

# GAS CITY & JONESBORO CHAMBER NOTES

The Official Voice of the Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce

August 2009

***The Chamber Mission Statement:*** To Promote, Nurture and Develop the Community and Character of the Gas City Area through cooperative efforts from Business, Industry and Education.

*Please route this newsletter to the other staff in your business to keep them up-to-date on services, functions and programs available to all employees of our member companies!*



In the **Gas City July 4 Kiwanis parade**, the Gas City Chamber of Commerce float won in the category, Parade Theme! Way to go!

*Other category winners were:*

Emergency category - Jonesboro Volunteer Fire Department

Floats category - Carey Services

American Services- American Legion Riders Post 95

Youth Services category - Puzazz All-Star Cheerleaders

Animal category - Jerry Nelson

Antique Vehicles 1900 to 1949 - Chuck Jarrell

Custom Classic Vehicles from 1950 to present - Ramblin Rose

Motorcycle Custom category – Gold Wing Riders

Motorized Group – Shriner Scooters

Motorized Off Road – Blackburn's

John Deere Tractor – Floyd Griffith

*Congratulations to all!*

## **Miller's Merry Manor Employees Support Kiwanis and the Sheriff Department**

The Kiwanis Club of Marion serves the children and young adults in the Grant County area. Recently a group of employee-owners from Miller's Merry Manor in Marion joined forces with members of the service club and the Sheriff's Department and volunteered their time to help with the Kiwanis "Roadside Collection" fundraiser.

The collection effort was held on July 10 and 11 at several locations throughout Grant County. Approximately \$5,000 was raised through the event and will be targeted for scholarships, youth foundations, and other charitable projects.

"Each of our employees volunteered at least two hours of their own time for the event. The staff members took pride in participating as a group from Miller's helping out a local cause. It really shows what a great group of individuals they are to work with," said John Velasquez, Administrator.

**Walnut Creek Apartments** has been a proud part of the Gas City community for over five years. During that time we have been able to provide a comfortable and well-maintained housing opportunity for

individuals who qualify. For more information on our two, three and four bedroom apartment homes, please contact the management team at 765-674-5000 or visit us online at [www.thesterlinggrp.com](http://www.thesterlinggrp.com).



**Golf Cart Ticket Sales** now going on. Tickets may be purchased at the Chamber office, from any Chamber Board member or on our website at [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com). Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held Sunday, September 27, at noon.

Thank you, Rusty Jack, *Allstate Insurance*, for getting our golf cart covered by insurance!

**The Boom Town 1892 Committee** thought they had put their vintage clothing away until next year, but much to their surprise, they were invited, along with other interested historic buffs, to attend the ceremony at the State House and accept from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman the award for the grant of \$360,000 for the Thompson-Ray House. There were fifteen in attendance: Henry Olynger, Patti Edwards, Karen Niverson, Caleb Crandall, Nancy Hoover, Mayor Larry Leach, State Senator Travis Holdman, State Representative Joe Pearson, Keith Starcher, Dave Huffman, Anne Mannix, Florence Klecka, Bill Pattison, Randy Ballinger, Jerry Long, Emmett Flores and Marko Clupper.

Anne Mannix, Neighborhood Development Associates, treated us all to lunch at the Skyline Club Country Club, which was organized by Nancy's daughter, Renae Breitbach, who works in Indianapolis. We had a great day and good fellowship with all who attended.



The money awarded from the Community Focus Fund grant will go toward making renovations to the Thompson-Ray House which will be used for leadership training and meeting space for civic organizations. It was an important day for Indiana's small towns and rural communities. Gas City and 25 other communities will share more than \$11 million to help with infrastructure improvements, downtown revitalization, libraries and fire services. Lt. Governor

Skillman applauded these communities for going through a competitive application process, which encouraged communities to provide a local philanthropic match. Governor Daniels and Lt. Governor Skillman are committed to revitalizing Indiana's economy. By strengthening infrastructure or improving the quality of life, the Community Focus Fund grants will foster economic success and open the door to new opportunities.

(The Thompson-Ray house project just received word that it has been accepted into the National Registry application process. – Very exciting!)

### **Twin City "WE CARE" Back to School Golf Cart Poker Run**

Saturday, August 8, 10:00 – 12:00, \$5 per person, \$100 prize for best hand.

Registration day of the event – Meet at the flagpole at the Park.

All proceeds go to "WE CARE."

**Mississinewa Schools** return to classes beginning August 11!



Community Foundation  
of Grant County, Indiana, Inc.

Building a tradition of  
giving in Grant County

Your Community Foundation di\$tributed nearly \$1.8M into the Grant County community last year through grant\$ and \$cholarship\$! How cool i\$ that?

The **Grant County Economic Growth Council** announces that Angelina I. Lindahl will be joining the staff as the new Project Manager. Angelina replaces Kate Bedinghaus, who left the Growth Council and is moving to Bloomington in August.

“Though we will miss Kate, we are excited for what Angelina will bring to the table with her experience in both design and marketing,” said Craig Miller, President of the Growth Council.

Angelina is a 2009 Media Communications graduate of Taylor University, where she was a Telly award winning videographer. Prior to her employment at the Growth Council, she worked as an intern at both the Vera Bradley Creative Marketing Department and Narcotics Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Bogota, Columbia.

“After an extensive regional search, which attracted a wide pool of talented applicants, we invited Angelina to become a part of the Growth Council team. It was a challenging process, but we know that having Angelina on board as our new project manager will be a great asset to the Growth Council as we look to move forward in our visual outlook and strategy,” said Tim Eckerle, Executive Director of the Growth Council.

The Grant County Economic Growth Council is a non-profit organization with the mission to facilitate investment and reinvestment for job creation and retention in Grant County.

**Hoop Fest**, a men’s basketball tournament, will be added to the list of attractions at this year’s Labor Day Weekend celebration in the Gas City Park. Hoop Fest will offer a 5-on-5 double elimination competition for men from 16 to 66 years old. Teams must have 5 to 8 players. The tournament will award cash prizes for the top three teams, but all other proceeds will be split between the charities of Grant County Cancer Society and Twin City We Care.

The dates for the tournament are Saturday and Sunday, September 5 and 6. The cost for entry is \$150 per team, payable at the time of registration. The deadline for registration is August 22. Forms are available at STAR Financial Bank, 931 E. Main Street, Gas City. For more information contact Kris Schrader at 765-674-1348 or [GasCityHoopFest@yahoo.com](mailto:GasCityHoopFest@yahoo.com).

*Did you know that any month that starts on a Sunday, will have a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in it?  
(Quote from HOOSIER Jiffy PRINT)*

**Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana** is sponsoring 18 Summer Food service programs which are federal programs providing free nutritious meals and snacks to help children, ages 18 and younger, in low-income areas get the nutrition they need during the summer months when they do not receive school lunches. The program has served over 1,200 meals per week this summer through their sites. Volunteers are welcome at the Summer Food sites. Contact Lois Rockhill at 765-287-8698 for more information.



### **MGH SELECTS NEW CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER**

Edward L. Keppler, M.D., has been chosen for the position of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at Marion General Hospital. He will officially begin his new duties as CMO on August 2, 2009.

“I am very pleased to have Dr. Keppler as our new Chief Medical Officer,” states Paul L. Usher, President and CEO. “This is a key position for the Hospital and Dr. Keppler’s experience, perspective and leadership will be an asset for our Healthcare Community.”

Dr. Keppler has been on MGH’s Active Medical Staff since 1980 and has held several leadership roles during that time. He completed his pre-med at DePauw University and his medical education at Indiana University School of Medicine.

**Dan Didion** retired from New Market on August 1, 2009. Dan worked for New Market for 18 years. He managed the store and wrote ads for New Market. He was also active with “We Care” in Gas City during his 18 years with New Market as well as helped other charities.

Prior to that, Dan worked for Maloeleys in Fort Wayne for 17 years and then worked for Food Marketing in Fort Wayne for two years.

We, at New Market, wish Dan the very best and a happy and long retirement. He will be missed.

*We, at the Chamber, also echo our best wishes to Dan, too! Thank you for your partnership through the years.*

### **Concerts in the Park**

WOW, What a great season!! It is hard to believe that our series is over for yet another season. It just seemed like yesterday we were in the planning stages of our series, and with the blink of an eye, they are finished. We had only one rain date, that being our second concert, but the rest of the concerts were held outside. Thank you to those who supported the concert series.

We estimated that over 6,000 people were in attendance for the concerts which made an average of 700 + per concert. Many in attendance were from outside of Grant County.

It is rewarding that our concerts support the Chamber’s motto, “Building our community, building our home.”

Thank you for allowing me to serve as chairman for this event, *Mark Storey*.

## Sing, Dance, Create, Act . . . Dream

CSA Community School of the Arts – Fall Registration – August 17 –2 0  
 305 S. Adams, Marion, IN (East side of the Courthouse Square) GREAT NEW LOCATION!  
 Cooking . Skating . Jewelry . Ballroom . Pottery

### Websites of Interest



Gas City Area Chamber of Commerce – [www.gascity.com](http://www.gascity.com)  
 Grant County Growth Council – [www.grantcoindevelopment.com](http://www.grantcoindevelopment.com)  
 Grant County Convention & Visitors Bureau – [www.showmegrantcounty.com](http://www.showmegrantcounty.com)  
 Indiana State Chamber of Commerce – [www.indianachamber.org](http://www.indianachamber.org)  
 Indiana Workforce Development – [www.hoosierdata.in.gov](http://www.hoosierdata.in.gov)  
 Marion-Grant County Chamber of Commerce – [www.marionchamber.org](http://www.marionchamber.org)

State of Indiana – [www.indiana.gov](http://www.indiana.gov)

The Taxpayers Network – [www.taxpayersnetwork.org](http://www.taxpayersnetwork.org)

United States Small Business Administration - [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

United States Department of Commerce - [www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)

*The Official Business Link to the U.S. Government* – [www.business.gov](http://www.business.gov)

*We encourage our members to support “OUR” local economy by doing business with other members & by “Shopping Locally”. We can do together what we can not do alone!*

### 2009-2010 Board of Directors

#### Officers

Janet Blake, President – *The Cellular Connection-Gas City*  
 Dawn Brown, President-Elect – *Community Foundation of Grant County, IN, Inc.*  
 Scott Murphy, Vice-President – *Wal-Mart Distribution Center #7055*  
 Dave Huffman, Secretary-Treasurer – *Via Credit Union*

#### Directors

Dennis Banks, *STAR Financial Bank*  
 Nancy Bryant, *Gas City-Mill Township Library*  
 Caleb Crandall, *Crandall Offices*  
 Aleta Goins, *Howe’s Financial Services, Inc.*  
 David Penticuff, *Chronicle-Tribune*  
 Louis Rodriguez, *Grant County Plumbing & Heating*  
 Denny Smith, *2B Personalized*  
 Larry Terwillegar, *Masonic Lodge #645*  
 Dorine Ward, *York House*

#### Chamber Staff

Nancy Hoover, *Marketing & Office Administrator*  
 Mary Lou Fisher, *Office Assistant*