



VALLEY CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE VALLEY VOICE

Fall 2011 Edition
www.valleycity.org

Annual Meeting and Chamber Christmas Party

You and your spouse are cordially invited to the
2011 Chamber Christmas Party and Annual Meeting
hosted by Board Member David Smallwood and his wife Barb

Thursday, December 8th, 6:00 pm
6762 River Walk, Valley City, off Lester Road.

We will be celebrating the Holiday Season while voting for the newly nominated board members, discussing final plans for Christmas in the Valley and new ideas for 2011 in a cozy atmosphere.

Please join us with your spouse and let us know you are attending by Monday, December 5th at chamberofcommerce@valleycity.org or 330-483-1111.



Red Kettle Campaign

The Salvation Army's Northern Medina County Service Unit is starting its Red Kettle campaign. They need volunteers like you to help make this 2011 holiday season a joyous one for families in need in Brunswick, Brunswick Hills, Hinckley and Valley City. Please consider volunteering as a bell ringer this year by giving one or two hours or an afternoon. If enough volunteers don't participate, they have to hire people! Every penny you raise by ringing that bell will help a family in our community. The campaign runs November 23-December 24 and locations are in Brunswick: Giant Eagle, Buehler's, K-Mart, Discount Drug Mart (Saturdays). To volunteer, please call: 330-760-1623. Thank you, Judy Von Duyke, Red Kettle Coordinator.

Christmas in the Valley, December 10-11



Chamber members are again organizing *Christmas in the Valley* along with the Historical Society. The "Kickoff" to Christmas in the Valley begins Saturday evening with the Annual Sing-a-long scheduled for 6:00 pm at First Baptist Church, 6936 Center Road. All local area church choirs will be participating and includes a phenomenal refreshment display after the Hallelujah Chorus is sung by all.

On Sunday, December 11th from 1:00 to 5 pm we will be scheduling events including Santa at the Depot, and inviting the public to come and enjoy our town. We will also be scheduling tables for businesses not in the downtown area, artisans, crafters and other local organizations at the Town Hall, Fire Dept, and EUCC hall. The Chamber will collect \$20 for table rental in order to provide a donation for clean up of these facilities. Additional monies will go towards advertising, refreshments and other necessary expenses for the event. More information on which buildings we will be using will depend on the number of responses we receive. Table rental open to anyone.

If you have an activity you'd like to include, special business hours, or to rent a table please call the Chamber office at 330-483-1111 or email Linda Garrett at chamberofcommerce@valleycity.org. If you would like to volunteer to help with the day please contact Mary Ann Bauer at 330-483-3300. We need you!

We are looking for carolers to dress in costume (think Charles Dickens) and make rounds throughout the town, into businesses and into the table locations. If you know of a group willing to participate, please contact Mary Ann.

Advertising and a complete schedule are being worked on in the next couple weeks and will be available the day of the event at all participant locations as well as online at www.valleycity.org. The Rural-Urban Record will be stopping at each business to schedule advertising for the event soon! **Please post the flyer on page 7!**

Welcome New Members

SJ Services/SJ Tech

Scott Zeiger
6767 Fitch Road
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 235-6555
(440) 477-1149 cell
www.sjservices.com

Affordable computer repair. See discount under member discounts, pg 2.

Valley City Paintball Club, LLC

Brian Gunkelman
6330 Center Road
Valley City, OH 44280
(330) 304-5022
brian@valleycitypaintball.com
www.valleycitypaintball.com

Outdoor recreation paintball field.

Chamber Calendar

- November 8** Election Day
- November 11** Veteran's Day
- November 24** Thanksgiving Day
- December 8** Chamber Annual Meeting & Christmas Party
- December 10-11** Christmas in the Valley, Downtown (See Page 1)
- December 25** Christmas Day
- January 1** New Year's Day
- January 28** President's Ball, St. Martin's Church Hall

VC Chamber Board of Director Elections 2012-2013

Each year, six of the 12 board of director positions in your Chamber come up for election. This year those positions are currently Jim Sandor, Melinda Greenland, Michael Cox, Cindy Kintop, Rod Knight and Dave Smallwood.

The Chamber needs your participation as a member, volunteer and business expert to help our community retain the businesses we have and bring commerce to our town. If you would like to be considered for Directorship on the board, please contact any board member, call 330-483-1111 or email us at chamberofcommerce@valleycity.org. Nominations require you to be a member for at least one year, in good standing and requires attendance at monthly board meetings. Please step up and participate, it's your time! Nominations due by December 1, 2011.

Member Discounts

Asphalt Specialists, Inc.
 Asphalt paving, repair, sealing
Don Morgan
 330-273-2534
 10% Discount for Chamber Members

Kip Electrical Services, Inc.
 Kevon Pfenninger
kevon@kipselectricinc.com
 330-483-0364
 10% Discount for Chamber Members

SJ Services/SJ Tech
Scott Zeiger
 (440) 235-6555
 (440) 477-1149 cell
www.sjservices.com
 10% Discount for Chamber Members



2011 Officers & Directors

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| James Sandor, President | Linda Garrett |
| Gil Calta, Vice President | Dan Ferencz |
| Sean Lackey, Treasurer | Terri Jones |
| Melinda Greenland, Secretary | Rod Knight |
| Mary Ann Bauer | Jim Sandor |
| Michael Cox | Dave Smallwood |

Monthly Member Meetings

During October, Chamber members visited member Life Care Center of Medina for a fabulous lunch and tour of their care facility. We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks for the time they took out of their day to accommodate our member meeting.

The Chamber is always encouraging members to host a monthly member meeting so all members get to see what your business is all about. We want to support you! Please give us a call to schedule a monthly meeting. Most meetings fall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, you pick the time convenient for your business. We are flexible and refreshments can be provided by you or the Chamber.

Give us a call today at 330-483-1111 to schedule a date in 2012 now!

Holiday Open House

Hill Haven Florist and Greenhouse
 7842 Center Road, Valley City
"Christmas in the Country"
 Friday, Nov. 25 9:00-5:30
 Saturday, Nov. 26 9:00-3:00
 Sunday, Nov. 27 11:00-2:00

Homemade cookies, free floral calendars, door prizes, pine roping, poinsettias, unique gifts

\$10.00 off a purchase of \$45.00 or more (valid during open house only)

Thank you for helping us celebrate 40 years in business!

Chamber Office Location and Address

Valley City Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 304
 Valley City, OH 44280-0304
 Phone: (330) 483-1111
 Email: chamberofcommerce@valleycity.org
 Website: www.valleycity.org

Office Location:
 6801 School Street, Room 102
 Open by appointment
 (please use PO Box for mailings)

2012 Chamber Calendar

As a replacement for the biennial community guides produced by the Chamber in the past, we have decided to create a calendar that will be mailed to all postal addresses in Liverpool Twp. We feel this calendar, graced for 2012 with historical pictures of our town, will be utilized by homeowners on a daily basis, displayed in their home, thereby giving you 24/7 advertising potential for a minimal cost. At around \$30/month, for a basic ad, you can't beat the visibility. The calendar is almost filled up, so here's your last chance to participate! All orders due by 11/25. Questions? Call Gilbert Calta at 330-483-3233.



Valley City Community Calendar 2012

PURCHASE ORDER

The Valley City Chamber of Commerce is in the process of publishing the 2012 Community Calendar to reach all Liverpool Township residents! This calendar is very informative and includes Township, emergency and county information along with holidays and events of our merchants and community organizations.

This calendar is **delivered FREE** to Liverpool Township residences. In an effort to support area businesses, the calendar is *exclusive to Valley City area businesses and current Chamber members*. Please choose your advertising option and return this form with payment to the Valley City Chamber of Commerce at the address listed below.

Name	Title
Company	Phone/Email
Address	

Acknowledge Interest:	Date this form is due w/payment:	Ad Graphic Due:	Approximate Print Date:	Mailed to All Liverpool Residences:	First priority to current Chamber retail members:	Extra copies?
ASAP via email	July 15	You will be contacted	October	December	Have you paid your 2011 dues?	Note # you may want below

v To Select	Item	Size	Description	Note		Unit Price	Total
	12 mos Ad	2.0 x 1.5"	1 ad B&W, camera ready, jpg or .tif format			360.00	
	6 mos Ad	2.0 x 1.5"	1 ad B&W, camera ready, jpg or .tif format			200.00	
	Coupon	TBD	1 Coupon B&W, camera ready, jpg or .tif format; perforated page	Only w/Ad Above	@ beginning of calendar	\$20.00	
	Date Square	Approx. 80 Characters	Available for events, announcements with add'l purchase	Only w/Ad Above		\$5.00 ea	
	Date Square	Approx. 80 Characters	Available for events, announcements; per date block			\$20.00 ea	
	Extra Calendars		◀ Insert # you approximately need			TBD	
						Subtotal	
						Shipping	FREE
						Balance Due	

Mail your payment and Purchase Order to:
 Valley City Chamber of Commerce
 PO Box 304
 Valley City, OH 44280-0304

Phone: 330-483-1111
 www.valleycity.org
 Email: chamberofcommerce@valleycity.org

Member and Community News

Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach (ORMACO) Celebrates First Year

Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach (ORMACO) celebrates its first year at **Jilbert Winery** in Valley City on **November 17, 2011 at 7pm**. The evening will begin with a wine-tasting, followed by a delicious dinner, entertainment by Medina's talented Jazz Tan Laundry, and then a short program to thank our members, supporters and volunteers. Come on out for a relaxing and fun evening of fine wine, cuisine and camaraderie. Tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations are due November 11, 2011. To reserve your place, call 330-722.2541, or order online at www.ormaco.org.

LifeShare Community Blood Services is asking for you to be Loyal for Life. Please help prevent seasonal blood shortages by hosting a blood drive within your organization or in your community. Blood collected by LifeShare remains in the community where it was donated. Please call member contacts Mike Salisbury or Martina Cook at 440.322.5700 to sponsor a blood drive today! Visit our website@www.lifeshare.cc

Medina County Auditor's Office Employee Receives Statewide Award

MEDINA, Ohio (November 2, 2011) - Wendy Stanek, a Medina County Auditor's Office employee, recently received the statewide Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) Volunteer of the Year Award. After seeing a rise in foreclosures, Medina County Auditor Michael Kovack partnered with ESOP, a non-profit foreclosure prevention agency. Through this partnership, Kovack was able to implement a free, mortgage assistance program within his office. In 2009, with the help of a dedicated staff and volunteers, the Medina County Auditor's Office began assisting struggling homeowners. Stanek was one of the individuals who stepped forward to assist with the newly established program. Since then, she has gone above and beyond to help hundreds of homeowners save their homes from foreclosure. Since 2009, more than 1,000 families have received foreclosure prevention assistance with the Medina County Auditor's Office. If you are a homeowner struggling to make your monthly mortgage payments, please contact the Medina County Auditor's Office at (330) 725-9137.

Medina County Earns Auditor of State Award with Distinction

Medina, Ohio (November 3, 2011) - A recent financial audit of Medina County by Auditor of State Dave Yost's office produced a clean report, earning the county the *Auditor of State Award with Distinction*.

Local governments and school districts can earn the *Auditor of State Award with Distinction* upon the completion of a clean financial audit. The award requires that reports be filed in a timely manner in the form of a CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and contain no findings for recovery, material citations or weaknesses, significant deficiencies, Single Audit findings or questioned costs.

The award requires that the management letter contains no comments related to ethics referrals, questioned costs less than \$10,000, lack of timely report submission, reconciliation, failure to obtain a timely Single Audit, findings for recovery less than \$100 and public meetings or public records.

Medina County is one of three Ohio counties to receive the *Auditor of State Award with Distinction* for 2011.

Membership Benefit News

NOACC Sponsored Workers Comp:

Benefits 1 Group, the official NOACC-endorsed workers' compensation third party administrator, has shared a special report on the state of workers' compensation in Ohio. This special edition of their newsletter presents information on topics including rate changes impacting employers in the near future, fraud investigations, legal updates we can all learn from, as well as recent discussions on a potentially privatized workers' compensation program in Ohio. Please take a look and feel free to contact them with any questions. To access the special report, click here: http://www.benefits1group.com:7080/resources/b1g/newsletter/11_b1g_special_report.html

To reach a Benefits 1 Group representative, call 216.765.4200

BMSO Sponsored Workers Comp:

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation has announced that they will continue the group rating discount for the 2012/2013 policy year. Chamber members and prospective members are encouraged to complete the Chamber's AC-3 form enclosed in the newsletter and return it to the Chamber's group rating plan administrator, Benefit Management Services of Ohio as soon as possible to determine your company's eligibility to participate in the group-rating program for the next period. BWC continues to announce numerous changes, which will impact on employer discounts and annual premiums. Many employers may no longer qualify for group discounts, however, alternative programs may be available with discounts up to 40% off annual premiums. Once your company has been evaluated, Benefit Management Services will notify you of the discount or eligibility for an alternative program.

Do not hesitate to send in the AC-3 form and fax it back to BMSO at (330) 856-6662. The savings and service are more important than ever to our members. There is no cost for the evaluation.

PARTNER SHIP

The NOACC Chamber Shipping Program is off to a great start. The reports for the first quarter of 2011 are in and the AVERAGE savings for the 19 members using FedEx in this program is 14% (some chamber members have saved 5% and some have saved 37% on certain services.) This is exciting!!

Small business owners/operators are busy people, so to make this program easy to sign-up, just click the ad below to get started. Or click here: www.PartnerShip.com/89NOACC. Take another minute to read the testimonials below.

*"We have been very pleased with the FedEx Shipping Program through NOACC. As you know we have saved substantial dollars on our freight shipments. We are also considering the Partnership Tradeshaw Select Program for the transport of our tradeshaw items. The Partnership team is very supportive and has done a great job of managing our account. I would likely recommend the program to other chamber members who are looking to cut costs on all of their shipping needs. **Belinda S. Kuzma, CLS Facility Services***

*"We use FedEx all the time and wasn't aware that by enrolling in the Chamber Shipping Program that we saved 37% on 5 packages recently. As a one person office I'm involved in every transaction and it's reassuring that enrolling in this program was so easy that I didn't even notice how simple it was to save this much. Thanks for helping me look good." **Diane Herzog, Diamond Auto Lease***

Better Business Benefits

It's one thing to start a business; it's another to keep it going. The Northern Ohio Chambers of Commerce helps companies thrive.



Vicky Hawke, Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce executive director, works to keep companies in business by helping them lower operating costs.

Although the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce isn't involved in attracting new business to the region, it plays an important economic development role by helping thousands of companies stay in business and thrive through membership in their local chamber of commerce.

NOACC achieves this goal by providing substantial discounts on benefits, products and services that lower business-operating costs on health care insurance, workers' compensation, shipping and freight services, office supplies, merchant credit card services, web design and a host of other services.

What's more, NOACC is rolling out a new Approved Vendor program that is expected to help local companies attract new business in their communities or throughout the northern Ohio region.

NOACC, headquartered in Independence, was founded in 1995 by the Beachwood, Euclid and Solon chambers of commerce. Since then, its membership has grown to more than 120 chambers of commerce from 24 counties in Northern Ohio. NOACC is now the nation's largest independent chamber association providing benefits to almost 30,000 employers. Because of different membership needs or demands, local chambers freely choose which NOACC benefits to offer their members.

"Our primary mission is to help and promote small and midsize businesses throughout our region," says Vicky Hawke, NOACC's executive director. "Large businesses have always had the benefit of shopping around and negotiating for discounts that help them control or reduce their business operating expenses. NOACC offers the mom and pop stores, local retailers, the local service

providers the lower cost benefits of discounts because of our group buying power."

For example, Hawke says NOACC saved a 40-employee company and a 100-employee law firm \$11,000 and \$10,000, respectively, on health care insurance.

"For small businesses, this is a significant savings, and it also helps them continue to offer good benefits for their employees," Hawke says. "Our health care insurance program offered through Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield has been and continues to be our most successful program that has benefited thousands of businesses across Northern Ohio."

Recently, NOACC began offering members deep discounts for shipping and freight services provided by FedEx. Members can save up to 27 percent on select FedEx Express and regular services and at least 70 percent on less-than-truckload freight shipments.

And the new Approved Vendor program will increase NOACC's ability to help chambers promote local and regional businesses.

"Anyone can create a business by putting up a simple website. But how do you really know if there is anything behind that website that makes it a business in good standing," says Hawke. "They may have a wonderful website, but that doesn't necessarily mean their creditors are happy with them or that they are reliable."

Businesses that choose to participate in the new program undergo a background check through Dun & Bradstreet and Better Business Bureau re-

ports. Once the background checks are completed and there are no outstanding issues, companies will be provided an Approved Vendor designation through their local chambers that choose to participate in the program.

"The Approved Vendor designation means that the company is a viable entity and is safe to do business with," Hawke explains. "What we are trying to accomplish with this program is to encourage businesses to buy from businesses in their own communities or throughout the Northern Ohio region. We also hope that this program makes it easier for chambers of commerce to shop for businesses to promote to their members for more savings."

In addition to benefits and savings programs, NOACC recently launched what is becoming an ongoing campaign to "Join Your Local Chamber of Commerce" to focus on the value of chamber membership.

Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce
 4200 Rockside Road, Suite 210
 Independence, OH 44131
 216-447-9900
 noacc.org



Christmas in the Valley

December 10-11, 2011

Valley City, OH

Saturday, December 10th 6:00 PM

 **Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long:** 

First Baptist Church, 6936 Center Rd is our host this year for this fabulous singing event with area church choirs to kickoff Christmas in the Valley.

Refreshments & fellowship will follow.

Sunday, December 11th 1:00—5:00 PM

Downtown Valley City, Ohio 44280

(crossroads Rt 252 and Rt 303)

Santa

Entertainment

Crafters

Photos

Christmas Lighting and Tree Decorating Contest

Cookie Decorating

Refreshments

Bake Sale

Plus much more! Watch for a complete schedule in the Rural Urban-Record and online

Sponsored by the Valley City Chamber of Commerce and Liverpool Historical Society

www.valleycity.org

www.valleycitycelebrates.org

Valley City Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 304 · Valley City OH 44280 · 330-483-1111
www.valleycity.org



<http://www.tocainc.com/site/>

The Ohio Chamber Alliance, Inc.
P.O. Box 271, Vienna, Ohio 44473-0271
Ph: 330-856-4383 Fax: 330-609-6000
Email: info@tocainc.com



To continue and increase your Chamber Member Discounts, visit NOACC and The Ohio Chamber Alliance (TOCA) websites often! Don't miss out on gasoline savings with the high prices we are incurring today!