth notifying visitors that you are helping with the evening. Volunteers receive the donations, pass out the Wonderland of Lights brochures, and can distribute other things such as candy canes, pens or pencils, etc... to each car that goes through for the evening.

## **Wonderland of Lights Drive- Thru**

**Open Weekends Thru December 27**  
**Hours:**

Friday and Saturday night hours  
will be 6 – 10 pm  
and Sunday evenings 6 – 9 pm  
with cost of entry being  
a free-will donation

If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail Sue Roman at [colcityadmis@millersmerrymanor.com](mailto:colcityadmis@millersmerrymanor.com) or phone 248-8101 and ask for Sue to schedule your group! Come be a part of a wonderful community event that makes Columbia City a great place to live!

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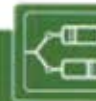
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THE  
**PHIL**

FORT WAYNE  
PHILHARMONIC  
AT COLUMBIA CITY

**HOLIDAY**  
**pops**

**Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00pm**  
**First Church of God**

Presented and Sponsored by:



Tickets: \$12 adults, \$7 children

Tickets available at: STAR Banking Centers and Insurance locations in Columbia City, Churubusco and South Whitley, DeMoney-Grimes Funeral Home and First Church of God or by calling 260.481.0777

80/20 Foundation



IAC



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