

January 23 and 24 Celebrate the 5th Annual Whitley County "Fire & Ice" Festival

With the holidays behind us and the first blustery winter storms under our belt, we settle in to wait for spring with a sigh. Faithful exercise buffs make the daily trek to the YMCA, while the rest of us get our exercise by shoveling snow and spreading salt, hoping our midsections don't grow too much before the flowers start to bloom.

So to provide a little fun and a good reason to venture away from the fireplace, the Chamber announces that the 5th annual Fire & Ice Festival is just around the corner! You won't regret getting a little winter exercise by wandering Whitley County to see the spectacular artworks created out of a mere block of ice!

It all begins on Saturday, January 23 at daylight with artisans carving pieces commissioned by local businesses, either in front of the patron's establishment around the county or at the courthouse square in Columbia City. While visiting the sculptures and watching works in progress, stop in at the Center (corner of Chauncey and Market) for a craft bazaar (9 am – 2pm) children's activities sponsored by the YMCA (9 am – 2 pm) and an ice cream eating contest sponsored by Dairy Queen Grill & Chill at 11:30 am.

On Sunday, the 24th, from 12- 3 pm

turn your attention to downtown Columbia City (courthouse square) where the carving competition will feature artisans completing pieces with "The Arts" as this year's theme. And the 3rd annual Chili Cook-off sponsored by the Whitley County Council on Aging will give you a place to warm-up while you sample the recipes prepared by the competitors at the Center from noon– 2pm.

Big thanks to our event sponsors for this year (so far!): Parkview Whitley Hospital, J&J Insurance Solutions, Myers Tison Hockemeyer & McNagny, LLP, Scientific & Regulatory Consultants, Inc. and Columbia City Elks Lodge.



A few of last year's photos



**Celebrate the
 Fire and Ice
 Festival with
 Headbands
 and Scarves
 Outerwear**



The Whitley County "Fire & Ice" Festival committee now has scarves and headbands for sale for this year's festival!

The scarf and headband are both black with "Fire & Ice" embroidered on them and each cost \$15.

These items are now available for purchase at the chamber office at 201 N. Line St., Columbia City. Hurry!!! Quantities are limited!

2009 Platt Books Now Available

The Whitley County Platt Books for 2009 are now available at the chamber office! Stop in anytime between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday to purchase your copy!

Does What's Happening in the Indiana Legislature Interest You?

It's billed as a short session, but there will be no shortage of issues when the Indiana General Assembly returns for its 2010 session. Property tax caps, delaying the unemployment insurance tax increase on employers and local government reform are just a few of the key topics that will be debated.

In the January Policy Issue Conference Call, Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar previews the upcoming activity at the Statehouse that impacts your business. Brinegar will be beginning his 18th year with the Chamber and has spent the last 30 years engaged in the General Assembly process. He will look at the top issues this time around and answer your questions.

This is the first of the monthly conference calls that are available to you as a chamber member at no charge! This session will be held Friday, January 8 at 9:30 – 10:30 am in the chamber conference room. All you have to do is RSVP to reserve a seat!

Need to Update Your Mandatory Posters?

There are two additions to the "Required" or "Mandatory" posters for businesses. You can pay up to \$45.00 per set to update your posters or you can visit the two following web sites and download and print your own updates.

Indiana's Updated Teen Work Hours Restriction Poster at:

http://www.in.gov/dol/files/Teen_Work_Hour_Restrictions_Poster_7-7-2009.pdf

United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Genetic Information Non-discrimi-



Professional Federal Credit
Union
545 N. Line St.
Columbia City, IN
260-244-7222
www.profedcu.org

natory Act (GINA) required poster at:
http://www.eeoc.gov/employers/upload/eeoc_self_print_poster.pdf

Small Business Development Center

Did you know that business counseling is available free of charge? The SBDC offers appointments to help you examine all the needs of starting or maintaining a business as well as periodic classes to help improve your business knowledge and skills. Call the chamber office for your no-cost assessment!

Economic Forecast Breakfast 2010

Tuesday, January 12, 8:00 am, Huntington University's Jim O'Donnell returns for another one of his highly informative presentations about what the indicators are showing for our economy in 2010. Held at Eagle's Nest Event Center, O'Donnell will deliver a thought-provoking look, with his own brand of humorous flair, at information to help you prepare for what may lie ahead this year and answers the questions that matter to you. Cost for this valuable information is only \$5 per person.

All of this, plus a delicious breakfast prepared by the staff at the Eagle's Nest Event Center! Call or e-mail your reservation in to the chamber office by Friday, January 8th to reserve your spot!

February Impact Deadline

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


Discover Your Downtown Winners Announced

If you shopped our local downtown merchants this holiday season, you likely saw the poster in their windows and a special box on the counter for entries to the first DISCOVER your DOWNTOWN holiday shopping spree. Over 20 downtown merchants joined together to provide a holiday shopping spree to three lucky winners. Those winners were then treated to gift baskets of goodies and a horse-drawn carriage ride through the downtown area on December 12th.

First prize winner was Brian Harvey, who won gift certificates and prizes valued at over \$700! Second prize went to Nicole Oldfather, whose gift certificates and prizes totaled \$150 and third place went to Jane Frazier, who won gifts totaling over \$100. The winners met at BrewHa coffeehouse, where they were treated to complimentary drinks and goodies compliments of Talk of the Town and then a winner's carriage ride courtesy of STAR Financial Bank. Each winner was also given a separate carriage ride with up to 5 people of their choosing.

Special thanks to Julie's New Sensations for providing the complimentary gift baskets for the goodies, to Bob McGregor for chairing the event, to the Post & Mail for advertising considerations, and to all the merchants who participated (listed below)!


BrewHa, Bravo Baskets, B.E. Computers & Hobbies, Ball Furniture, Dailey Athletic Apparel, Columbia House Interiors, CC Deli, Games-N-More, Gotcha Covered, Hinen Printing, Julie's New Sensations, Mary Ellen's Closet, Memory Lane, NorthSide Grille, Oliverz, Performance PC, Precision Arms, Redman Plumbing & Heating, Shoes & Moore, Watering Can, The Swap Shop, Larry's Mug & Brush, Talk of the Town and STAR Financial Bank.



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!



Children's Attic Ribbon Cutting
367A N. Line St., Columbia City, IN



Children's Attic Celebrates Grand Opening with a Ribbon Cutting

New business and chamber member "Children's Attic" opened for business with a Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Friday, December 4th. Taking their place on N. Line St., just south of Pak-A-Sak convenience store, they have completed an interior remodel of a building that has housed numerous Columbia City businesses over the years.

Upon entering this new establishment, you will find a children's area where your child can watch a video, read a book, or play with a toy under your watchful eye as you browse their selection of high quality boutique style clothing for sizes up to 14. All items are gently used and in good condition. If you have children's clothing in good condition, please contact the store and they will guide you through the process of what and how they accept items for their inventory. They also accept some larger items on consignment.

Welcoming Children's Attic into the business community for their first day of business were Chamber Ambassadors Jo Robertson, Midwest America Federal Credit Union; Sue Roman, Miller's Merry Manor; Trudy Miller Longhenry, Simonson Estates; Chamber Executive Director Pat Hatcher, Randy Holler of Crossroads Bank; and Mayor Jim Fleck. Also present were owners Deb & Greg Grimes and daughter Amanda Reid and family.

Congratulations and wishes for a long and healthy business life in Columbia City!

Thank You for Renewing Your Partnership in the Chamber!

Bittersweet Gifts
Blue River Estates
Columbia City Veterinary Hospital
Chase Bank
City of Columbia City
Columbia City Automotive Supply
Crossroads Bank
Culp Enterprises/ Greenskeepers
Daniel Menu & Catering
Eagle Glen Golf Course
East Wayne Street Center
Engineering Services
Farm Credit Services
Flow-Tech Plumbing & Heating
Gates Law Office
Hagerman Group
Ivy Tech Community College
JG Cabinet & Counter, Inc.
Junior Achievement of Whitley County
KML Specialty Chemicals
Kriider's Meat Processing
Lahrman, Don, DDS
Lawyer's Title Insurance
Leadership Whitley County
Lee Marketing
Martin Riley, Inc.
Mary Ellen's Closet
Midwest America Federal Credit Union
Midwest Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
More Farm Store
National Serv-All
New China Restaurant
Niblock Excavating
Numerix, Inc.
Office Concepts
Orizon Real Estate
Otis R. Bowen Center
Parkview Whitley Hospital

Passages, Inc.
Peabody Public Library
People's Federal Savings Bank
Performance PC
Physicians Health Plan
Pizza Hut
ProFed
Purdue Extension Office
Quality Inn
Ruich Bros
RV Center
Salvation Army
Schrader Real Estate
Simonson Estates Apartments
STAFCO
Starr CPA & Associates
Steel Dynamics, Inc.
The Dock
Three Rivers Federal Credit Union
Thomson's Whitley County Motor Sales
Trail Ridge Apartments
UnderSea Sensor Systems
United Way of Whitley County
W.J. Carey Construction
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Warner Electric
Whitley County Economic Development Corp.
Whitley County Literacy Council
Whitley County Solid Waste
Whitley County YMCA

Welcome New Members!

United Oil Corporation Laura Auer

1609 E. Business 30, Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-244-6000

Fax: 260-625-4169

Petroleum / Propane Distribution,
Gas Station, Convenience Store

Auto Parts By Trier

Karen Hall

308 S. Washington St., Columbia City, IN

Phone: 260-244-6617

or 800-446-7278

Automotive Parts Distributor



**OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH CENTERS**

353 N. Oak St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-248-9000

www.parkview.com



Do You Have a Space to Rent?

An area lawyer is looking at the possibility of opening up a satellite office in Columbia City and is looking to share space with an existing business.

He would like to see clients one day a week and would need a small office space, access to copier and fax, and possibly the use of a secretary to take a few calls from a local number. If you are interested, please contact the chamber office for more information (248-8131).

Classes Offered

Classes through the Purdue Extension Office 260-244-7615

January:

- Jan. 12 and 14, 6-9 pm, Cost \$60
Basic Computer, Internet and E-Mail
- Jan. 19 & 21, 6-9 pm, Cost \$60- MS Word
- Jan. 26 & 28, 6-9 pm, Cost \$60- MS Excel

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

Chamber Cheers

Special thanks to all who helped Wonderland of Lights through another successful year! Volunteers included representatives of Toys for Tots, Shea McClure & son Spencer, Raquel Perez, The Bowen Center, 1st Source Bank, the Gary Bird Family, Sycamore Village, Leadership Whitley County, Simonson Estates, and the Rotary Club.

Thanks to the Parks Department who works hard to put up and maintain the lights for our area to enjoy during the holidays. Thank You Sue Roman, for putting together the list of volunteers. Thank you Melinda Woll and Edward Jones Investments, J&J Insurance Solutions and Midwest America Federal Credit Union for unmdertaking and supporting the kick-off party and movie!

Attention All Whitley County Festivals and Event Planners

Did you know that you have the opportunity to submit your 2010 festival/event info to be included in the trip planner on visitindiana.com? There is no charge for this opportunity -you just need to meet the festival/event requirements.

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.
ORDER TODAY! 260-248-8131

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,
- 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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Only 4.9¢ per minute/anytime
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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

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



**Midwest America
Federal Credit Union**

**393 W. Plaza Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725**

Phone: 260-244-2700

Fax: 260-244-1838

www.mafcu.org

The Ambassador Team of the C.C. Area Chamber of Commerce awarded the Business of the Month honor for December to Midwest America Federal Credit Union. Located at 393 West Plaza Drive (near Walmart), the Columbia City Branch opened in 2000 and joined 12 other full-service offices in northeast Indiana. Tracing its roots back to 1936, the first office was located inside the GE plant on Broadway in Fort Wayne and was named the "General Electric Employees & Affiliates Federal Credit Union." Now, the company has over 200 employees, over \$443 million in assets, and serves over 70,000 members in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Midwest America is a full service financial institution that offers savings, loans, mortgages, online banking, ATMs and investment services. Their employees pride themselves on participation in a variety of local service efforts including fundraising for breast cancer, the March of Dimes, juvenile diabetes, and autism. Toys for Tots also benefits annually from their efforts as they seek to keep their toy barrels full at the local branch. You may have also seen a bloodmobile present last year or participated in their "Adopt a Soldier" campaign which sent approximately 230 boxes of items to military personnel in Afghanistan in 2009.

Present for the award ceremony were (front row, left to right) Jo Robertson, Branch Manager; Katrina Rayner, Member Services Associate; Trudy Miller Longhenry, Simonson Estates & Chamber Ambassador; (back row, left to right) Andra Glass, Member Services Associate; Heather Wireman, Member Services Associate; Irene Thain, Loan Officer; and Becky Waters, AVP Branch Operations. The Credit Union office staff will be treated to an ice cream cake courtesy of DQ Grill & Chill along with our congratulations and best wishes for 2010!



January's Business of the Month: Sycamore Village

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



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- 11:30 am
Children's Activities- 9am-2pm
Craft Bazaar 9am-2pm
- **Sunday, 12pm to 3pm**
Ice Carving Competition - Courthouse Square
Activities at The Center:
Chili Cook-off (12pm to 2pm, awards at 3pm)

Mail registration to: CC Area Chamber, P.O. Box 166, Columbia City, IN 46725 OR Fax to 260-248-8162

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 _____ E-mail _____

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) _____
 Children's Activity Sponsor \$250 _____

2nd Choice _____ Carver's Meet Sponsors Reception (\$500) _____

ECONOMIC FORECAST

A Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce Networking Event



Economic Forecast Breakfast
•
Tuesday, January 12, 8:00 am
•
Eagle's Nest Event Center
•

\$5 Per Person
RSVP by Friday, January 8, 2010
Via Email: office@columbiacity.org
or 260-248-8131

Guest Speaker:

Huntington University's Jim O'Donnell gives us insight into what 2010 holds for our economy.

Sponsored by:

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Tom Bartrom, Melinda Woll, and Rick Trump

Note: This breakfast event replaces our normal business Briefing for January.

260-248-8131
www.columbiacity.org

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

Whitley County EDC



About Go Whitley Accelerating Innovation

The Accelerating Innovation program establishes a support system for start-up and growth stage companies by providing entrepreneurs with targeted resources and services.

The Whitley County EDC and its partners are focusing on four entrepreneurial development strategies; establishing client focus on growth and sustainability; increasing skills and knowledge of clients; connecting client companies to optimal subject matter expertise; and building an entrepreneurial community to improve client success rate.

About FastTrac®

FastTrac® is one of America's leading entrepreneurial training programs and remains on the cutting edge by providing programs that are written by entrepreneurs, facilitated by entrepreneurs, for entrepreneurs. FastTrac® programs are provided through the Kauffman Foundation, the leading expert on entrepreneurs.

Incubation Program Launches Business Development Program

COLUMBIA CITY (December 10, 2009) - The Whitley County EDC announced today that the Go Whitley Accelerating Innovation program will offer an eleven-week FastTrac® New Ventures course in January 2010.

FastTrac® is a practical, hands-on business development program designed to help entrepreneur's fine tune the skills needed to create, manage, and grow a successful business. FastTrac® participants don't just learn about business, they live it! They work on their own business ideas or ventures throughout the program - moving their ventures to reality or new levels of growth.

What: FastTrac® New Ventures

When: 3:00-6:00PM on Thursdays
Beginning January 21, 2010
(eleven weeks)

Where: Whitley County EDC
220 W Van Buren Street, Suite 102
Columbia City, IN

Participants in a FastTrac® program learn to operate their businesses effectively through a certified Kauffman Foundation business planning program using sources of information, and to make decisions based on trust and competence. In this learning -focused environment, participants will:

- Fine tune skills to create and/ or grow a successful business
- Learn from experienced entrepreneur facilitators, business coaches, guest speakers and peers
- Transfer knowledge in a peer-to-peer environment
- Expand their network of community resources
- Work ON their business, not IN it
- Receive continual feedback from experienced entrepreneurs
- Learn a business development and planning process they can use as a tool for the ongoing development of their business

For more information or to register for the New Ventures program, please contact Sharon Sallot, Program Manager, Go Whitley Accelerating Innovation, at (260) 244-3176 or ssallot@whitleybiz.com.

Whitley County EDC
220 W Van Buren St
Columbia City, Indiana 46725
www.whitleybiz.com

Join Our Mailing List!





**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

JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 8, Policy Issue Conference Call –

The 2010 Indiana General Assembly. 9:30 – 10:30 am, Chamber conference room. Listen to Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar as he gives a preview of the issues to be debated in the upcoming session (see the article in the newsletter for more info). Opportunity to ask questions as well. No cost – RSVP to the chamber office.

Tuesday, January 12, Economic Forecast Breakfast –

8:00 am, Eagle's Nest Event Center. Open to chamber and non-chamber members alike. Join Huntington University's Jim O'Donnell as he previews the 2010 economy issues. Cost is \$5. RSVP to the chamber office by Friday, January 8. (NOTE: This event will replace our normal Business Briefing Luncheon for January!)

Saturday & Sunday, January 23 & 24 -

5th Annual Whitley County Fire & Ice Festival. See ice carvers create works of wonder throughout Whitley County on Saturday, as well as participate in a craft bazaar, ice cream eating contest and kids activities at the Center. Sunday, see the amazing ice carving competition from 12-3 and vote for your favorite chili at the cook-off from 12-2. See the insert for more information and registration!

Wednesday & Thursday, February 17 & 18 –

10 Hour Voluntary OSHA Training Seminar. 8 am – 4 pm at the Whitley County Government Center, Lower Level Room A-B. Registration is required. See the insert for more information and registration.

Friday, February 19 – Father/Daughter Dance at Morsches Park.

Contact the Parks Department or visit the web-site at www.columbiacity-parks.us for more information.

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>



10 Hour OSHA Voluntary Compliance Training

February 17& 18, 2009, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Whitley County Government Building Room A-B
220 West Van Buren Street, Columbia City, IN
Sponsored by Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce, Whitley County EDC
& Genesis Management Services

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax _____

Fee: \$265.00 (Add \$30 after 02/10/2010)

Fax form to Chamber office to reserve your position: 260-248-8162 or mail with check to address below.

Attending _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____

Attendee: _____ Attendee: _____

Attendee: _____ Attendee: _____

Lunch and Breaks are Included!

Office Use Only: Date Rec'd Number Attending Amt. of Check Check No.

Cancellation Policy: 80% refund by 02/04/2010 NO REFUND AFTER 02/10/2010

RETURN TO: Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 166, Columbia City, IN 46725

-----LEARN OF THE 'NEW'; OSHA EMPHASIS!-----

**Mail Registration To:
Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 166
Columbia City, IN 46725**

“10 – Hour OSHA Voluntary Compliance Training” Class

Genesis Management is conducting a “10-Hour OSHA Voluntary Compliance Training. Classes were developed by Federal OSHA and rolled out to the states as a positive way to promote safety. Participants who complete the class get a Federal OSHA Certificate.

The location, date and time of the training can be found on the Registration Form above. Genesis president, William A. Crane, and Vice President, Leanne Coffman, have received their 501 – 503 Authorizations and will be leading the class. Since Federal OSHA grants the cards of completion for this class, being on time and present for the whole day is imperative.

This training is important for any Safety & Health Coordinator or Safety Committee member who has the responsibility to help minimize accidents and keep a facility in OSHA compliance. We have a maximum of 50 spaces available for this training and need at least 25 participants to conduct the class. As a community service, we are providing the training at a reasonable cost. Who should attend? Companies with 10 or more employees, Health and safety personnel, and Record keepers!

Plan **NOW** to attend!