



# CLINTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

## CHAMBER NEWS

January 2010

*Mission: The Clinton County Chamber of Commerce is a member driven organization dedicated to stimulating positive economic growth throughout Clinton County, fostering community leadership and involvement, reflecting positive moral values and acting as an advocate and unified voice for our membership.*

### Clinton County Chamber Supports Economic Development Issues...

Your Clinton County Chamber of Commerce is a contributing member (both financially & with people) to the Clinton County Economic Alliance. As such, we will feature each month information on what that group is doing. Here is our first feature article by John Czarnecki, Executive Director of CCEA..

#### Clinton County Youth Business Venture Competition

The jobs of the future will come from new enterprises not in existence today. Where those new ideas pop up will most likely be the locations the new businesses take root. It is for those reasons the Clinton County Economic Alliance initiated the Clinton County Business Venture Competition. If we can excite our young folks to think about new business ventures hopefully some of those will bear fruit and prosper here in Clinton County.

Nine high school students and two middle school students submitted applications explaining their new business ventures. Five business plans dealt with a new product and 4 involved providing a new or existing service. One middle school student submitted an application to provide a service and the other a product. The students will explain their new business venture to a panel of judges on Jan. 12 at RESA in St. Johns. We hope these students also participate in a regional business plan competition sponsored by Prima Civitas.

The following young men and women submitted applications:

Swallow Outerwear – James Jackson, DeWitt High School  
Baskets by Brienne – Brienne Feldpausch, Fowler High School  
Anderson's Sport Shop – Zach Anderson, Ovid-Elsie High School  
Sweet Creations - Dustin Morrell, St. Johns High School  
Baker's Dozen – Craig Koenigsknecht, Fowler High School  
Road Kill, Inc. – Ashlynn Weller, Ovid-Elsie High School  
Exquisite Events – Megan Verchereau, DeWitt High School  
Down River Fishing Guide – Casey Harless, DeWitt High School  
Superior Aerospace – Nicholas McCoy, DeWitt High School  
Ovid-Elsie Kid Fun Center – Ty Pardee, Ovid-Elsie Middle School  
Tyler's Snow Plow Guards – Tyler Ott, Ovid-Elsie Middle School



It is hoped that the Youth Business Venture Competition can become an annual event in the County. We hope more and more young folks begin to think about a new product or service that they can turn into a new business venture and those new businesses grow and prosper in Clinton County.

If you have an opportunity to meet one of these young men and women, please congratulate them for their participation in this competition.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Welcome to our new members...**

**Affordable Snow Removal**

John Kirby  
800 S US 27 #111, St Johns 48879  
989-862-5815  
Snow Removal

**Answer One Question...**

Do you want other business professionals to know about your business (i.e., where you are, what you do, etc)?

If you answered yes, you should consider hosting a Business After Hours (BAH) or Good Morning Clinton County at your business.

Business After Hours are held on the 2nd Tues of each month from 4:30-6:00 pm. You provide 2 hot appetizers, 2 cold appetizers, beverages (attendees like a dessert or two as well) and a couple prizes. The Chamber Ambassadors will greet people at the door, get their name for door prizes and sell them 50/25/25 tickets - the cost to attend is \$2. The Chamber brings along 2-3 prizes as well. Members mingle, exchange cards & relax. As the host you have the opportunity to take a few minutes to inform everyone about your business.

Good Morning Clinton County is held on the 4th Wed of each month from 7:30-8:30 am. The host provides 2-3 continental breakfast items, beverages and a couple prizes. Much like a BAH, members socialize & exchange cards. At 8:00 am everyone gets together & each person gets a minute to talk about their business.

If you would be interested in hosting one of these events, call Brenda today at 989-224-7248. Remember you can always partner with another member to share expenses!

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Abraham & Gaffney, PC                                 | Main Street Café  |
| Baker College of Owosso                               | Midstate Sales & Service, Inc.  |
| Big Boy of St. Johns                                  | Ryan's Roadhouse  |
| Capital Area United Way                               | St. Johns Dental Care   |
| Clinton County Economic Alliance                      | St. Johns Mini Storage  |
| Clinton Electronics / Radio Shack                     | St. Johns Motel   |
| Creative Memories - Evie McNamara                     | St. Johns Public Schools  |
| <b>Fifth Third Bank - Gold Star Member</b>            | Shannon L.W. Schlegel, PLLC   |
| First Congregational Church                           | Southpoint Mall   |
| Gill-Roys Hardware                                    | Sparrow Home Care   |
| Great Lakes Publishing, Inc.                          | Special Olympics  |
| Kiwanis Club of St. Johns 707                         | Tri-County Office on Aging - Clinton  |
| Lee Wayne Corporation, Carol Telford-Stahlmann        | County Meals on Wheels  |
| Luttig Custom Homes & Remodeling LLC                  | Union Bank  |
| <b>MACO Tool &amp; Engineering - Gold Star Member</b> | <b>NEED AN ALTERNATIVE TO PAYING YOUR DUES ALL IN ONE PAYMENT? CALL US TODAY ABOUT QUARTERLY OR SEMI-ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS!</b> |

**Announcing our GOLD Star Members!**



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Bel Mechanical  | Hovey's Accounting & Tax Service            |
| Citizens Bank   | Hungry Howie's Pizza & Subs                 |
| City of St. Johns   | Lansing State Journal / Clinton County News |
| Clinton Area Care Center / Hazel I. Findlay Country Manor | MACO Tool & Engineering USA                 |
| Clinton Memorial Hospital                                 | MAHLE Engine Components                     |
| Consumers Energy Company                                  | Osgood Funeral Home                         |
| Dynamite Inc.   | Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan      |
| Fifth Third Bank  | Prestige Pines                              |
| Firstbank - St. Johns                                     |   |
| The Gallagher Law Firm, PLC                               |   |
| Granger III and Associates                                |   |

**Silver Star Members**



- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A1 Tanning                              | George's Enterprises Trust        |
| BLT's Wearable Art                      | Gentner Family Dentistry          |
| Bee's Motors                            | The Laurels of Fulton             |
| C&K Electric                            | M&M Restaurant Supply             |
| Cork & Bottle Winery                    | Maple Rapids Lumber Mill Inc      |
| Dedyne-Bubolz Insurance Agency          | Mckenzie Crosby Agency            |
| Edward Jones Investment - Gary Lenneman | Ovid Healthcare Center            |
| Ferrell's Tree Trimming & Removal, Inc. | RSI Home Improvement / Wayne Door |
|   | Schneider Concrete Inc.           |
|   | Sleep Inn                         |

Interested in learning more about Gold or Silver membership? Call the Chamber today at 989-224-7248!

## Member News

**Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. Continues to Advance in 2010...** Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. is pleased to announce upcoming promotions in 2010 and two new hires.

On January 1, 2010 William I Tucker IV, CPA will be made the seventh Principal to share the vision of growing the CPA firm. As Principal he will assume additional responsibilities in the East Lansing office.

Jim Frenndt, CPA will be promoted to Senior Auditor in the East Lansing office.

Aarika Gerstler, CPA will be promoted to Senior Auditor in the Rochester Hills office. In the summer she passed the CPA exam to become the 15<sup>th</sup> CPA in the firm.

Kristina Kinde was hired in Nov 2009 as Senior Auditor in the East Lansing office.

Michael Desnoyer will start his Accounting career with A&G in January as a staff accountant in the Rochester Hills office.

Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. is a group of highly skilled professionals committed to providing invaluable audit, consulting, financial, tax & accounting services since 1991. A&G started in St. Johns, MI and has expanded to additional locations in East Lansing and Rochester Hills. The firm consists of 33 highly qualified team members, 15 of which are CPAs.

Big Boy St. Johns will host a Celebrity Server Night on Tue, Jan 26 from 5-7 pm for Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County. Stop by to be served by Mayor Dana Beaman, Police Chief Mike Madden, City Manager Dennis LaForest, CC Sheriff Wayne Kangas & others.

The Clinton County Senior Center will hold a "Death By Chocolate" event on Thursday, February 4 at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns from 5-7 pm. Stop by for many delicious chocolate creations from area businesses & individuals. The cost is only \$10. Included will be entertainment and a silent auction.

### 2010 Luncheons

January 21  
Program: Mid-MI District Health Dept  
Caterer: TBA  
Cost: \$8

Location: CC RESA Bldg  
1013 S US 27, St. Johns  
Time: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

The luncheons are open to any employee of any Chamber member business. You are also welcome to bring a non-member business associate with you but please...

RSVP TO THE CHAMBER BY TUESDAY THE WEEK OF THE LUNCHEON TO LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE LUNCHEON SO THE CATERER CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY!

### Future Luncheons

Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, Jun 17, Aug 19, Sep 16, Oct 21, Nov 18 and Dec 16. Check in this column each month for information on the luncheon program.

## How Your Business is Promoted from the Chamber Office...

Its not unusual for the Chamber to get many calls each day where people ask things like which restaurants have separate rooms for meetings, what businesses sells widgets or who provides this service.

First and foremost the Chamber will refer a Chamber member. We provide locations, phone numbers and other information if we know it. If we do not have a member that provides what the caller is looking for we will refer them to a non-member.

In addition to these referrals, the office has many, many walk-in visitors each year. Even people that have lived in Clinton County for years will take flyers & brochures out of the racks if they see something that interests them. We get many people traveling through looking for a place to eat or shop or something fun to do. So if you have never brought in

flyers into the office, or if it has been some time since you have updated them, bring some in today!

Your business is promoted through the membership directory (which is provided to each new member & then each renewing member every year), on our online website and in this newsletter.

Of course we can only provide some of this information if you provide it to us first. You will notice the news in the Member News section above - that is here because someone emailed us the information. And on the back page we have brief information about many members. The information on the back page will also be printed in two newspapers later this month, all free to you.

Help us promote your business by keeping us up-to-date & informed about your business!

### 2008/09 Board of Directors

Dave Hudgens, Osgood Funeral Home,  
President  
Glenn Pung, Citizens Bank, Vice-President  
Karla Manzullo, Fifth Third Bank, Treasurer  
Steve Bassette, Individual Member  
Ed Bruun, Clinton Memorial Hospital  
Jackie Burk, CC Federal Credit Union  
Kevin Dittrich, Hungry Howies Pizza  
Bonnie Fyvie, St. Peter Lutheran Church

Nancy Johnson, Fifth Third Bank  
Dennis Koenigsknecht, C&K Electric  
Dennis LaForest, City of St. Johns  
Brett Pauli, Pauli Ford  
Heidi Scranton, Hazel Findlay Manor  
Bryon Taylor, MAHLE Engine Components  
AJ Thelen, St. Johns Knights of Columbus  
Mary Walker, Maco Tool

### Staff:

Brenda Terpening, Executive Director  
Liz Pearson, Office Manager

EMAIL: [ccchamber@power-net.net](mailto:ccchamber@power-net.net)

Website:  
[www.clintoncountychamber.org](http://www.clintoncountychamber.org)  
989-224-7248

Clinton County Chamber of Commerce  
1013 S US 27—PO Box 61  
St. Johns, Michigan 48879  
Website: [clintoncountychamber.org](http://clintoncountychamber.org)

Phone: 989-224-7248  
Fax: 989-224-7667

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Jan 21:  
Chamber Luncheon  
at the CC RESA  
Building in St. Johns  
11:45 am - 1:00 pm  
Speaker from the  
Mid-MI District  
Health Dept.

## Brief Information about some Chamber members....

**Big Boy St Johns** will host a Celebrity Server Night for Habitat for Humanity of Clinton County on Tue, Jan 26 from 5-7 pm.

**Clinton County Federal Credit Union** - offering loans to finance all of your dreams!

**Clinton County Senior Center** - "Our Monday lunch is the best deal in town".

**EXTOL Lube, Oil and Detailing** will offer a Bronze interior detail (\$65.00 value) with the purchase of 10 oil changes - stop in for an oil change and punch card.

**Firstbank - St. Johns** will celebrate its 10 Year Anniversary!

**First Congregational Church of St Johns** will be celebrating 150 years of service to the community the entire year of 2010.

Please join **Hazel I. Findlay Country Manor** as we celebrate Nursing Home Week May 9-15, 2010

Save a "mint" at the **Habitat for Humanity St. Johns ReStore**, located at 2352 N. US 27, and help a deserving family build a safe and affordable home!

Call **Hawk's Ridge Apartments and Senior Apartments** your new home at (517) 641-5099!!

**Head Start** is having it's 4th annual "Miles for Smiles" 5k walk, Sat. April 17th at Hawk Island Park.

The **Laurels of Fulton** would like to create a legacy by exceeding the needs and expectations of our guests and families, during their short term rehabilitation stay, while

embracing the Laurel Way.

**Michigan Graphics & Signs:** A full service sign shop helping you promote your business!

**New Look Computer and Data** - Providing sales, service and answers to all your computer questions.

**Plum Line Landscape and Design** will be celebrating 25 years in business in 2010.

**RAVE (Relief After Violent Encounter)** will host a "Weaving The Vision" dinner & Silent Auction on Sat, Apr 17, 2010 from 5-7 pm - call 989-224-4662 for tickets.

**Smith's Pedal & Ski Shop** services all makes and models of Bicycles.

**Sparrow Home Care & Hospice Services** - providing individualized care to treat the patient's body, mind & spirit.

**St. Johns Post Office** - save up to 10% by printing postage online (USPS.com) - USPS does not impose surcharges for fuel, residential delivery or Saturday delivery.

**Sunfire Wireless** has changed it's name to **The Cellular Connection** and we are now a Verizon Premium Retailer.

**US27 Motorsports & Trailers, Inc.** - Home of Michigan's "Best Deal Guarantee".

If you would like us to share some brief information about your business with members, email it to the Chamber office at [ccchamber@power-net.net](mailto:ccchamber@power-net.net).