

August, 2011
Volume 7, Issue 8

Member of Ohio Chamber of
Commerce & U.S. Chamber of
Commerce

Chamber Events

8/17 Preble County
Safety Council
12:00 Noon
Preble County YMCA
450 Wash.-Jackson Rd.
Eaton, OH

8/18 *"Toast of the Town"*
Preble County
Historical Society
7693 Swartsel Rd.
Eaton, OH
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

"Toast of the Town"

Preble County Historical Society
7693 Swartsel Road, Eaton, OH

Thursday, August 18th

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

*"Please join us for an evening of history, culture & nature.
Enjoy delicious refreshments & music together!"*

Dear Investors,

This year's Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held at Hueston Woods on Thursday, September 1 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds from the tournament are budgeted for the academic and Ohio Business Week scholarships that we award each year to deserving students like Madeline Ermlich and Shana Lewis.

Maddie was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to offset the cost of attendance at Case Western Reserve this fall. Shana recently attended OBW at Ohio Dominican University. Her team won First Place for their Business Plan during the Emerging Entrepreneurs Project.

So far we have 12 teams registered for the event. If you would like add your team or donate a door prize for the event, please let Virginia or Matt know by contacting the Chamber office at 456-4949 or email them at chamberoffices@preblecountyohio.com. Details are listed within this newsletter.

For the 2nd consecutive year, Heaven's Corner Zoo & Animal Sanctuary obliterated attendance records for their Toast of the Town event. Last month more than 1,300 people showed up at Heaven's Corner for their Toast event. Additionally, they had 200 paid admissions before the event, making it their best revenue day ever! Congratulations!

Bradley C. Neavin,
President, Preble County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors

Bradley Neavin,
Chairperson
Eaton Community Schools

Shawn Murphy
Chair-Elect
Michael Murphy Insurance

Ray Potter, Treasurer
SCORE

Charles Pennington
Community Improvement
Corporation

Leslie Collins
The Register Herald

Kim Eck
Henny Penny Corporation

Kevin Turner
Preble County E.S.C.

Edmund H. Kalil
Attorney at Law

Rose Roberts
Fifth Third Bank

Manfred Schreyer
Taffy's Coffee, Wine & Music

Jim Vidic
Bullen Ultrasonics, Inc.

Abigail Noland
Preble County District Library

At-Large Members
Dan Appenzeller
Corey Mangan
Debbi Hornbrook
Kim Rowland
Cindy Kaufman
David Heindl

Staff
Matt Appenzeller
Executive Director

Virginia Lindsey
Secretary

**Prevailing Wage Eliminated
from Ohio Regional 166
Loans**

*This article contributed by Preble
Co. ED Director Shawnda Combs*

With the recent passage of the Ohio Biennial budget, loans from the **Ohio Regional 166 Loan Program** available from County Corp Development will **no longer require prevailing wage.**

This change becomes effective after the required 90 day waiting period necessary with the budget's passing. It means that ED grants, Rapid Outreach Grants, Ohio Enterprise Bond funds, and all loans under Chapter 166 **that are approved by Controlling Board AFTER October 1st, 2011** will not be subject to prevailing wage.

The elimination of prevailing wage requirements from a project funded with Ohio Regional 166 loan funds could save owners thousands of dollars in project costs and may eliminate additional red-tape from the process. We know this will be well-received in the business community.

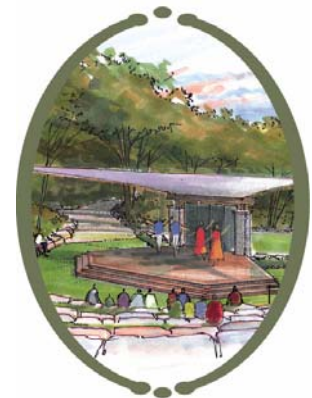
**Updated Small Business Loan
Interest Rates as of
Wednesday, August 3, 2011**

- SBA 504 10 year Standard loan
4.50% fixed
- SBA 504 20 year Standard loan
5.59% fixed
- SBA 504 10 year REFINANCE
loan 4.94% fixed
- SBA 504 20 year REFINANCE
loan 5.95% fixed

- Ohio Regional 166 loan up to 15
years 2.00% fixed
- Child Day Care loans up to 5
years 3.00% fixed

*SBA 504 rates quoted are **effective rates** for the entire term

**Preble County
Historical Society to
host:
"Toast of the Town"**



**Thursday
August 18, 2011
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

*Please join us for an evening of
history, culture, nature; hear the
latest amphitheater project
updates, take a wagon ride to the
wetland, enjoy delicious
refreshments & music, all
together in our own backyard!*

**7693 Swartsel Road
Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-787-4256**

email:
preblecountyhistoricalsociety@frontier.com

Website: www.pchs.preblecounty.com

Safety Council Update



By Mike Jeffery

The Preble County Safety Council met on Wednesday, July 20th at the Preble County YMCA. The speaker for this meeting was Beth Salisbury, Occupational Therapist, with Complete Therapy Care, Inc. who presented a program on "Workplace Violence." She brought a very interesting and informative presentation that applied to all work places of our Safety Council Members.

This was the first meeting of our new FY2011-2012 Safety Council. We have 3 new members:

- Harvest Land Co-op,
- Procter & Gamble Pet Care R & D
- Vancrest Health Care Center

This brings our total to 28 members this year. We hope to have a lot of very good speakers & programs this year. A new feature for us is to have a "Door Prize" at each meeting for someone who is present to win!

Our next meeting of the Preble County Safety Council will be our Wednesday, August 17th at 12 noon at the Preble County YMCA. Our program will be on "Heat Stress!"

OPEN HOUSE!!

FRIDAY AUGUST 5th-
SUNDAY AUGUST 7th

SHOP SAM'S CLUB ON
THESE DATES WITH
NO MEMBERSHIP
REQUIRED!!!

Sam's Club
6955 Miller Lane
Dayton Ohio 45414

***WHEN YOU JOIN
RECEIVE A FREE
CHEESE OR PEPPERONI
PIZZA FRESH FROM
OUR CAFÉ FREE!!!!!!!!!!**

BWC Safety Requirement for Grouped Public Employers

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation requires that all entities in the January 1, 2011 Group Rating Program or Group Retrospective Rating Program who had a claim within the two preceding calendar years are required to attend two hours of safety training by December 31, 2011.

The Frank Gates Service Company is notifying all impacted participants in the Programs administered by Frank Gates. If your entity had one or more claims during calendar years 2009 or 2010, and participates in one of the January 1, 2011 Programs, the BWC has indicated that you must meet the safety training requirement. Below you will find multiple opportunities offered by Frank Gates/Avizent around the state to help fulfill the requirement:

2 Hour Frank Gates Safety Sessions for 2011

August 16
Cleveland, West Shore Unitarian
Universalist Church

September 13
Massillon, Jackson Township/Stark
County Safety Center

October 18
Cincinnati, Colerain Senior Center

December 13
Dublin, BMI Credit Union
(Times to be determined)

<p>Business Brown Bag Series</p> <p>August 18</p> <p>Noon - 1 PM</p> <p>PCD Library Admin. Office 450 S. Barron St. Eaton, OH</p> <p>More information: (937) 456-4250</p> <p> Preble County, Ohio Economic Development</p>	<p>Ray Potter</p> <p>Human Resource Professional & SCORE Consultant</p>
	<p>Effective Communication</p> <p>"Management's and Everyday Life's Big Problem"</p>

The Preble County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Preble County District Library and Sinclair Community College to offer workshops for local business owner and budding entrepreneurs.

August 18th speaker will be **Ray Potter, Human Resource Professional & SCORE Consultant who will speak on: Effective Communications - "Management's and Everyday Life's Big Problem"**

All sessions will be held at the Preble County District Library Administrative Building, 450 S. Barron St., Eaton, from **12pm-1pm.**

Free to Preble County Chamber Members and \$5 for non-chamber members. For more information call: 937-456-4368.



"Welcome" New Members!

American Family Insurance
Sarah M. Howard Agency
538 N. Barron Street., Suite 5
Eaton, OH 45320
Phone: 937-456-5001
Website: www.sarahmhoward.com

Mark Your Calendar!!!

**Preble County Chamber of
Commerce Scholarship
Golf Tournament**

Thursday, September 1, 2011
Hueston Woods Golf Course
6961 Brown Road
College Corner, Ohio
8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start

**We have 12 teams and could
use more teams!**
Level I - \$300 (team & cart)
Level II - \$260 (team)

**We also need "Door Prizes" so
if you would be willing to
donate something, you can
bring it to the Chamber office
or we can pick it up.**

**For questions, contact the
Chamber Office**

**937-456-4949 or email:
chamberoffices@preblecountyohio.com**

**Rural US disappearing?
Population share hits
low**

AP Associated Press
*By HOPE YEN -
Associated Press | AP - Thu, Jul 28,
2011*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rural America now accounts for just 16 percent of the nation's population, the lowest ever.

The latest 2010 census numbers hint at an emerging America where, by midcentury, city boundaries become indistinct and rural areas grow ever less relevant. Many communities could shrink to virtual ghost towns as they shutter businesses and close down schools, demographers say.

More metro areas are booming into sprawling megalopolises. Barring fresh investment that could bring jobs, however, large swaths of the Great Plains and Appalachia, along with parts of Arkansas, Mississippi and North Texas, could face significant population declines.

These places posted some of the biggest losses over the past decade as young adults left and the people who stayed got older, moving past childbearing years.

For instance in West Virginia, now with a median age of 41.3, the share of Americans 65 and older is now nearly double that of young adults 18-24 — 16 percent compared to 9 percent, according to census figures released Thursday. In 1970, the shares of the two groups were roughly equal at 12 percent.

"This place ain't dead yet, but it's got about half a foot in the grave," said Bob Frees, 61, of Moundsville,

W.Va., which now has a population of just over 9,000. "The big-money jobs are all gone. We used to have the big mills and the rolling plants and stuff like that, and you could walk out of high school when you were 16 or 17 and get a \$15-an-hour job."

Demographers put it a bit more formally.

"Some of the most isolated rural areas face a major uphill battle, with a broad area of the country emptying out," said Mark Mather, associate vice president of the Population

Reference Bureau, a research group in Washington, D.C. "Many rural areas can't attract workers because there aren't any jobs, and businesses won't relocate there because there aren't enough qualified workers. So they are caught in a downward spiral."

Rural towns are scrambling to attract new residents and stave off heavy funding cuts from financially strapped federal and state governments.

Delta Air Lines recently announced it would end flight service to 24 small airports, several of them in the Great Plains, and the U.S. Postal Service is mulling plans to close thousands of branches in mostly rural areas of the country. The University of Kansas this month opened a new medical school with a class of eight in Salina, a regional hub of nearly 50,000 people, in hopes of supporting nearby rural communities that have no doctors at all.

In North Dakota, colleges are seeking to draw in young adults by charging low tuition and fees. It's part of a broader trend in which many slow-growing rural states are touting recreational scenic

landscapes or extending tuition breaks to out-of-state residents who typically are charged more.

Many rural areas, the Great Plains in particular, have been steadily losing population since the 1930s with few signs of the trend slowing in coming decades, according to census figures.

The share of people in rural areas over the past decade fell to 16 percent, passing the previous low of 20 percent in 2000. The rural share is expected to drop further as the U.S. population balloons from 309 million to 400 million by

midcentury, leading people to crowd cities and suburbs and fill in the open spaces around them.

In 1910, the population share of rural America was 72 percent. Such areas remained home to a majority of Americans until 1950, amid post-World War II economic expansion and the baby boom.

Among the struggling rural areas are vast stretches of West Virginia in Appalachia. Several of the state's counties over the past decade have lost large chunks of their population following the collapse of logging and coal-mining industries during the 1960s.

In Moundsville, Frees describes his town, which sits in the northern panhandle along the edge of Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, as appealing in some regards because of its low cost of living and friendly atmosphere in which "people talk to each other." But opportunities are few for the area's young adults other than perhaps the \$7 or \$8-an-hour jobs at the nearby Wal-Mart store.

"The young kids today are fleeing the area," Frees said. "They get the education and then they leave because there's nothing here for them."

Other rural U.S. counties suffering big declines include Issaquena, Jefferson and Sharkey in Mississippi; Sheridan and Towner in North Dakota; Kiowa in Kansas; Cimarron in Oklahoma; Tensas Parish in Louisiana; Monroe in Arkansas and Cottle, King and Culberson in Texas. All had percentage losses of 20 percent or more over the past decade.

The numbers are based partly on an analysis by the Population Reference Bureau. The data were supplemented with calculations by Robert Lang, a sociology professor

at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, and William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution. "Rural" is generally defined as nonmetropolitan areas with fewer than 50,000 people.

While rural America shrinks, larger U.S. metro areas have enjoyed double-digit percentage gains in population over the past several decades. Since 2000, metros grew overall by 11 percent with the biggest gains in suburbs or small- or medium-sized cities. In fact, of the 10 fastest-growing places, all were small cities incorporated into the suburbs of expanding metro areas, mostly in California, Arizona and Texas.

In all, the share of Americans living in suburbs has climbed to an all-time high of 51 percent. Despite sharp declines in big cities in the Northeast and Midwest since 2000 due to the recession, U.S. cities increased their share by 3 percentage points to 33 percent.

"These new patterns suggest that there will be a blurring of boundaries as regions expand well beyond official government-defined definitions," Frey said. "People like to 'have it all' — affordable housing in a smaller-town setting but in close proximity to jobs and big-city amenities such as specialized shopping, cultural events and major sports and entertainment venues."

"Many moderate-sized metro areas can fulfill all of these needs," he said.

The Census Bureau will soon begin to define new "combined statistical areas" — often referred to by demographers as megapolitan areas or megalopolises — based on growth and overlapping commuter traffic. Some analysts point to a merger of areas between Austin and San Antonio, between Tampa and

Orlando and possibly between Phoenix and Tucson, with the Washington-Baltimore region extending southward to Richmond, Va.

These new megalopolises could help spur corporate and government investment in major cities and the growing small towns in between.

"There's such a large share of population that is now in reach of a substantial metropolitan center due to transit systems and highways, that the traditional notion of small-town America is changing," said Lang, who has done extensive research on U.S. megapolitan and regional growth.

"Fewer and fewer people live in the deeply rural places, and for most people in smaller towns, a big regional hospital or a Wal-Mart or strip mall is not too far away," he said.

He and other demographers believe that rural areas will remain viable, although many will be swallowed up by booming metropolitan areas and linked into sprawling megalopolises. Far-flung rural counties boasting vacation and outdoor recreation also will continue as popular destination points for young couples, retirees and empty nesters.

Lang said he hoped the growing convergence of major metro areas — and smaller towns in between — will promote better regional planning and cooperation rather than leading to individual cities acting as rivals for new investment. He said such collaboration might mean development of more roads or regional high-speed rail, or new approaches to water and energy conservation in the Mountain West.