



Issue: October 2010

www.whitleychamber.com

The Chamber
Ambassador Team Congratulates
the Business of the Month:

**Eagle Glen
Golf Course**

We're Making an IMPACT! Whitley County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Newsletter

“Jazz Under the Stars” 2010 Whitley County Chamber Celebration!

Wednesday, October 20th at 6:30 pm – a night that will “blow your top”! Join your fellow chamber members at the Brownstone on State in South Whitley for an evening of “cool” beverages, “fly” food, and some networking you can “dig”, while enjoying jazz music with Blue River Express.

Recognition Awards will begin at 7:00 pm- to honor our candidates for Business of the Year, Chairman’s Choice, Ambassador of the Year and Jewel of the Community. Make sure to fill out the Business of the Year nomination form included with this newsletter.

Treat yourself, your spouse, your business partners and employees to a classy evening of elegant food, drink, and music! Tickets are \$25- Individual, \$40- Couple, and \$150- Friends & Associate (8 tickets). Please watch for your invitation to arrive in the mail or register online at www.whitleychamber.com, and don’t miss the opportunity to attend this very special night!



CenturyLink Offers Local Chamber of Commerce Members Discounted Broadband Service

Columbia City, IN - CenturyLink and the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce are helping local businesses increase productivity without increasing their budget. Chamber members can now receive exclusive discounts on CenturyLink™ Business Class High-Speed Internet (HSI) service as part of the CenturyLink member-to-member discount program offered to local chamber of commerce organizations across the country.

Members who sign up for new HSI service and existing customers who upgrade their speed to 3 Mbps or higher will receive one free month of service. The offer also includes free professional installation and activation. Local CenturyLink sales associates are available to help members with any questions they may have about their HSI service or other communications needs.

“We’ve been proudly serving business communities for 100 years and are pleased to be working with the Whitley County Chamber to help its members utilize advanced communication technologies to help them compete and meet their business goals,” said Jack Moore, Market Development Manager for CenturyLink.

CenturyLink is also showing its support of the Whitley County Chamber and what they do for the community by providing the chamber with free HSI service, including installation and activation.

For more information on the chamber program, contact your local chamber of commerce or call the CenturyLink Retail Store at 260-244-2999 or refer to the insert in this newsletter. Learn more about CenturyLink products and services at www.centurylink.com.

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Table Top Event- Networking Night for Local Businesses

On September 16, the Chamber hosted Table Top networking night with a goal of uniting business leaders. The event provided an opportunity for businesses to learn about local non-profits, and for non-profits to learn what services the local businesses have to offer. The event was held at the 4H Center, and was sponsored by Morsches Builders Mart. Those in attendance enjoyed food and beverages provided by South Whitley's Brownstone on State. Feedback was positive and plans for more events like this are in the works for next year.

Whitley County Business Referral Group: The Domino Effect!

B.E. Computers wishes to invite you to check out the new business referral group they will be sponsoring starting in October called "The Domino Effect!" We all know that business networking is referring prospects you meet during your work week to the associate companies you know and trust. It is a reciprocal and powerful way to build professional relationships. Business networking can:

- Build a referral network and establish supportive relationships
- Bolster your reputation and bring you new ideas and business advice
- Increase your client base and advertise your product & services at no charge

Bring a stack of business cards, \$2 at the door, company handouts and a 60 second "commercial" about your business on the first and third Thursday every month starting October 7, 2010. The Domino Effect will be meeting in the back room of Big G's just south of downtown Columbia City on St. Rd. 9, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Get in on the ground floor of this exciting new prospect!



Lots of "New" Going On Around Here!

There has been a lot of buzz about the "New" Chamber. How has it changed? When will I see the change? And, when

will that change affect me? I am hoping I can begin to answer some of those questions for you, as I myself continue to learn about the Chamber, the community, the History, and of course the "New" Chamber!

The Columbia City Chamber of Commerce got its start in 1919 as The Commercial Development Club. The organization continued under that name until July 1951, when the club reorganized and officially became The Columbia City Chamber of Commerce. The newly organized Chamber met quarterly, with their primary goal to attract tourism. In 1962, the Chamber worked with the Lions Club to get the Courthouse dome illuminated at night. They had 191 members, and changed their name to the Columbia City Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1980, the Chamber honored its first Citizen of the year.

Now in 2010, the Chamber has not only changed its name again; to the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce, to include South Whitley, Churubusco, and other surrounding communities, but also expanded its mission. The Mission of the Chamber is to support, promote, and advocate business opportunities that provide value to our members and the Whitley County Community. We now have 252 members, and are still growing!

A significant change that has happened recently is the change in Chamber leadership. The Chamber has a new board of directors that includes

members from Churubusco, Columbia City and South Whitley, and of course I am a part of that new change. The board consists of strong leaders within our county, who truly care about the communities and the businesses within those communities, and want to see them flourish! With the "new blood" flowing through the board, you will see lots of "new" coming this year already! The first of these events is the 2010 Chamber Celebration on October 20th, at Brownstone on State in South Whitley. The evening promises to be a fun and relaxing event, while providing plenty of time to network with the "movers and the shakers" in our business community.

And while we are on the topic of new, you should stop by the Chamber office, introduce yourself to me, and see our fresh coat of "new" paint. It sure has made a difference in the offices... Our thanks to the wonderful "Day of Caring" crew for their hard work in the Chamber "makeover"!

Sara Lochner-Goff, President
Whitley County Chamber of Commerce

Thank You from the Bottom of Our Hearts!!!

Michelle and Sara would like to Thank the "Day of Caring Crew," for helping us "fix up" the Chamber office. Kathy, Cheryl and Tiah spent the day, stripping wallpaper, patching, taping and painting. The office looks simply beautiful, and we appreciate all the hard work and time they gave to us!

Welcome New Members!

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Member Press Releases!

October 16, Farmer's Market Harvest Moon Festival

The Farmer's Market will be ending their season by hosting a Harvest Moon festival on October 16, from 8:00 am- 12:00 noon. Special events will include a: Fall recipe contest, Pumpkin contest, Odd vegetable contest, and Children's games sponsored by the Museum.

1st Annual Pumpkin Run

DeMoney-Grimes Funeral Home presents the 1st Annual Pumpkin Run. Anyone can participate- whether you run or walk, you can have fun while benefiting Parkview Whitley Hospice. This event includes a 5K Walk, a 5K Run and a 10K Run with a \$20 entry fee.

Honoring the memory of a loved one is the heart and soul of the Pumpkin Run, so we encourage participants to add a commemorative sign in our Pumpkin Patch at the event for a \$35 gift. You can also have you loved one's name added to your event shirt. Shirts are orange and long sleeved.

The event will be held at the Whitley Co. 4-H Center on Sunday, October 31. Check-in begins at 12 noon and the events begin at 2:00 pm. You can pre-register at Foundations.Parkview.com/PumpkinRun. Top finishers in each age group will receive an award.

Early Childhood Alliance Press Conference

Early Childhood Alliance invites you to join them in celebrating Indiana's quality rating and improvement system for child care programs, Paths to QUALITY- Press Conference Announcing the Statewide Sign Blitz for Paths to QUALITY, October 5, 2010 at 10:00am, at the Early Childhood Alliance 3320 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne. For more information please contact Jane McGraw 260.458.0125 or 800.423.1498, ext. 2125.

CCHS Show Choir Presents "Let Us Entertain You"

Spaghetti Dinner- October 9th

The Columbia City High School Show Choir presents "Let Us Entertain You" Spaghetti dinner & show sponsored by Fazoli's, October 9 from 5-7pm at Columbia City High School. Cost is \$8.00 for adults & \$5.00 for children 12 and under, 2 and under are free. Dinner includes Fazoli's Spaghetti, salad and all the breadsticks you can eat! The CCHS show choirs will entertain you while you eat. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any show choir members. Or by contacting Deborah Hiss, Fundraiser Coordinator, at 260.244.5223 or deerchase@em-barqmail.com.

Food and Wine Spectacular November 4, 7 p.m.

Leadership Whitley County will be hosting the "Food & Wine Spectacular" on Thursday, November 4 at

7pm, at the Eagle's Nest Event Center. Regular and VIP tickets will be available again this year, with a limited number of tickets available for a combination wine tasting class/VIP. Tickets will be available starting in October.

Yuletide Treasures Holiday Bazaar November 20 at ISMS

The CCHS show choirs and choir parent organizations are seeking vendors for the Yuletide Treasures Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar is November 20 at Indian Springs Middle School; from 9am- 3pm. Vendor spaces are 9x 10 for \$25 or \$30 with electrical. Additional tables are \$5 each. For information contact JoAnn Bird at 260.248.1216 or runningaround@earthlink.net

Bellringers Needed!!!

The holidays are upon us and the Whitley County Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers for the 2010 holiday season. Your smiling face and joyful heart could help raise the funds necessary to assist those experiencing financial hardship in the community now and throughout the year. They are looking for individuals, churches, organizations, youth groups, and businesses that will give one or two hours or schedule a whole day to make a difference in someone's life. Bellringers are needed to fill Fridays and Saturdays beginning in November and through December 18. Contact Pat Mossburg at The Salvation Army at 260.248.1711.

Bowen Center Welcomes Siobhan Kenny-Sanders

The Bowen Center has recently placed Siobhan Kenny-Sanders in charge of the DCS Liaison position for coordination of counseling services between the Bowen Center and local county DCS referrals. Siobhan is a 2009 graduate of Western Michigan University and has degrees in Science Psychology and Criminal Justice. The Bowen Center currently provides counseling services in Allen, Whitley, Noble, Huntington, Wabash, Marshal and Kosciusko County.

Pathfinders Seeks Volunteer Tax Preparers

Pathfinder Community Connections, the Community Development division of Pathfinder Services, will be providing free tax preparation assistance to people with low-to-moderate income this year.

Anyone can volunteer for the free tax preparation program as the IRS provides free tax law training and all the materials needed to prepare basic individual income tax returns. Additionally, Pathfinder Community Connections is accepting volunteers for greeters and answering phone calls for the free tax preparation program.

To volunteer for this year's free tax preparation program please contact either: 1) Katie Rodgers at (260) 356-0521 or kroddgers@pathfinderservices.org; 2) Beth Stevens at (260) 355-2517 or bstevens@pathfinder-services.org.

Beck Enterprises and Open Range Continue Offer for Chamber Members

Beck Enterprises, the exclusive partner for new chamber member Open Range Communications, wishes for chamber members to be aware of the continued first free month of services for new subscribers to Open Range. Open Range offers internet and phone services with no contracts or cancellation fees. This offer will not expire for Chamber members! Stop in at Beck Enterprises at 130 W. Van Buren St. or contact Elizabeth at 260-229-8189 for more information.

Comfort Keepers Sponsors Dance to Benefit Seniors

Stomp Out Senior Hunger- Dance and Silent Auction" Get out those dancing boots! It's time to "Stomp Out Senior Hunger"! It all takes place at Elegant Occasions (14722 Lima Road in Fort Wayne) for a dance on Friday, October 15th from 7pm until 11pm. Pam and Eagle Lindsey, owners of Dancin' Feats Dance Instruction/DJ Services will be donating their talent and music for the dance!

All proceeds from the dance and silent auction that will be held at the dance will benefit the Community Harvest Food Bank. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and can be purchased at the Comfort Keepers office at 3970 New Vision Drive off DuPont Road or we will deliver the tickets to you (call 260.484.5858 and ask for Patti). You can also contact Patti if you'd like to donate items to the silent auction!

STAR Financial Promotions

STAR recently promoted David Smith to President of its Northern Indiana region. Smith will oversee the activities for STAR's 15 locations in Allen, Whitley, Steuben and Noble counties.

Smith joined STAR in 1989 and was most recently named Columbia City region president in 2006.

Robin Wright will transition to president of STAR's Columbia City region to direct the commercial banking team in the region. Wright previously served as president of the Columbia City region before being named president of the Fort Wayne region.

Since joining STAR in 1982, Wright has served in various roles throughout the bank and most recently focused on business development and key growth initiatives within the bank.

Ben Campbell has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Commercial Banking. While Campbell will remain actively involved in the northern Indiana region, he will focus his efforts on commercial banking activity throughout STAR's footprint.

Campbell has nearly 35 years of banking experience and joined STAR in 2008 as president of STAR's Fort Wayne region.



**Pink by Adela Katera-
Ribbon Cutting Celebration**

On September 9, Chamber president, Sara Lochner-Goff cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening and welcomed one of its newest members, Pink by Adela Katera. Pink is located on Spartan Drive in Columbia City, next to East of Chicago. Pink offers women's clothing sizes 0-22, purses, jewelry and specialty gifts at an affordable price.

Pictured from left to right: Ambassador Jennifer Zartman Romano, Talk of the Town; Ambassador Randy Holler, Crossroads Bank; Ambassador Kristi Malony, Sycamore Village; Adela Martinez Byers, Co-Owner of Pink; Chamber President Sara Lochner-Goff; Gloria Martinez, Mother of Adela and Grandmother of Adela Katera; Renee Pepple, Manager of Pink; Ambassador Tina Houser; Kelly Sheiss, Leadership Whitley County; Ambassador Cari Wells, 1st Source Bank; Ambassador Lee Aumspaugh, Aumspaugh Flooring. Not Pictured: Adela Katera Rowland, Co-Owner of Pink.

CLASSES OFFERED

"Indiana Tax Seminar"

October 19, 2010, 8:30 am- 5:00 pm @ The Westin Indianapolis. Current tax development for Indiana Businesses; State and Federal updates and trends you need to know. To register call (800) 824-6885 or visit www.indianachamber.com.

Safety Training 2010

The Auburn Butler Chamber Partnership is offering a 20- hour OSHA Compliance program, October 20-22, 2010. This program is a more in-depth continuation of the 10-Hour program with some additional topics. Includes 30-Hour Federal OSHA certificate with completion of both parts. Attendees must bring their 1910 Standards book and binder from • 10-Hour course- Classes begin at 8:30a.m.and run until 4:30p.m. each day. Includes continental breakfast, lunch, drinks, snacks and written materials. Cost for 20-Hour compliance program is \$275.00 for Chamber members, \$325.00 for non-members. Please register by calling the Auburn Butler Chamber Partnership at 260.925.2100 or visit them online at www.chamberINauburn.com.

Freedom Academy Classes

First Steps Fasttrac

Is owning a business is right for you? Participants learn business concepts; and actually work on their own business ideas throughout the course. Fast-paced and energizing, group interaction, break-out activities and guest speakers. October 18 thru November 22, Mon. and Thurs., 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Grant Writing

Learn the language of the grant maker and showcase your organization in the best possible light! October 20, from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m., at the Kendallville public Library. Register on-line at www.freedomacademy.net or call 800-200-6499 for more information

IMPACT

The official publication of the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (260) 248-8131
Fax: (260) 248-8162
www.whitleychamber.com

2010 Board of Directors

Chairman: Mike DeFreeuw
Vice Chair: Chris Tomlinson
Secretary: Darci Kessie
Treasurer: June Keiser
Whitley County Board Members
Bob Koontz
Melinda Woll, Kim Balsler, Carrie Hoffman,
Randy Holler, Jim Horne, Jack Moore,
September McConnell, Dave Smith,
Jorell Tucker, Jennifer Zartman Romano

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Sara Goff, President
and Michelle Culbertson,
Administrative Assistant
Newsletter Production
Graphics: Peggy Ewing-ADS, Inc.

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Business *of the* M O N T H

Awarded by the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Team



September's Business of the Month **Yagel Grain Systems**

**550 W Business 30
Columbia City, IN 46725**

Phone: 260-248-2311

Photo By: Jennifer Zartman Romano

The Ambassador Team congratulates Yagel Grain Systems as the Whitley County Chamber's September Business of the Month. Located on Business 30 in Columbia City, Yagel Grain has been in business since 1992, handling grain equipment sales, installation and service.

Yagel Grain was chosen for this honor for their volunteerism and sponsorship with the Whitley County 4H Fair. Tim Yagel is proud of the support his business and employees dedicate to Columbia City High School Sports, Whitley County 4H, and the Columbia City High School FFA Chapter.

Attending the presentation were (front row, left to right) Chamber President Sara Goff; Ambassador Kristi Maloney, Sycamore Village; Ambassador

and Board member June Keiser, J&J Insurance; Regina Yagel and Belinda Yagel of Yagel Grain Systems; and Kevin Snell, Star Financial Bank. The Whitley County Chamber wishes continued success to Yagel Grain Systems, and hopes they enjoy the ice cream cake courtesy of DQ Grill & Chill!



October's Business of the Month: Eagle Glen Golf Course

** 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 (www.whitleychamber.com).*



*This is a Whitley County Chamber of Commerce Networking Event for After Hours-
an opportunity to meet other business people in a relaxed environment
where you can loosen the tie a little and enjoy some refreshments.*

Thurs., Nov. 11, 4– 6:00 pm at: CenturyLink

Just across from the Post Office at 110 N. Chauncey St., Columbia City, IN

Take a tour of CenturyLink's New "local" store while enjoying wine and hors d'oeuvres. There will be live demonstrations and games with some great door prizes!

Sponsor for Networking After Hours:



CenturyLink™



Bring a business card to enter in the door prize drawing!

Whitley County Chamber of Commerce, 201 N Line St., Columbia City, IN
260-248-8131 www.whitleychamber.com



WHITLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



2010

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, October 7 – New!!! The Domino Effect of Whitley County, a business referral group sponsored by Beck Enterprises has its first meeting. 11:30 am- 1:30 pm at Big G's. Cost is \$2.

Friday, October 8- Whitley County Business Networking, 8 am, at the Brewha. Speaker: Parkview Whitley Hospital

Saturday, October 9 – CCHS Show Choir hosts “Let Us Entertain You” spaghetti dinner and show. 5:00- 7:00 pm. Contact Deb Hiss 260-244-5223 for more information.

Saturday, October 16- Harvest Moon Festival- 8:00 am- 12:00 noon. Fall recipe contest, Pumpkin contest, Odd vegetable contest & Childrens games! Farmers Market will be open Saturdays, October 2, 9 and 16

Wednesday, October 20- 2010 Chamber Celebration “Jazz Under the Stars,” at 6:30 pm, at Brownstone on State in South Whitley. Visit www.whitleychamber.com for more details. See the insert in this month's Impact newsletter.

Friday, October 8- Whitley County Business Networking, 8 am, at the chamber. Speaker: Sara Goff, Whitley County Chamber President

Sunday, October 31- DeMoney –Grimes 1st annual Pumpkin Run. Benefits Parkview Whitley Hospice. See the article in the newsletter or Contact Candice Yeakle at 260-248-9802 for more information.

Thursday, November 4–“Food & Wine Spectacular” sponsored by Leadership Whitley County. 7:00 pm at Eagle's Nest Event Center. Tickets available in October; contact Kelley Sheiss at 799-4045.

Tuesday, November 9– “Modernize Your Business PCs,” 7:30- 9:00 am, at Whitley County REMC, 4901 E Park 30 Drive, Columbia City. Redwood IT sponsors free Microsoft Community Connections event. Register through the chamber or at www.redwoodit.com.

Wednesday, November 10– “Modernize Your Business Networks,” follow-up seminar. 9:00- 10:30 am, demonstration from 10:30-11:00 am at Redwood IT's Training Center. Redwood IT sponsors free Microsoft Community Connections event. Register at www.redwoodit.com.

Thursday, November 11– After Hours sponsored by Century Link. Join us at the new Century Link location, 110 N. Chauncey St. 4:00- 6:00 pm.

Your Chamber's Mission...

Whitley County Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life in our community by leading, supporting and facilitating business.

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



Whitley County Chamber of Commerce
201 N Line St., PO Box 166
Columbia City, IN 46725

<http://www.whitleychamber.com>



You are invited to our next education seminars for business.

We will be reviewing some of the advances in Office 2010 and follow-up with a seminar focusing on how to leverage Office 2010 in a server environment. These events are FREE.

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 at the REMC Building

Modernize Your Business PC (7:30-9:00 AM)

This is a great opportunity for business to see exactly what Microsoft Office 2010 has to offer and see if it will be a good fit for your company. This seminar is sponsored by the Whitley County Chamber of Commerce with a full copy of Office 2010 as a give away.

Register: Email office@whitleychamber.com indicate event, name, company, title.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at Redwood IT Training Rm, Winona Lake

Modernize Your Business Network (9-10:30 AM)

The follow-up seminar will dig a little deeper into how to leverage Microsoft Office 2010 in a Microsoft Business Server environment. We will review:

- Share Point and Office 2010
- Email
- Anywhere

Mobile Data

Demonstrations (10:30 - 11 AM)

After the seminars we will have some hands on opportunities to try Office 2010 and Business Server 2008.

GIVE AWAY - We will be giving away a copy of Office 2010. Event attendees and members will receive a certificate that will allow them to register for complimentary online software training when they purchase Office 2010 and/or Windows 7. We will also be giving away a \$400 voucher for a network audit to determine if a Server is right fit for your company.

Register at www.redwoodit.com

Whitley County Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER EVENT



Learn how to Modernize your Business PCs

Modernize Your Business PCs

Join us for an informative look at how to make the most of your current and future technology investment.

Modern PCs and current software can help you get the most value from your technology by providing:

- Fast, reliable, and highly secure experiences for users.
- Diagnostics and troubleshooting tools help you solve problems yourself.
- Navigation makes it easy to find and use built-in features.
- High performance means you will spend less time waiting for your computer to catch up with you.

When: Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Time: 7:30 – 9:00 AM (Light breakfast served)

Location: REMC Building, 4901 E. Park 30 Drive, Columbia City

About the speaker: Dean Avey, President, Redwood IT

Redwood IT is a Managed Services Provider (MSP) and Technology Consulting Firm. Specializing in partnering with small to medium sized businesses that require technology experts with business insight.

At this event you'll also get a firsthand look at Microsoft® Office 2010 and Windows® 7. We'll have live demos, and a chance to win a great door prize.

Plus, event attendees and members will receive a certificate that will allow them to register for complimentary online software training when they purchase Office 2010 and/or Windows 7.

Don't miss this fun and exciting event. Space is limited so be sure to register today!

REGISTER: email office@whitleychamber.com indicate event, name, company, job title.

Our partnership with your Chamber can help your business reach new heights.

The sky's the limit when you have not one but two resources to help you succeed. As a partner with your Chamber of Commerce, CenturyLink offers Chamber members exclusive discounts in addition to being your single source for broadband, entertainment and voice solutions.

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- Existing CenturyLink™ Business-Class High-Speed Internet customers can upgrade to 5 Mbps and get one month FREE!

Hurry, these offers end soon!

Call today to take advantage of special offers for Chamber members only!

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Plan to attend!

**“Jazz Under the Stars”
2010 Whitley County
Chamber Celebration!**

Wednesday, October 20, 6:30 pm

**at the Brownstone on State
in South Whitley**

Watch for your invitation to arrive in the mail
or register online at www.whitleychamber.com,
and don't miss the opportunity to attend this very special night!