

To promote free enterprise within & advance the business community of the Eaton-Preble County area.

June, 2011  
Volume 7, Issue 6

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

## Chamber Events

- 6/15** Preble County  
Safety Council  
12:00 Noon  
Preble County YMCA  
450 Wash.-Jackson Rd.  
Eaton, OH
- 6/16** "Toast of the Town"  
Allen & Adaline Garber  
Nature Center  
State Route 503 N.,  
Lewisburg, OH  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6/30** "Toast of the Town"  
Hilltop Equestrian  
Center – 4 – 8 p.m.  
4314 US Route 35 E.  
West Alexandria, OH

## "Toast of the Town"

**Allen & Adaline Garber Nature Center**  
State Route 503 N., Lewisburg, OH  
**Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Hilltop Equestrian Center**  
4314 US Route 35 E., West Alexandria, OH  
**Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dear Investors,

As summer approaches, we have an increasing number of Chamber members who are hosting Toast of the Town events. Please join us at the following locations throughout June & July.

**June 16**, 4 to 7 p.m. Garber Nature Center hosted by the Preble Co. Park District - State Route 503 N., Lewisburg, OH

**June 30**, 6 to 8 p.m. Hilltop Equestrian Center – 4314 US Route 35 E., West Alexandria, OH

**July 7**, 4 to 6 p.m. Evans Sawmill hosted by Kramer Auctions – 301 Mill Race Lane, Eaton, OH

**July 14**, 5 to 7 p.m. Heaven's Corner Zoo – 385 Quinn Road, West Alexandria, OH

We are trying to spread around the locations to show off a few more organizations. Please take time to support your fellow Chamber members at the Toast of the Town. We continue to add new members and we are grateful for increased involvement

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

**Board of Directors**

**Bradley Neavin,**  
**Chairperson**  
Eaton Community Schools

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**Ray Potter, Treasurer**  
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Corporation

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**Rose Roberts**  
Fifth Third Bank

**Manfred Schreyer**  
Taffy's Coffee, Wine & Music

**Jim Vidic**  
Bullen Ultrasonics, Inc.

**Abigail Noland**  
Preble County District Library

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Corey Mangan  
Debbi Hornbrook  
Kim Rowland  
Cindy Kaufman  
David Heindl

**Staff**  
**Matt Appenzeller**  
**Executive Director**

**Virginia Lindsey**  
**Secretary**



The **Garber Farm** land was donated to the county by former country resident, Kenneth Garber, to preserve the land as a nature conservancy in honor of his grandparents, Allen and Adaline Garber. Preble Co. Probate Court Judge Dues established the Park District in February 2003. The Preble co. Historical Society partners with the Park District and owns the collection of Garber family artifacts. Both organizations are collaborating on the renovation of the house on the property which is due to be finished by summer 2001.

The **Garber Forest** at the rear of the property provides 33 acres for hiking, nature observation and education. A mile-long loop trail and some shorter trails traverse the forest. In July of 2009 a 400ft. handicapped accessible **Broadwalk** was completed. It travels from the rear parking lot out to a viewing platform/picnic table at the **Old Oak Tree**, a 200 year old bur oak.

We have recently been awarded grant funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to build a **pavillon** near the front parking lot. As with our other facilities, the pavilion will be handicapped accessible. The pavilion will be a meeting place for the educational programs. It will also have an enclosed section that will provide storage for the Park District. For further information, please call 937-962-5561 or email: sec-treas@preblecountyparkdistrict.org



Our mission at Hill Top Equestrian Center is to take kids to the top in Hope, Heart, and Happiness. Through Judeo-Christian values in our character building modules, we strive to help kids realize:

- Hope – someone cares about me
- Heart – passion about an activity of value
- Happiness – contentment beyond circumstance

[www.hilltopequestriancenter.org](http://www.hilltopequestriancenter.org)

Hill Top Equestrian Center would like to take the opportunity to invite all Chamber Members to . . .

***Hill Top's "Toast of The Town"***

***Thursday June 30th***

***6:00 to 8:00 PM***

6:00 - 7:00	Meet & Greet / Facilities Tour
7:00 - 8:00	Chop & Chicken Dinner, Entertainment, & Presentation

Look for your personal invitation in the mail as this will be an RSVP event. Come join us for an evening of motivation, encouragement, and challenge.

Sincerely  
Jim Hazelwood Admin. Director  
director@hilltopequestriancenter.org  
937-839-4146

## Opti-Vise Announces Recent Staff Additions

Eaton, Ohio, May 26, 2011 – Opti-Vise, LLC is pleased to announce the recent staff additions of Bryan Wayt as Network/IT Support Specialist and Alex Remillard as a summer intern.

Remillard, a graduate of Miamisburg High School, is currently studying computer engineering at the University of Dayton. As a summer intern he will be assisting the staff technicians with various projects.

Wayt brings more than a decade's worth of experience in the information technology industry. After having resided in Orlando, Florida and Indianapolis, Indiana, Bryan recently returned to his childhood hometown of Richmond, Indiana where he currently resides. "I am excited to be back in the area and look forward to helping both Opti-Vise and our partners continue to grow and succeed", says Wayt.

"Bryan's experience and expertise will help us to expand our capabilities and services to our clients. We're excited to add him to our team of talented technicians", says Kent Hamilton, President. "We're also pleased to provide Alex with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and knowledge in the IT field."

Opti-Vise, located in Eaton and servicing southwest Ohio, is a provider of business-focused IT management and consulting services. For more information visit [www.opti-vise.com](http://www.opti-vise.com).

## Safety Council Update

By Mike  
Jeffery



The Preble County Safety Council met on Wednesday, May 18th at the Preble County YMCA. The speaker for this meeting was Capt. Brian Smith, City of Eaton Fire & EMS Division, who spoke on "Emergency Planning". He spoke on the prevention, preparedness and response for emergency management.

Our next meeting of the Preble County Safety Council will be our Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the Preble County YMCA. Our speaker will be Ron Joseph from Dayton Power & Light.

We will be starting our new FY 2011-2012 sign-up for our Preble County Safety Council.

## RED CROSS + CRUISE-IN and LAKE PARTY

*Hosted by Lakengren  
A & E Committee*



**Saturday, June 25, 2011  
Lake Lakengren Marina  
On State Route 732, Eaton, OH**

**4:00 p.m. – Dark  
Featuring: MC and DJ  
Dan Edwards of WDTN-TV - 2**

Event Parking - \$10 Donation  
Cruise-In \$10 - Car Registration  
Craft Vendor – Food Vendor -  
\$60 Registration

Proceeds Benefit Local Disaster  
Relief and Preparedness Efforts

Help us to reach our goal to provide food, shelter and clothing to our local community during times of disaster.

To register a booth, vehicle or to sign up for the Preble County Idol Competition: visit our website at [www.dac.redcross.org](http://www.dac.redcross.org) or call 937-456-5494.

## New Offer from Independent Stationers

As the designated office supplies vendor for the U.S. Communities program, Independent Stationers, Inc. is here to give you an exceptional buying experience from beginning to end. We are an independent, dealer-owned cooperative with hundreds of dealers and locations nationwide, delivering flawless service and easy online ordering at competitive prices.

Collectively, we operate on a single, state-of-the-art online procurement system, pool our buying power to deliver real savings, and provide free, next day delivery via the largest office products distribution network in the country. Individually, we support your needs with complete attention, because as your local business neighbors, your business matters to us. Together we're able to keep money and jobs in our community.

We've got a fixed price contract on 1,300 quality core products and 28,000 non-core products. And our robust reporting system gives you the visibility you deserve and transparency you need to manage your purchasing process.

With Independent Stationers, you will enjoy honest and respectful service; easy, empowering technology; great prices on a consistent basis; all supported with deep product knowledge to help you make the best business decisions. And on top of it all, you're supporting Main Street, not Wall Street – something we can all feel good about.

## Business Brown Bag Series



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.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** speakers will be **Pat Newcomb, Small Business Development Centers** and **Jon Heffner, Heffner & Associates, Ltd., speaking on "Active Plan: Learn to Project Your Business' Future"**

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** speaker will be **David Siefert, Sinclair Community College Faculty speaking on: "Creating a Successful Business Plan"**.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** speaker will be **Ray Potter, Human Resources: Topic TBA**

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

Free to Preble County Chamber Members and \$5 for non-chamber members.

For more information call: 937-456-4368.

*The Ohio BWC requires us to publish information periodically regarding Safety in the workplace. The following is one of the Steps for implementing a Safety Plan at your firm.*

### Step 9

## A Written Safety and Health Policy Statement

Your statement should define your company's commitment to your safety program.

- It needs to be signed by the company's Owner, President or other key Senior Management official.
- It should be put on company letterhead and posted where all employees can read it.
- It should also be reviewed with all new employees at the time they are hired so they know that safety is an important concern to management.

Do not fall into the trap of outlining a list of safety rules that your employees will be expected to follow and use this as your Safety Policy Statement. Safety rules should be implemented but they should be separate. Instead your Safety Policy Statement should show your concern for your employees and your commitment for protecting their safety.

A Safety Policy Statement should open similar to this:

Our Company is committed to providing the safest possible working environment and conditions for our employees. The safety of employees is a prime concern to management and critical to continued success and growth. With this in mind the following

commitment is being made to prevent unnecessary injuries:

- Management recognizes that safety is a core management value and that the prevention of employee injuries is an important part of our business.
- Safe working conditions will be provided and maintained.
- Employees will be trained in safe work practices.
- Safe procedures will be developed and communicated to all employees.
- Management is open to any ideas or suggestions from employees that will help improve the overall safety effort of the company.
- Employees will be encouraged to follow safe work practices and, where necessary, safety policies and rules will be enforced.
- Every effort will be made, when practicable, to return injured employees to transitional work.
- Safety is good business, good for our employees and good for the company.

The above items can be amended or other ones added for your particular company, but this will give you a good guide to follow.

A closing paragraph should be added similar to the following:

The prevention of employee injuries is of the utmost importance to the company and a key ingredient to the continued success and growth of the company. We urge all our employees to join with us to make our company the safest possible place to work.

---

Owner/ President/ or Key Senior Management Official

*This article was contributed by Tammy Purcell at Hunter Consulting.*

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**“Welcome”  
 New Members!**

**Sam’s Club**

Kellie Helton  
 6955 Miller Lane  
 Dayton, OH 45414  
 Phone: 937-454-6208

**E.M.T., Inc.**

Dianna Thomas  
 251 W. Lexington Road  
 Eaton, OH 45320  
 Phone: 937-456-2642  
 Website: [www.emt-inc.net](http://www.emt-inc.net)

**Preble County Solid Waste District**

Tish Plaughter  
 4499 US Rt. 127 South  
 Eaton, OH 45320  
 Phone: 937-456-6880  
 Website:  
[www.preblecountyrecycles.org](http://www.preblecountyrecycles.org)

**New home sales rose 7% in April to an annualized rate of 323,000...**rising for the second month in a row, but were 23% below the April 2010 level and still far below the historically “healthy rate” of 700,000 new sales.

The median price of new homes rose 2% from March to \$218,000...but is still 30% more than the median price of used homes.

The housing market continues to drag down the economic recovery, with sales of new homes dropping 18% since the recession ended nearly two years ago.

In 2010 Americans bought the fewest number of new homes since 1963.

There were 174,000 new homes on the market in April, the lowest level since 1963...which is 6.5 months supply at the current sales rate.

*-Commerce Dept.; USA Today; WSJ, contributed by the Preble Co. District Library*

Thanks to Rudy Roth of Ameriprise Financial for sponsorship of the Wine & Beer Tasting this Saturday. Please call 456-4949 for tickets!

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MONTE CARLO NIGHT FUNDRAISER!



The Preble County Council on Aging will hold a Monte Carlo Night on June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, at The Gathering Place, 501 Nation Avenue, Eaton. The Council on Aging has seen a large increase in requests this year for emergency assistance. We have stretched our designated dollars to help as many people as possible, but the fund is running low. Monte Carlo Night will be a major fundraiser for Preble County Council on Aging and all proceeds will go toward the Emergency Fund for assistance to seniors in meeting energy and utility bills, prescription needs, home repairs, etc.

The event is open to the public, but you must be 21 or older to win raffle prizes. There will be food available for a small contribution. Check out our website: [www.PrebleSeniorCenter.org](http://www.PrebleSeniorCenter.org) for full details or call the Senior Center at 937 456-4947 or 1-800-238-5146 for more information.

Many nice raffle prizes are available. We would like to thank our Grand Prize Sponsors:

Brookhaven Retirement Community, Reece's Las Vegas, Ron "Rudy" Roth of Ameriprise Financial, Girton Schmidt & Boucher Gard Funeral Home, Parker Hannifin, SSAID-Dennis Gamble, Leland in Richmond, and Stockslagers. We also thank our Gold Level Sponsors: Relaxology Therapeutic Massage, Wesler's Orchards, Register-Herald, Henny Penny, AAA, Mary Christmas LMT Relaxology, Gail of Shear Madness. Many other individual prizes have been donated. Join us for a fun evening and bring your friends!

## Ohio Tourism Rebounds in 2010

*Reprinted from OEDA May 31 newsletter*

The Ohio Department of Development's Tourism Division today announced that Ohio's tourism economy grew by 7 percent in 2010 and generated \$38 billion in total sales, up from \$36 billion in 2009 according to research conducted on behalf of the Ohio Tourism Division.

This growth in sales helped increase tourism employment to 439,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs with an associated income of \$10 billion, an increase of 2,000 jobs over 2009.

"About 1 in every 11 jobs or 8.7 percent of Ohio's jobs in 2010 were sustained by Ohio's tourism industry," said Amir Eylon, State Tourism Director. "Tourism is a resilient industry with the ability to quickly add new jobs to meet increased demand, which puts it at the forefront of economic recovery." Tourism last year generated \$2.6 billion in taxes for Ohio - \$1.5 billion

in state taxes and \$1.1 billion in local taxes.

"These results demonstrate the strength of Ohio's tourism industry and reinforce this industry as an economic driver for our state," said James A. Leftwich, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "We are pleased that travelers continue to take advantage of our state's resources and experience Ohio."

Total visitation to and within Ohio grew to nearly 179 million visits in 2010, up 4 percent from an estimated 171 million visits in 2009. About 35 million of those visits in 2010 included an overnight stay in Ohio, an increase of 4 percent from 2009.

"While only about 20 percent of Ohio's visitation includes an overnight stay, it accounts for 40 percent of our total visitor spending, and Ohio's 2010 overnight visitor spending grew by 8.8 percent," Eylon said. "This is a good indicator that Ohio tourism is rebounding and represents very good news for our industry since Ohio's average overnight visitor (especially from out of state) outspends day travelers by two and a half to one."

### Mark You 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**

**Watch for details coming out this week!**  
**For more information contact the Chamber Office**  
**937-456-4949**