PREBLE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
PROMOTE. ENGAGE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

May, 2011
Volume 7, Issue 5

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

Chamber News

Promoting Free Enterprise and Advancing the Business Community of Preble County

Preble County Chamber of Commerce General Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, May 19, 2011
11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Preble County Fine Arts Center
601 Hillcrest Drive, Eaton, OH

Speakers

Dr. John Boggess, Miami Valley Career Technology Center
Rae DeBord – Credit Card Business 101

To make your reservation, please contact Virginia at the Chamber Office at 456-4949 by May 13th !
Cost is $12, payable at the door!

Chamber Events

5/18 **Preble County Safety Council**
12:00 Noon
Preble County YMCA
Eaton, OH

5/19 **Chamber of Commerce General Meeting & Luncheon**
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Preble County Art Center
601 Hillcrest Drive
Eaton, Ohio

President's Message

Dear Investors,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking with anticipation to another great month in your business or organization. As a Chamber, we recognize that the success and effectiveness of our organization is directly linked to the input we receive from you, our investors. Many of the benefits we offer are in response to the needs expressed to our staff and Board by those who we are here to serve.

If you have a suggestion for how we can expand our services, or a story about something we have offered that has helped your profits or operations, please let us know. Our purpose is to serve you, and we take pride in providing the quality of services that will lead to the continued success of our investors.

Each year, the Preble County Chamber of Commerce awards a $1,000 academic scholarship to a deserving student. We recognize that education is a key driver to economic and community development, and we welcome the opportunity to help young people advance.

Our recipient this year is Madeline Ermlich from Eaton High School. At the time of application, Maddie carried a 4.10 GPA and ranked first in her class. She has been accepted by Miami University and desires to become a psychiatrist. Please join us in congratulating Maddie on a job well done!

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

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Matt Appenzeller
Executive Director
456-4949

Virginia Lindsey
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456-4949

Renewable Energy Fair-Sponsored by the Preble County Green Living

Interested in learning more about a growing industry in our region? Looking for savings to your cost of doing business? Are you curious about "green" technologies and how they can benefit you and your business? If so, please plan to attend the Renewable Energy Fair to be held at Eaton High School on Saturday May 14th from 10am – 2pm.

The Preble County Citizens for Green Living, the Eaton Community Schools, and our Chamber of Commerce are joining together to sponsor this important event. Attendees will have access to a wealth of information vendor displays and presentations all focused on the benefits of renewable technologies to individuals, businesses, and communities.

For more information, please contact the Chamber office at 937-456-4949 or call Peggy Branstrator at 513-798-0022.

Credit Card Processing 101 at the May 19th Luncheon

Confused about credit card processing fees? One of our presenters at the May 19th luncheon is Rae DeBord of Infintech LLC. The firm specializes in educating businesses and non-profit organizations about credit card processing. We are pleased to offer Credit Card Processing 101 to attendees of the **May 19th** Chamber luncheon at the **Preble County Fine Arts Center located at 601 Hillcrest Dr. in Eaton.** We will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Infintech LLC services are not limited to retail establishments. At the recent conference for the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance, Infintech LLC President Ryan Rybolt noted that a manufacturer in the Dayton area will save approximately $40,000 in credit card processing fees.

Also, our distinguished speaker for the day is Dr. John Boggess, Superintendent of Miami Valley Career Technology Center. The Miami Valley CTC plays an enormously positive role in the region and we are pleased to have Dr. Boggess with us.

Join Us for the Chamber Fundraiser on June 11

Please join us for an evening of fun and entertainment on Saturday, June 11 for a Wine & Beer Tasting at Taffy's of Eaton. Tickets are $20. Live entertainment will be provided. The event begins at 8 pm.

If you have not attended a Wine & Beer Tasting, it's a fun night out with family and friends. Fifty-percent of ticket sales are donated to the Preble County Chamber of Commerce to support the operation.

To reserve your ticket, please call us at 456-4949.

We hope to see you there!

Safety Council Update

By Mike Jeffery

The Preble County Safety Council met on Wednesday, April 20th at the Eaton Country Club at noon to celebrate their **5th Annual Awards Banquet.**

Awards that were presented by Michelle Francisco, Safety Council Program Manager, were as follows:

2010 Special Awards:
(Accumulated at least 500,000 hours and at least six months without an injury or illness resulting in a day away from work)
Dow Advanced Materials & Silfex Corporation.

2010 100% Awards
(Worked the entire calendar year without an injury or illness resulting in a day away from work)
Birchwood Genetics, Inc., Forklift Training Systems, Garber Contracting, LLC, Lakengren Water Authority, Lowman Metal Shop, Inc., Rexarc International, Inc., Timken Company-St. Clair Plant, and Trucks and Parts of Ohio.

2010 Achievement Awards
(Decreased its incident rate by at least 25% from the previous year)
Eaton Medical Transport, Inc. Preble County Educational Service Center, Twin Valley Community Schools and Village of West Alexandria.

2010 Multi-Awards
Brubaker Grain & Chemical (Group, 100%and Achievement); **Bullen Ultrasonics, Inc.** (100%, Achievement); **Complete Therapy Care, Inc**. (Group, 100%); **L & M Products** (Group, 100% and Achievement**); National Trail Local School District** (Group, 100%); **Preble County Agricultural Society** (100%, Achievement**); Preble County Council on Aging, Inc**. (Group, 100%); **Silfex Corporation** (Group, 100% and Achievement).

Our speaker was Cindy Schisler from Wright State University. She spoke to the group on *"Stress Management."*

"Thanks" to the Safety Council Steering Committee, which was made up of Gary Duke, Buddy McDaniel, Danny Reynolds, Sheryl Dolan, Beth Salisbury, Lori Page, Olives DeLegal and Virginia Lindsey, for making this event a success.

The next meeting of the Preble County Safety Council will be **Wednesday, May 18th at 12 noon at the Preble County YMCA.**

"Honoring Our Mothers"

Evening Candlelight Dinner
The Twin Creek Tea Room
19 E. Dayton Street
West Alexandria, OH

Saturday, May 7, 2011
Serving at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Call: 937-839-5094 or 937-839-5974

The Ivy Parlor Gift Shop will be open for shopping

Senior Day Celebration

You are invited to join us at the Preble County Senior Center, 800 East St. Clair Street, Eaton, celebrating *"Older Americans: Connecting the Community"* on **Friday, May 13, 2011.**

It will be a day of good food, games, entertainment and lots of fun! We'll be introducing American's fastest growing sport – Pickleball.

A light breakfast is available for purchase at 9:00 a.m., followed by "Celebrity Pickleball" at 10:00 a.m.

A buffet-style lunch, prepared by the Courtyard Café, will be served at noon. Tickets are now on sale at the Senior Center at $5 for members, $6 for non-members. Deadline for ticket purchase is **May 6th.**

After lunch, there will be a short program and the name of the **"2011 Preble County Outstanding Senior Citizen."**

Following those festivities will be an hour of entertainment by **Brian Brenner** at 1:30 p.m. Brian's "Branson to Vegas Show" is a culmination of all his favorite musical interests. The Brian Brenner Show is sponsored by Wood Glen Nursing Center, Dayton, Ohio.

United Way 9th Annual Golf Outing

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area
Preble County Branch

United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, Preble County Branch will hold its 9th Annual Golf outing May 20, 2011. This fun-filled day raises funds for the local United Way while bringing awareness to the organizations' mission of improving the education, income, and health of all residents in our community.

According to Event Co-Chair and United Way Advisory Board member Ron Roth, "the golf outing will be a scramble format of five-person teams with a minimum team handicap of 55 and that only one player per team can have a handicap of 10 or less." Roth also noted that teams can be made up of all men, all women, or co-ed.

The event features "closest to the pin" and "longest drive" contests for both men and women, as well as a "Skins Game" that is available for $25 per team, Roth said. "There are going to be some great raffle items too," he added.

The fee is $60 per person which includes a light breakfast (for morning teams), lunch and 18 holes of golf with 2 carts per team. Start time will be 9:00 am for the morning session and 1:00 pm for the afternoon session. Co-chairs suggest participants should arrive ½ an hour before their tee time to register.

Something new for the outing this year, is that all players will receive a 12 month membership to BoxGroove.com. The membership enables golfers to schedule tee times at private courses across the U.S. Organizers say the memberships have been donated by the company itself through a Preble County resident.

All proceeds for the event will benefit United Way of the Greater Dayton Area, Preble County Branch.

"We're very excited about this year's event. This is a great way to not only raise money for United Way, but also bring the community together through a fun day of golf," said Roth.

For a registration form or more information contact the United Way office at 456-7174. Organizers ask that **all registration forms and checks be completed and turned in no later than Friday, May 13, 2011 to the United Way office at 597 Hillcrest Dr. – Eaton.**

"Welcome" New Members

FirstLight Home Care
Shannon Phong
8350 Byers Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342
Phone: 937-859-3555
Website: www.firstlighthomecare.com

PCC Internet Group
Dennis Gamble
352 Roosevelt Blvd.
Middletown, OH 45044
Phone: 513-422-5160
Website: www.pccig.com

Planet Off Road
James Gates
4051 US Route 35 East
West Alexandria, OH 45381
Ph: 937-839-1544
www.planetoffroadsales.com

Hilltop Equestrian Center
Jim Hazelwood
4314 US Route 35 East
West Alexandria, OH 45381
Ph: 937-839-4146
www.hilltopequestriancenter.org

Annual Spaghetti Dinner Heartland of Eaton Thursday May 19th, 2011.

Time: 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Once again it is that time of year when **Heartland of Eaton** hosts it annual spaghetti dinner to benefit the American Cancer Society's "Relay For Life."

There is the choice of Meat or Alfredo sauce along with salad and homemade desserts. Many area businesses are supplying products as well as door prizes.

Tickets can be purchased at Heartland of Eaton, 515 S. Maple Street, Eaton, OH or at the door the day of the event. $4.00 Advance, $5.00 at the door, $3.00 Children.

For more information or to purchase tickets please call 937-456-5537.

CenturyLink and the Preble County Chamber of Commerce – helping your business reach new heights.

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PCAA Summer Art Camps for Children

Last summer the children's Art Camp at the Preble Fine Arts Center was such a big hit, the PCAA has decided to make this year's program even bigger.

Each month this summer will feature a week long session for a different age group. Camps will be taught by Sean Perkins, an art instructor at Sinclair Community College. Projects include painting, drawing, sculpture, crafts and more. Students should be prepared to get messy and have fun!

The first camp is for children **ages 8 to 10** from **June 20 to 24**. The second camp is for **ages 11-13** from **July 18 to22**. The third camp is for **ages 14-17** from **August 15 to 19**. Hours for all the camps are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Participants should bring a packed lunch; drinks will be provided. Fees for the camps are $135 per child, and include all supplies. Space is limited to 28 students per camp and your payment secures a spot.

Deadlines for reservations are one week before the start of each camp. All camps will take place at the Preble Fine Arts Center.

For additional information and for a registration form, please call the

Fine Arts Center at (937) 456-3999 or email at office@takepartinart.net.

The Fine Arts Center is located at 601 Hillcrest Drive in Eaton, Ohio, directly across from Eaton High School. You can also visit us on the web at www.takepartinart.net or on Facebook.

Occasionally, the Ohio BWC requires us to publish articles relating to Safety. The following is one in a series:

Hand Protection

We use our hands for so many things that we often take them for granted. Because of this, they are the most frequently injured part of the body. Planning ahead, paying more attention to your hands, keeping them out of harm's way and using appropriate personal protective equipment can help prevent most of these injuries.

Hospital emergency room studies confirm that hand and finger lacerations are one of the most common injuries treated. Skilled tradesmen account for about a third of those injuries. Malfunctioning machinery, uncommon work tasks, increased work pace and distractions contributed to injuries. Workers who wear gloves seem to suffer fewer hand injuries.

Check your plant statistics to obtain actual numbers of hand injuries, and poll your group for actual injuries or close calls, to prove the need for hand-protection initiatives.

What are the major sources of hand injuries?

- Trauma resulting from mechanical hazards, such as cuts, abrasions, punctures, broken bones and amputations
- Electricity and heat sources resulting in burns and possible nerve damage
- Chemicals and other irritants leading to chemical burns, abrasions, simple skin irritation and dermatitis

Why do we incur hand injuries?

- Inadequate machine guarding
- Missing machine guarding
- Using the wrong tools
- Using tools incorrectly
- Inadequate training for the task being performed
- Not wearing appropriate hand protection
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Using inappropriate solvents and cleaning agents
- Not following proper ergonomic practices

What are ways to prevent hand injuries?

- Keep machine guards in place.
- Properly use the correct tools.
- Remove hand jewelry.
- Use lockout / tagout procedures to prevent unexpected start-up of equipment.
- Keep tools in good condition.
- Keep your work area clean and free from debris.
- Obtain training on proper tool usage.
- Don't use your hand as a temperature gauge.
- Use barrier creams to prevent skin contact with irritants.

How do gloves protect the hands?

- Cotton gloves can protect against abrasions, cuts, snags and temperature extremes.
- Leather gloves protect against rough surfaces, heat, cuts and sparks.
- Cut-resistant gloves can protect against sharp edges and thermal hazards.
- Chemical-resistant gloves resist penetration and permeation; and can protect against dermatitis, chemical burns and corrosion.

Gloves can provide protection from a variety of concerns, but they must be used with care, and the proper selection for the hazard is critical. In some cases, gloves can contribute to injuries. Understanding the types of gloves, and their appropriate uses, is the key to a good hand-protection program.

Protecting your hands is a constant job. Whether it is un-jamming a machine, loading parts, changing tools, lifting a tray or any other job using your hands, think about the job before you do it and imagine what could happen. Assume it could happen, and take appropriate action to prevent an injury.

Use your head to protect your hands.

Article provided by the BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene

Ohio scores well on Ernst & Young Report on State & Local Business Taxes

Quantitative Economics and Statistics Practice (QUEST) of Ernst & Young LLP, in conjunction with the Council On State Taxation (COST), has produced a report entitled *Competitiveness of state and local business taxes on new investment: Ranking states by tax burden on new investment*. http://www.olc.org/pdf/CompetitiveStateLocalBusinessTax0411.pdf

This study provides a state-by-state comparison of the tax liabilities that new investments in selected industries or types of economic activities would incur in each state, taking into consideration state and local statutory tax provisions and the financial and economic characteristics of the new investments.

The reports show that Ohio has the third lowest overall business effective tax rate in the country. Ohio's high business competitiveness ranking reflects the major business tax re forms adopted in 2005 that substituted the modified gross receipts tax for corporate income and franchise taxes and eliminated business tangible personal property taxes.

In corporate tax situations, the details of different taxes matter greatly and factors like apportionment formula weights can be more significant than statutory tax rates for certain taxpayers.

Message from a new member: Hilltop Equestrian Center

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

Walt Disney once made a poignant statement, "The world's number one natural resource is the mind of a child." Adding to that I would like to state that to waste the minds of our children due to our unwillingness to address despondency, the underserved, the culturally corrupt, or those that have blessed us with their special needs, is to forsake the call of humanities mandate, "Serve the least of these our brothers".

Hill Top Equestrian Center has had the extreme pleasure of serving the "Least of These" over the past five years. Hosting free of charge programs that serve the needs of over 100+ area youth, we have seen the under-served challenged to achieve their natural aptitude through the character building modules of our Adopt-A-Horse programs, the TEAM challenge directives of our Speed Ball League, and the emotional as well as physical modifications realized through HTEC"S EquiTherapy. Our hearts have been lifted as we have witnessed the dark clouds dissipating from the eyes of the despondent. Our soul shouts "Victory" as we experience the emotional and physical core strength of a special needs child growing.

HTEC is proud to become one of Preble County Chamber's newest members. We are pleased to network and partner with exemplary area businesses in the arena's of commerce and community. If you don't know about us, stop in and visit, give us a call, log into our web page, celebrate "Farm Daze" July 2nd with us, or stay tuned for our "Toast of The Town" event, date TBD.

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

BWC Safety Requirement for Grouped Private Employers – Deadline Approaching

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation requires that all private employers in the July 1, 2010 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 June 30, 2011.

Frank Gates is notifying all of their impacted clients. If your entity had one or more claims during calendar years 2008 or 2009, and your company participates in one of the July 1, 2010 Programs, the BWC has indicated that you must meet the safety training requirement.

FrankGates
AVIZENT