



# CLINTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS & BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

## CHAMBER NEWS

March 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.*

## Something new at the March 31 Good Morning Clinton County

The March 31 Good Morning Clinton County will be hosted by your Chamber Board Members & Ambassadors. It will be held at the CC RESA Building (1013 S US 27 in St. Johns), and the cost will only be \$2.

At this Good Morning Clinton County we will do something a little different. You will still have the opportunity to network with other members, but you will also have an opportunity to discuss some of the benefits & services of Chamber membership with Ambassadors and Board members. Four

specific areas members will be available to talk to you about are 1) **Business Promotion**, 2) **Networking & Building Relationships**, 3) **Postal Discounts** and 4) **Chamber Buck Gift Certificate Program**.

Whether you are looking for answers, or just want to network with other members (& non-members that we are inviting), plan to be there.

We will have breakfast casserole, sticky buns, rolls, fruit & beverages.

### March 18 Breakfast Meeting

Instead of a luncheon in March we are having a Breakfast Meeting. We will meet from 7:30-8:30 am at the First Congregational Church in St. Johns (100 Maple Street - just west of the Courthouse). The cost will be \$8. KJ's Café will be providing scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, bagels, juice & coffee.

The program is "Online 101 For Businesses". Miranda Lucyk will give you tips on how to improve your website rankings on the internet, using search engines effectively and how to use Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. We would ask that everyone RSVP by Tuesday, March 16.

### April 22 Luncheon Meeting

You and the people around you may lead good lives, but wouldn't you rather "Live the Outstanding Life"? Our April 22 speaker, Johnny D "The Motivational Cowboy" will share dynamic stories, inspiring facts and personal experiences and show you how to accomplish your goals.

Johnny D. takes his audiences to a new personal and professional level through Image, Attitude, Focus and Consistency so you can start "Living the Outstanding Life".

The luncheon will be held in the CC RESA Bldg and will run from 11:30 am to 1 pm. The cost is only \$8 - our caterer will be Applebee's. Please RSVP by April 20.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

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

**Diana's Catering**, Diana Flores  
 10807 Lakeside Dr, Perrinton 48871  
 989-862-4547  
 Email: Dianascatering@live.com  
 Website: www.dianascatering.net  
 Caterer

**Tax Law Changes**

by Michael Trebesh,  
 owner of Trebesh Advisors

Here's a quick look at some tax law changes for 2010. Make sure to discuss these options with your advisor if you believe you may benefit.

1. **Revised Business Auto Deductions:** When it comes to new cars & light trucks used for business, the maximum 1st depreciation deduction has increased to \$10,960 for cars placed in service before 2010.
2. **Mileage:** The mileage rate is .50 per mile for business travel (down by .05), .165 per mile for medical or moving expenses and .14 driven in service for charitable organizations.
3. **New Car Sales Tax Deduction:** "Cash for Clunkers" is over, but you may still be able to deduct state & local sales and excise taxes if you buy a new car, motor home, motorbike or light truck. A sales tax deduction is available for purchases after 2/15/09.

There are more changes that may impact your tax bill - look at your options so you don't pay more than you are required.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

Biggby Coffee	Pampered Chef, Susan Hensley
Carquest - St. Johns Auto Parts	Phillips Orchards & Cider Mill
Clinton Area Transit System	Self Serve Lumber & Home Center
Clinton County Right to Life	<b>Sleep Inn - Silver Star Member</b>
Duplain Church of Christ	<b>State Representative Brian Calley</b>
<b>Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes</b>	<b>- Gold Star Member</b>
<b>PLC - Silver Star Member</b>	Tastefully Simple Gourmet Food
Harr's Jewelry	Transitions
Iryshe Photography	Waugh's Culligan
Jody Post Investments LLC	The Winner's Edge
<b>Lansing Community College - Gold Star Member</b>	<b>NEED AN ALTERNATIVE TO PAYING YOUR DUES ALL IN ONE PAYMENT?</b>
<b>LSJ Media, Clinton County News - Gold Star Member</b>	<b>CALL US TODAY ABOUT QUARTERLY OR SEMI-ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT OPTIONS!</b>
Les Miller & Sons Sand & Gravel	

**Announcing our GOLD Star Members!**



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

**Announcing our 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 Ins Agency	Mckenzie Crosby Agency
Edward Jones Investments - Gary Lemmeman	Ovid Healthcare Center
Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, PLC	RSI Home Improvement/Wayne Door
Ferrell's Tree Trimming & Removal	Schneider Concrete, Inc.
	Sleep Inn

## Member News

The Clinton County Meals on Wheels program is in need of plastic Easter Eggs. They would like to give each of their clients a surprise for Easter. If you can help, drop off your eggs at the Meals on Wheels office at 201 E Walker Street in St. Johns (in the Senior Center Building), or call Karen at 989-224-3600.

The Clinton County Clerk's Office is offering a Passport Fair on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Passport Day In the USA. Contact the Clerks office at 989-224-5140 for more details.

The Clinton County Senior Center is in need of several items for the center. They are looking for toilet tissue, Kleenex, Styrofoam plates, toilet bowl & liquid floor cleaner, de-caf coffee and individual candy bars. If you can help in any way, drop things off at the center at 201 E Walker St in St. Johns or call Joanne at 989-224-4257.

### Chamber Baked Potato Salad Lunch

April 1 may be April Fool's Day but we are not joshing when we say that will be a great day to have a potato.

April 1 is the date of the Chamber's Annual Baked Potato & Salad Luncheon. It will be held at the CC RESA Building. The all-you-can-eat buffet lunch will be available from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will have all the toppings for potatoes & salad, along with beverages and pie & cake for dessert. Ambassadors, Board members and the Chamber office have tickets for only \$8.

### 2010 Lunch/Breakfast

March 18  
Program: Online 101 for Businesses  
Cost: \$8

Location: First Congregational Church  
100 Maple Street, St. Johns  
Time: 7:30 am - 8:30 am

The luncheons & breakfasts 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 EVENT TO LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE EVENT SO THE CATERER CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY!

#### Future Luncheons

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

## June "Fun" Luncheon: DISNEY Theme!

Every year in June your Chamber Ambassadors plan a "fun" luncheon with contests, door prizes, great food and an auction. Proceeds from the luncheon help fund various Chamber events that don't have revenue tagged to them, such as the free craft projects kids can do during the annual Home & Business Show in May.

This year the Ambassadors have selected "Disney" as their theme. The lobby, hallway & meeting rooms will be decorated appropriately and we hope Chamber members get into the spirit by wearing something Disney (shirt, tie, mouse ears, etc). Anyone that wears something Disney will get their name put into the door prize bucket an extra time.

You may be contacted by an Ambassador for this event. One of the things that make this event special is the auction items we get and all the door prizes we give out. We hope to have a lot of "Disney" related items such as toys that are big hits at auctions. If you are not contacted by an Ambassador but would like to help out, please contact the Chamber office. We will recognize all donors in the June newsletter (your first chance to see all the items that will be included on the auction) and at the luncheon itself.

Many of our restaurant & caterer members will be donating a food item for the meal. If your business would like to do a food item rather than an auction item, please let us know. We hope we can get everyone involved in this fun annual event.

#### 2009/10 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  
Michael Welch, That Guy the Locksmith

#### 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  
Fax: 989-224-7667**

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Fax: 989-224-7667

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Mar 18:  
Chamber Breakfast  
at the First  
Congregational  
Church in St. Johns  
7:30 - 8:30 am  
"Online 101 for  
Businesses"

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

by John Czarnecki of the Clinton County Economic Alliance

You probably have been reading about the need for Michigan to develop more Entrepreneurs. So what exactly is an Entrepreneur? While there are many definitions, I define Entrepreneur as a person who has a new idea or enterprise and assumes accountability for the inherent risks and outcomes of that new venture. Think Henry Ford, Steve Jobs of Apple, Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken or Bill Gates of Microsoft.

Why is entrepreneurship being promoted so prominently? It is the entrepreneur that will create the jobs of the future. Having more entrepreneurial activity will result in financial gain and will be of benefit to Michigan, and if that entrepreneur is located in Clinton County, then to the County.

Data has shown that entrepreneurship leads to new job creation. The more we can get our citizens to think of starting a business the greater the job growth will be in the county.

In our efforts to assist the entrepreneur the Clinton County Economic Alliance will be conducting a seminar on March 31 titled Social Media for Entrepreneurs and Businesses. Please join us at Clinton County RESA in St. Johns to hear Julielyn Gibbons, Kate Tykocki and others for an interactive Social Media presentation. Learn tips and strategies in using media as a powerful marketing tool. The seminar starts at 6:30 pm. To register please call the Clinton County Economic Alliance at 517-669-1345 or email [czarneckij@cceami.org](mailto:czarneckij@cceami.org) or [lehmank@cceami.org](mailto:lehmank@cceami.org).