

February 2010
Volume 6, Issue 2

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

Chamber Events

2/16 "Toast of the Town"
Eaton Community
Schools
600 Hillcrest Dr.
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

2/17 Preble County
Safety Council
12:00 Noon
Preble County YMCA

"Toast of the Town"

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**EATON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
600 Hillcrest Dr., Eaton**

Presentation of our 2009 Chamber Award Winners!

**Catering from Carmela's Pizzeria
and Door Prizes**

President's Message

Dear Investors,

The Preble County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce our awardees for 2009. The following businesses and people have distinguished themselves: HIT Foundation, Preble County YMCA, Henny Penny Corp., Pheasant Run Village LLC, John Tuggle of Remagen and Mike Snell of Silfex Corp., Carmela's Pizzeria, and Eaton Computer.

Please join us for the Toast of the Town at Eaton Community Schools on Tuesday, February 16th to honor our awardees.

Also, please welcome Kim Eck of Henny Penny Corp. and Shawn Murphy of Michael Murphy Insurance to the Board of Directors. Kim and Shawn were selected to replace Jeremy Hamilton and Mark Howard. We also want to thank Howard Carter, Larry Englert, and Kathy Schulz for their service on the Board of Directors.

Thanks to all of you for your service to the Chamber of Commerce.

Shanna Renner, Chairperson
Preble County Chamber Board of Directors

**Preble County
Chamber of Commerce**
122 W. Decatur Street
P.O. Box 303
Eaton, Ohio 45320
Phone: (937) 456-4949
<http://www.preblecountyohio.com/>

Board of Directors

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Chairperson
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456-7306

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456-3333

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456-1241

Leslie Collins
The Register Herald
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Kristi Marcum
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Development Disabilities
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Joanne Beineke
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472-2115

Shawn Murphy
Michael Murphy Insurance
456-1116

Staff

Matt Appenzeller
Executive Director
456-4949

Virginia Lindsey
Secretary
456-4949

Preble County Chamber of Commerce “Toast of the Town”

The “Toast of the Town”
Tuesday, February 16th
promises to be a special evening.
The event will be hosted by
Eaton Community Schools and
includes catering from Carmela’s
Pizzeria, door prizes, and
Chamber of Commerce Awards
for meritorious efforts in 2009.

The event will be from 5:30 to
7:30 pm.

During this event, the Eaton
Boys Basketball Team will be
playing against National Trail
High School. The J.V. game will
begin at 6:00 p.m. and the
Varsity Game will begin at
7:30 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce
Awardees will be honored during
halftime of the Varsity Game.

The awardees are:

**Non-Profit Organizations of
the Year:** HIT Foundation
Preble County YMCA

President’s Award:
Henny Penny Corporation
Pheasant Run Village, LLC

Citizen of the Year:
John Tuggle, Remagen, Inc.

Distinguished Service Award:
Mike Snell, Silfex Corporation

New Business of the Year:
Carmela’s Pizzeria

Excellence in Business:
Eaton Computer

Please join us for a fun night out
as we honor local organizations.



Preble County Historical Society, Inc.
7698 Swartsel Rd. Eaton, Ohio 45320

GREAT BACK YARD BIRD COUNT at the PREBLE COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER

Take a mid-winter nature break with
the Great Back Yard Bird
Count February 12-15, 2010 from 9 am
- 5 pm each day at the Preble County
Historical Center, located at 7693
Swartsel Road, Eaton, Ohio (about 6
miles SE of Eaton 1 mile NW of Gratis
off St. Rt. 122).

Join in the fun, hike the trails; it's a
great winter family-oriented activity.
Guided hikes will be offered each day
led by ODNR Botanist Eric Lewis, or
hike at your own leisure on 6-miles of
trails throughout the Center's grounds.
Children's activities will be
offered: make a bird-house, suet, bird
feeders, bird puzzles, bird word search,
coloring pages, and plenty more! A
parent or guardian must accompany all
children. A lunch stand will be open
with warm soup, hot dogs, and hot
drinks available for purchase.

Participants in the free event will join
tens of thousands of volunteers of all
levels of birding experience to count
birds. Each checklist submitted by
these "citizen scientists" helps
researchers at the [Cornell Lab of
Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon
Society](#) learn more about how the birds
are doing—and how to protect them.
Last year, participants turned in more
than 93,600 checklists online, creating
the continent's largest instantaneous
snapshot of bird populations ever
recorded.

“Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count is a great way to get outside with



family and friends, have fun, and help birds—all at the same time. Anyone who can identify even a few species can provide important information that enables scientists to learn more about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities,” said Audubon Education Vice President, Judy Braus. “Everyone who participates in the GBBC—families, teachers, and young people—will get a chance to hone their observation skills, learn more about birds, and make a great contribution to the future!” Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. One 2009 participant said, “Thank you for the opportunity to participate in citizen science. I have had my eyes opened to a whole new interest and I love it!” “The GBBC is a perfect first step towards the sort of intensive monitoring needed to discover how birds are responding to environmental change,” said Janis Dickinson, the director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab. “Winter is such a vulnerable period for birds, so winter bird distributions are likely to be very sensitive to change. There is only one way—citizen science—to gather data on private lands where people live and GBBC has been doing this across the continent for many years. GBBC has enormous potential both as an early warning system and in capturing and engaging people in more intensive sampling of birds across the landscape.”

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2009 GBBC data highlighted a huge southern invasion of Pine Siskins across much of the eastern United States. Participants counted 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists, as compared to the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005. Failure of seed crops farther north caused the siskins to move south to find their favorite food.

On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website’s photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products. The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from [Wild Birds Unlimited](http://WildBirdsUnlimited.com). For updates about the Preble County Historical Society sponsored Great Back Yard Bird Count on February 12-15, call 937-787-4256, or email: preblecohistosoc@brecnet.com, or visit our web site: <http://www.pchs.preblecounty.com>.

Safety Council Update

By Kathy Schulz



For the January training topic, Mr. Rick Hawley, Preble County Market President and Commercial Banker, and Denise Elridge, Vice President & Treasury Management Sales Executive from US Bank shared information with our members on ways to protect themselves from identity theft and fraud.

For the February 17th topic, we will have a compliance specialist from OSHA to discuss recording keeping changes.

Eligible members of the Preble County Safety Council received a total of \$77,726.39 in rebates from the Bureau of Worker’s Compensation. This included a 2% worker’s compensation premium rebate for those members who met the participation requirements and another 2% for those who met the performance requirements.

This is a great return on investment as membership in the Preble County Safety Council is only \$100 for Chamber members!

For more information on the Safety Council program, please see the Safety Council tab on the Chamber’s newly designed website

Speak Out Against Scams and Crime

Join Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to discuss your concerns about scams and fraud, and supporting Ohio businesses.

What: Community Forum

Where: Charity Earley Auditorium
Sinclair Community College
444 W. Third St., Dayton, Ohio
Moderated by Dr. Steven Lee Johnson, President, Sinclair Community College

When: March 10, 2010
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

RSVP: Please call Lynn Coleman at 937-531-6921 or go online to www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/daytonforum

Questions: Call Lynn Coleman at 937-531-6921



Health Spot....

Sponsored by The Greenbriar

Q.
I'm allergic to dairy products. What is the best way for me to get calcium in my diet?

A.
Many people don't tolerate dairy products well. Milk and other dairy products are the primary sources of protein, vitamin B-12, vitamin D (added to milk), potassium, and calcium – key nutrients in the typical American diet.

The DASH diet recommends 2-3 servings of fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products daily. A serving is one cup of milk or yogurt, 1.5 oz of low-fat cheese, or ½ cup of cottage cheese. Every glass of whole milk contains the equivalent of a pat and a half of butter (which is high in saturated fat and cholesterol). When you choose skim milk, you cut out nearly all of the saturated fat and cholesterol and you still get the protein, calcium, and most other key nutrients milk provides.

Harvard's research in the Nurses' Health Study and the Health Professional Follow-up Study (where over 100,000 people were studied for more than 12 years) showed that eating high intakes of dairy increased the risk of prostate cancer in men and ovarian cancer in women. Thus, Harvard's nutrition guidelines recommend just 1-2 servings of dairy daily.

If you don't drink milk, it is important to get these key nutrients from other sources. One of the easiest ways is to drink fortified soy milk (with added calcium, B-12, and vitamin D). Soy milk is also a good source of protein.

(Only buy brands with at least 7 grams of protein per serving.)

Other good sources of non-dairy calcium include calcium-fortified orange juice, tofu (with calcium used to make it a solid), and dark green vegetables, such as kale and broccoli. You can also take a daily calcium supplement with vitamin D. If you are a vegetarian, you should probably also take a B-12 supplement. Eating lots of fruits and vegetables helps you get plenty of potassium. Basically, you don't have to drink milk to have a healthy diet.



got calcium?

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

By: Mr. Gary Hanson, President American Safety & Health Management Consultants, Inc.

When I visit my clients I often spend time observing employees performing their normal work routine. As I do so, I ask myself, is this the safest way to work and if not What Could Go Wrong? I am always looking at the potential risk factors of each job. Employees don't deliberately work unsafely, but many employees will take the quickest, easiest way to perform the job. Sometimes employees have not been trained in the safest method to perform their job and sometimes safe procedures have not been developed.

Employees are creatures of habit and will perform job tasks the same way over and over. If they don't develop safe work habits they will develop unsafe work habits. These can be observed. It is just as easy to determine What Could Go Wrong? before an accident as it is to find out after the fact. Safety needs to be proactive, not reactive.

When you conduct employee safety observations, you can evaluate the types of risk factors faced by the employee. If these

are not addressed, it is not, if an accident will take place, it is when and how severe the accident will be. Most accidents are not the result of Immediate Threat. Employees usually recognize a serious safety hazard and avoid these. Most accidents happen from Secondary Threat. These situations usually aren't perceived as dangerous. Employees are willing to perform these tasks and will quickly commit these to memory.

I am always looking for the small things, since I have found these are usually what cause most accidents.

These include:

Back Injuries – What does an employee have to lift and how often. (No. 1 most serious injury facing employees.)

Hand Placement – If employees aren't paying attention to where their hands are, their hands will eventually end up someplace they should not be.

Housekeeping – Slips, trips and falls are the most common types of injuries

Use of Tools – Again, safe hand placement and proper use of each tool.

Climbing – Safe use of ladders is a must.

Repetitive Tasks – Employees are often in **Automatic Pilot**. The lights are on, but no one is home.

Hurry – Employees feel pressured to get the job done, and often work faster than is safe.

Confusion – If an employee is confused about how to perform the job safely, he is likely to make mistakes.

Attitude – Some employees do not have a safe work attitude and are more willing to take unnecessary risks.

Management Expectation – Employees will do what the boss wants. If safety is not a part of the expectations, employees will not work safely.

Each of the above plays a part in how an employee performs his/her daily work tasks. If safety is not an engraved part of the employee's behavior, then any and all of the above could lead to a serious injury. When your employees are working for you, What Could Go Wrong? It is better to take some time to evaluate employee work practices before an accident takes place, instead of finding out after the fact.

If you have any safety related questions or need help with your company Safety Program, please give me a call at 1-800-356-1274.



For the first time in Ohio, the Attorney General's Consumer Protection section has opened its doors to handle complaints from small businesses being preyed upon by scammers and deceptive vendors.

"Businesses with fewer than 20 employees create half of the jobs in the state. We know they are often targeted by scammers, but before today they did not have recourse through our office against this epidemic of predatory practices," said Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray. "For Ohio's economy to prosper and sustain our families and communities, we have to support and grow small businesses. This is another way for us to help level the playing field for small business."

Cordray said his office began testing the initiative last July with the state's trade organizations and chambers of commerce. To date, more than 500 complaints have been filed by small businesses and nonprofits targeting deceptive advertising, billing disputes, unauthorized charges and shoddy workmanship or services. The Attorney General's Office has recovered or saved more than \$60,000 on their behalf.

"Like the rest of us, small businesses in our state are carefully watching their bottom line," said Cordray. "My consumer protection section is able to help small business owners understand how to solve these kinds of problems and get back the money owed to them, regardless of how nominal the dollar figure. I understand that it matters to the survival of these small businesses and it is a priority for the Attorney General's Office."

Cordray gave examples of how the initiative is working:

- A Trotwood trucking company employee purchased a truck over the Internet for more than \$8,000. After paying for the product, the supplier failed to deliver and refused to return phone calls. The Attorney General's Office resolved the issue and the trucking company received its purchase.
- A West Jefferson library was charged for a web service that it never authorized. The Attorney General's Office recovered \$244.
- A Columbus auto repair company was charged \$849 for a Web site advertisement listing that they never authorized. The Attorney General's Office resolved the issue and the auto repair company did not have to pay the charges.

"With today's economic challenges, our businesses are feeling the strain," said Roger Geiger, Ohio Executive Director and Vice President of the National Federation of Independent Business. "Support is always welcomed, especially when it comes in the form of saving resources and recovering lost dollars. As the pilot numbers show, Attorney General Cordray has responded to a need within the Ohio small business community."

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection section has authority to pursue legal action against companies that do not follow the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Cordray said.

Kip Morse, President of the Better Business Bureau serving central Ohio, said Cordray's initiative "provides the leverage necessary to take complaints to the next level through legal action when warranted. By working together, we will cover more ground and ensure a fairer marketplace."

Cordray encourages small businesses that experience unfair practices such as

scams, deceptive advertising, shoddy workmanship, billing disputes, unauthorized charges, worker misclassification, monopolies or boycotting by competitors, or any illegal conduct, to contact his office at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/Business or by calling (800) 282-0515.

For fact sheet information about the Attorney General's small business consumer complaint pilot program, please visit www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BusinessComplaintsFactsheet.

BWC Update



Paul Feck, ARM Manager
Ohio State Fund Operations
Frank Gates Service Company

BWC Employer Programs

On 1/22/2010 BWC's Board of Directors approved a **Large Deductible Program** that will be available beginning 7/1/2010. This program permits an employer to choose a per claim deductible level in exchange for a Premium Discount depending on the size of the company and deductible chosen. Companies in the program are billed by BWC for all claims costs paid on claims that occur during the program period up to the deductible level. The Large Deductible per claim levels are \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$200,000. There are already small deductible claim levels in place that are less than \$25,000 and those have been available since 7/1/2009.

BWC had recently indicated they were planning to roll out a new program named the **Individual Incurred Loss Retro Program**. At the 1/22/2010 BWC Board meeting BWC stated they were having actuarial problems with parts of the program and there was a chance the new Program would not be

available on 7/1/2010 as planned and may be available at a later date or possibly not at all if the issues cannot be corrected. This program lets companies agree to be reviewed at three later future dates and if their actual claims costs at those times are less than expected they can receive a premium rebate or if their claims costs are higher than expected they can receive a premium billing.

BWC is currently in the process of revising their Drug-Free Workplace Program and eliminating the Drug-Free EZ Program. At a BWC committee meeting on 1/21/2010, BWC stated the new program will be named **Drug-Free Safety Program** and is expected to be available 7/1/2010. Nothing has been finalized yet, but potential highlights are one program with two levels (Basic and Advanced), reduced requirements and participation discounts that can be received every year the employers meet the requirements with no limit and no end to the program.

Workers' Compensation Legislation:

Senate Bill 213 (SB213): This potential law change if approved by the legislature will prevent BWC from taking the maximum discount below 65% for two years and would eliminate the Break Even Factor which is a penalty that is being charged to Group employers for 7/1/2009 and 7/1/2010. The Bill also would require any dividends BWC wants to give to be approved by the Senate and House of Representatives before being paid to employers. On Wednesday 1/27/10, SB213 was approved by the Senate.

Lucky the Clown of 'Lucky's Clowning and Balloon Twisting'

takes a different and many times humorous view of day-to-day activities. He hopes you enjoy the following article.

And 'Away' We Go

You know, many times we just don't pay attention to some of the smaller, yet very important, parts of our business. Items like ...

- o sending thank you notes
- o confirming event details
- o calling folks back ASAP
- o having an 'away message' on our phone

So often they aren't given enough time and emphasis.

So, I, Lucky the Clown, decided to take a fresh look at my phone 'away message', just to make sure it said everything I wanted it to. I played my message and it said, "This is Lucky the Clown; leave your number and I'll return your call ASAP." It hit me immediately that this message didn't tell my customer all the needed info; like my expected return time, a description of my services, my availability, etc.

I quickly searched the web for good 'away message' info to include, and then **excitedly** re-recorded my message. (excitedly? - I know I need to get a life!)

Now my new message says, "Good morning, good afternoon, or good evening. This is Lucky the Happy Hobo Clown; I am also known as Feel N. Lucky the Happy Hobo Clown. I do clowning, children's entertainment, balloon twisting, wedding receptions, magic shows, and just about any other kind of event. I am currently not available to answer your call, as I am out of the office, on another phone call, at an appointment, running errands, or with another customer. I am very sorry I missed your call because it is very, very, very important to me, and I will strive to return your call as soon as I can."

And then it continued with, "At the beep, please leave a detailed message for me, including your name, reason for the call, type of event you are asking about, your phone number, and the best

time(s) to call you back. Remember to include the event date, event time, number of expected children and adult attendees, the event length, the time you would like me to perform, the type of entertaining you would like, and your dollar budget range. In the meantime, please view my web site at www.feelnlucky.com.

You may also send me an e-mail at 'feelnlucky3@aol.com' as I check e-mails frequently throughout the day.

Thank you very much and I look forward to speaking with you. If this does happen to be an emergency, please press 'zero' and the call will be forwarded to a 'live' operator." BEEP!

Initially I thought to myself, "Wow! This message is GREAT. It includes everything. I can't wait for my customers to hear it!"

But, oh yeah, I forgot to mention one last item. The more I listened to this 'new' message version, the more I second-guessed myself. So now, after many, many more revisions, my 'away message' now says, "This is Lucky the Clown; leave your number and I'll return your call ASAP."

Lucky is sure you have heard the moral of this story many times before; but just as a refresher Lucky wants to make sure you just KISS (keep it simple stupid). (Oh yeah, I still know I need to get a life!)

Lucky's Clowning and Balloon Twisting

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Serving SW Ohio with Clowning, Children's Entertainment, Balloon Twisting, and Magic Shows for any occasion.



Luckv