

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK • THOMAS DIPIETRO

Destination



While going over the Chamber's Mission Statement the other day, it occurred to me that it sounded like the mission statements of other chambers and community organizations of various ilk. The language is probably written

down in some book about how to be a Chamber of Commerce or something. After pondering this for a while (and trying to think of a topic for this column) I concluded that the Chamber's goal, however stated, is simply to make our unique tri-community a destination for visitors, homeowners, and businesses. If we could just attract two out of three in any given time frame our businesses would grow and prosper. Therefore, the Chamber's goal is to make this beautiful area a destination. How?

First, we need to get noticed. Like, our Belleville Lake gets us noticed and the Belleville National Strawberry Festival gets us noticed. Perhaps it's our perfect mix of urban and rural living we enjoy in this area, with proximity to Detroit or Ann Arbor that gets us noticed. Then there's our own Wayne County Fairgrounds, that hosts the County's annual Fair and other great events. And where else is there a Willow Run Airport with the Yankee Air Force Museum, right in your own back yard? So many less fortunate communities are forced to rely upon shopping centers, office buildings or

chicken to make them relevant. I guess that's the best you can do – do it. But we're far more fortunate than that.

We have this community, its organizations, its rich history and its natural features history and it is just sitting here – begging to be used to create a destination for southeastern Michiganders.

I can honestly say, no one from this area that I talk to has said a negative work about this community. It's always been positive (except maybe for the condition of Main Street in Belleville). The Lake catches visitors' attentions immediately and "quaint," "pretty" and "charming" are words frequently used with sincerity. Compare that view with what we hear from our own residents at the diner, restaurant or bar: mostly bitching, isn't it?

For us to become a destination and grow our business community, we need to step back and realize what we have and how fortunate we are before we find out that one day it's gone - dead, from rot and neglect. Every day we look at our community, but we never see. We look, but never listen. Aside from the economics of our State, there is no other community I would rather live in. If you spent some time thinking about our riches I think you would agree with me. More importantly, the pride that we would resurrect would make us salespersons in our campaign to make us a destination. We will talk about how you and us will work together can make this happen. For now, spend some time "seeing" and "listening" and being thankful. A little pride wouldn't hurt. **There is a lot to be proud of if we look at it objectively.**

March 2010

Board of Directors

President

Thomas DiPietro
DiPietro & Day, P.C.

Immediate Past President

Vickie Lenhardt
Bellridge Apartments

President Elect

Martha Brown
Marti's Gift Gallery

Vice President

Robert Austin
Doyce's Red Beans & Rice

Treasurer

Joyce Rochowiak
Garden Fantasy

Secretary

Keith Johnston
Johnston Lithograph, Inc.

Directors

Randy Brown
Randy Brown Landscape
Harlan Davenport
Davenport Brothers Construction

Anna Loranger
Loranger Family Chiropractic
Center
Beverly Neal
Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home

Johnny Vawters
Sumpter Township
Bill Wolters
Stoney Creek Motorsports

Staff

Lianne Clair
Interim Executive Director

Our Mission

To serve our members as the gateway to the tri-community by promoting growth and prosperity through commerce, culture and education.



LIANNE CLAIR • INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Important March Events

There are a number of Chamber activities and business items that I would like to highlight for March. As always, I welcome member input: your experience with Chamber activities; any suggestions you may have for future activities or programs; or any other ways we can better serve you, our valued members. Conversely, please help make your Chamber a success by participating in our activities and programs.

Networking Event

Local cooperation is important, but in today's globally-oriented business world, regional cooperation is vital. **Please come join us on March 11 in "Breaking the Boundaries."** This networking opportunity is designed to unite businesses in Western Wayne County. Fourteen Chambers in the western suburbs are gathering under the roof of Burton Manor in Livonia to break the boundaries and do some serious networking!

At least 300 people are expected to attend this Business Connection. We have limited full tables available on a first come, first served basis for \$60. In addition to networking, the event will feature great food and of course, many opportunities to promote your business in a fun and relaxed environment.

This event is presented by the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and its partners with the Western Suburban Area Council of Chamber (WSACC).

Reservations and payment are required and must be received by Friday, March 5, 2010. Applications are available at the Chamber office and were included in our February newsletter.

Ribbon Cuttings

TWO ribbon cutting events are scheduled for March. Come show your support to these community businesses by attending these events.

Associated Construction Equipment School (A.C.E.) – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2010

9292 Oakville Waltz Road, P.O. Box 9, Willis, MI 48191 – 734.586.5551

Please come join us as this new school celebrates its Grand Opening. The school trains students on the use of heavy equipment with a certificate upon completion. Throughout the Open House (extending until 4:00 p.m.) they will have their training equipment on display.

Please R.S.V.P. at www.aceschool.org or contact Jim Clark, Administrator at 734-461-0049.

Bone Heads Bar-B-Que Food & Spirits – 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 2010

10256 Willis Road, Willis, MI 48191 – 734.461.9250

The ribbon cutting ceremony opens the Open House/Anniversary Celebration of Boneheads. Food specials and live music are two of the afternoon's festivities hosted by owners Jim and Niki LaChance. Come support one of our newest Chamber members!

"We've got a bone to pick," is one sentiment expressed on the front of their menu, while "spirits" takes on a double entendre when you realize that this historic site houses not only a restaurant, but also some ghostly residents from a distant past.

Visit their website, www.boneheadsinc.com to read more about the site's

history and to view their eclectic menu. Whet your appetite with a Bucket of BBQ Killer Riblets, Cajun Catfish, or Pickle Barrel Famous Pickle Chips. Check out main course selections including Bone Heads BBQ Burger, their signature Pulled Pork Sandwich, or the Ultimate BBQ Sundae – pulled BBQ pork, baked beans, coleslaw or mashed potato all served in a sundae goblet (hmm...). Other menu choices include Beer Battered Walleye, Hawaiian Chicken and Homemade Macaroni & Cheese. Top it off your meal with a dessert of Mud Pie or a Chocolate Chip Cookie Skillet. Wash it all down with OG (Original Gravity), a brew from Michigan's own Milan microbrewery.

Workshop

Let annarbor.com Work for You! - 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Chamber Conference Room, 248 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111

Take a break from your business during lunch hour! Come learn how annarbor.com can help to increase your advertising audience without straining your budget. Blake Bolick, from annarbor.com, will give a comprehensive overview regarding how to effectively market your business with this media. Blake will also work with workshop attendees during the ensuing question and answer period. Scheduled during a typical lunch hour, light fare and refreshments will be served. An R.S.V.P. is not necessary but will be appreciated for planning purposes. Please contact the Chamber, email preferred (bellechamber@bellevillech.org), if you will be joining us. Bring a friend!

Welcome New Members

When the opportunity presents itself be sure to introduce yourself to our new members and personally welcome them into Chamber Membership. We encourage you to do business with them so that they may know our appreciation and the value of Chamber Membership.

American Cancer Society 248-663-3511
 20450 Civic Center Drive
 Southfield, MI 48076
 Charlotte Paul
 Charlotte.paul@cancer.org
 www.cancer.org
Nonprofit Organization

Boneheads Bar-B-Que 734-461-9250
 10256 Willis Road • Willis, MI 48191
 Jim & Niki LaChance, owners
 boneheadsinc@hotmail.com
 www.boneheadsinc.com
Restaurant & Tavern

Discount Sprinkler & Landscape, Inc. 734-829-7219
 1899 Ridge Road • Ypsilanti, MI 48198
 Robert Lepper, owner
 robertlepper@yahoo.com
Landscape & Sprinkler Systems

Metco Services, Inc. 734-697-8970
 245 Main Street • Belleville, MI 48111
 Keith Uutinen, Vice President
 kuutinen@oak.metcoservices.com
Civil Engineering

Nicks Painting, Inc. . 734-564-1572
 Nick Fernimos
 nicotime101@yahoo.com
 www.nickspaintinginc.biz
Painting, Restoration

Super 8 Motel 734-699-1888
 45707 S. I-94 Service Drive
 Belleville, MI 48111
 Mike Boyar, Manager
 Reservations: 1-800-800-8000
Motels

Special Thanks To Renewing Members

We appreciate the confidence and support of the following members. Please remember to patronize your fellow Belleville Chamber members when you need goods or services:

Active Aero Group -
 Willow Run Airport 2003
 Armstrong's Funland Inc. 2000
 Belfor Property Restoration 2003
 Belleville Area Museum 1997
 Belleville Community Band 2008
 Belleville DDA 1987
 Belleville Manor LLC 1994
 Belleville Non Profit
 Housing Corp 2005
 Belleville Tax & Accounting
 Services Inc 2005
 Belleville Pediatrics 2007
 Bethany Day Care Center 1994
 Bovitz CPA, P.C. 2000
 Criss, Wilmarth & Parr, P.C. ... 2005
 Delux Tents & Events, LLC 2008
 Eagle Crest Resort 2004
 Edward Jones 2008
 EQ-The Environmental
 Quality Co. 1978
 Extra Space Storage 2007
 Friends of the Fred C.
 Fischer Library 1985

Girlstown Foundation 1984
 Great Lakes Rabbit
 Sanctuary, Inc. 2002
 H&B Bookkeeping 2001
 Hall - Esser, L.L.C. 1984
 Henry R. Deering Agency 1963
 Heritage Newspapers -
 The View 1998
 Higgerson & Neal
 Funeral Home 2003
 Keystone Academy
 (National Acads.) 2006
 Konica Minolta 2007
 LaJoy Group, Inc. 2002
 LKQ Management Company 2000
 McNamara, Kevin Wayne
 Cty. Commissioner 2007
 NAPA Genuine Parts
 Company 1999
 Osier & Sons Electric
 Co LLC 2004
 Remerica Main Street
 Realty, Inc. 1988
 St. Paul's Evangelical
 Lutheran Church 2003
 SAM Cleaning & Janitorial,
 LLC 2007
 State Farm Insurance -
 Mel Kero 1984
 Trinity Episcopal Church 2002

Chamber Board of Directors

Nominations are now being accepted for openings on the Chamber's Board of Directors. If you are a business member and are interested in serving your Chamber community, please submit a short biography, including past related experience(s), to the Chamber office or to President Tom DiPietro. Terms are for three years and commence May 1, 2010. Requirements include: attendance at monthly Board meetings and various Chamber-sponsored events; participation in standing and/or special committees as needed; and a desire to help further the Chamber's goal of promoting a healthy business environment.

The election is scheduled for March 31. Ballots will be mailed to the Chamber's business membership. *(Please note: Associate Members, including churches, clubs, municipal governments and other organizations, are not eligible for nomination and do not vote – reference Chamber bylaws.)*

Denim

Belleville Area
Chamber of Commerce

&

Diamonds

Friday, April 30, 2010

Woodlands Golf Course, 39670 Ecorse Rd.

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., Auction & Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Levels of Sponsorship

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| <i>Diamond</i> | <i>\$2,500</i> | <i>1 table of 10 with 30 drink tickets and VIP recognition</i> |
| <i>Princess Cut</i> | <i>\$2,000</i> | <i>8 tickets with 24 drink tickets and VIP recognition</i> |
| <i>Flawless</i> | <i>\$1,000</i> | <i>6 tickets with 12 drink tickets and sponsorship recognition</i> |
| <i>Designer</i> | <i>\$500</i> | <i>4 tickets with 8 drink tickets and recognition in program</i> |
| <i>Studded</i> | <i>\$250</i> | <i>2 tickets and with 4 drink tickets and recognition in program</i> |
| <i>Stonewashed</i> | <i>\$100</i> | <i>Recognition in program</i> |

\$50 per ticket or \$500 per table

Ticket price includes 2 drink tickets

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce
 Presents
Denim & Diamonds

The Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce invites you to participate in our annual auction on

Friday, April, 30, 2010

Location is at the Woodlands Golf Course, 39670 Ecorse Rd.

Levels of Sponsorship

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---|
| Diamond | \$2,500 | 1 table of 10 with 30 drink tickets and VIP recognition |
| Princess Cut | \$2,000 | 8 tickets with 24 drink tickets and VIP recognition |
| Flawless | \$1,000 | 6 tickets with 12 drink tickets and sponsorship recognition |
| Designer | \$500 | 4 tickets with 8 drink tickets and recognition in program |
| Studded | \$250 | 2 tickets and with 4 drink tickets and recognition in program |
| Stonewashed | \$100 | Recognition in program |

Tickets Opportunities

___ Event Ticket \$50 (one ticket to event) ___ Table of 10 at \$500

Gift Donations

Description of item(s) or services donated

Value of item(s) or service donated \$ _____ Cash Donations \$ _____

Company or Individual name as it will appear in the Auction Program

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip code _____ Phone _____

Please fax to Anna Loranger: (734)697-8170

248 Main Street
Belleville, Michigan 48111

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

March

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 - 31 | 12:00 - 4:00 PM | Belleville Area Museum | 2010 Quilt Exhibit "Patches & Patterns," Info: 697-1944 |
| 3 | 7:00 PM | VBPS Administration Bldg. | VBPS Education Foundation meeting |
| 4 | 7:00 PM | Chamber Conference Room | Belleville Area Council for the Arts Meeting |
| 5 | 4:30 - 8:00 PM | St. Anthony's Church | Fish Fry Dinner, Info: 697-4835 |
| 6 | 12:00 PM | Belleville Moose | Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Info: 697-2111 |
| 9 | 1:00 PM | A.C.E. School | Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony |
| | | 9292 Oakville Waltz Rd, Willis | Info: 734-461-0049; www.aceschool.org |
| 9 | 6:30 PM | Chamber Conference Room | Strawberry Festival Meeting |
| 10 | 6:30 PM | VBT Hall | Relay for Life Kick-off Party, Info: 248-663-3511 |
| 11 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Burton Manor | "Breaking the Boundaries" networking event |
| | | 27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia | Info: see flyer in Chamber's February newsletter |
| 12 | 7:00 PM | First United Methodist | Praise Prayer Revival - all invited, Info: 697-9288 |
| 12 | 4:30 - 8:00 PM | St. Anthony's Church | Fish Fry Dinner, Info: 697-4835 |
| 13 | 6:00 PM | Wayne County Fairgrounds | Irish Dinner, Info: 697-7002 |
| 17 | | | St. Patrick's Day |
| 17 | 12:00 - 2:00 PM | Johnny's Grill | Central Business Community - lunch specials |
| 17 | 3:00 PM | Boneheads Bar-B-Que | Anniversary Celebration/Ribbon Cutting |
| | | 10256 Willis Rd, Willis | Info: Niki at 734-461-9250 |
| 17 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM | Johnny's Grill | Central Business Community - dinner specials |
| 18 | 12:15 PM | Boneheads Bar-B-Que | Chamber Board Meeting, Please RSVP |
| 19 | 12:00 PM | Chamber Conference Room | Central Business Community Meeting, Please RSVP |
| 19 | 4:30 - 8:00 PM | St. Anthony's Church | Fish Fry Dinner, Info: 697-4835 |
| 20 | 12:00 PM | Belleville Moose | Texas Hold 'Em Fundraiser, Info: 697-2111 |
| 24 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM | Chamber Conference Room | Workshop: Letting annarbor.com Work for You |
| 26 | 4:30 - 8:00 PM | St. Anthony's Church | Fish Fry Dinner, Info: 697-4835 |
| 27 | 1:00 PM | Sumpter Community Center | Children's Easter Party, Info: 697-6201 |
| 28 | 8:00 PM | First United Methodist | "The Living Last Supper," Info: 697-7398 |

April preview

| | | | |
|---|---------|------------------------|--|
| 1 | 8:00 PM | First United Methodist | "The Living Last Supper," Info: 697-7398 |
| 2 | 8:00 PM | First United Methodist | "The Living Last Supper," Info: 697-7398 |
| 4 | 8:00 PM | First United Methodist | "The Living Last Supper," Info: 697-7398 |