Winter 2016

Chamber Chat

Annual Chamber Awards Banquet

The Annual Awards Banquet of the Celina Mercer County Chamber will be held on Thursday, March 3rd at the Galleria in Celina. Social time will begin at 5:30pm with dinner at 6pm. The program will begin at 7pm with awards given out after the guest speaker's presentation.

Our guest speaker this year is BRUCE BOGUSKI. Bruce was in a car accident at the age of 18 and was paralyzed from the neck down. After two years, he regained full use of his body and went on to become a two-time Ohio state champion in racquetball and played on a state championship softball team. He has been a baseball coach and assistant football coach at the high school level, as well as a tennis coach at the college level.

Today, he spends most of his time making speeches throughout North America. He has made over 1,800 presentations to student groups, educators, associations, chambers of commerce, large and small corporations, secretarial groups, and government agencies. He is one of the most "in-demand" speakers in the country, doing nearly 100 presentations each year. Bruce is the author of several recent books and CDs….he is also a huge proponent of living a healthy lifestyle.

Chamber awards applications are being taken and must be into the Chamber by February 11th. The four awards are Business of the Year, Citizens of the Year, Humanitarian and Achievement Awards. Award applications have been inserted into this newsletter. They are also available online at www.celinamercer.com.

Sponsoring this year's annual awards banquet are Celina Tent, Cooper Farms, Second National Bank and WCSM Radio. We thank these businesses for their support.

Tickets are on sale now for $25 each or you can purchase a corporate table of eight for $195. RSVPs are due by Feb. 19th. A banquet flyer is enclosed in this newsletter. Call the Celina Mercer County Chamber for tickets or further information at 419 586-2219 or email info@celinamercer.com.

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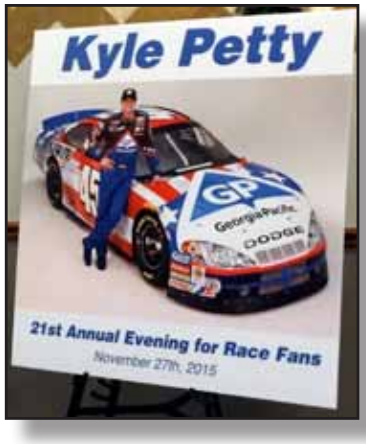
21st Annual Evening for Race Fans with Kyle Petty

21st Annual Evening for Race Fans with Kyle Petty, Rusty Schlenk and Dallas Hewitt

Kyle Petty was the featured guest for this year's event. No doubt, his experience from growing up in the legendary Petty family, his successful racing career, and now his success as a TV race analyst provided us a very interesting and insightful, as well as, entertaining event.

Joining Kyle Petty for the event was dirt late model driver Rusty Schlenk. The veteran driver completed a successful 2015 campaign that included winning the season
opening event at Eldora Speedway and finishing 5th in the Eldora point standings.

Also in attendance was third generation driver, Dallas Hewitt, grandson of the late Don Hewitt and nephew of the legendary sprint car driver, Jack Hewitt. Dallas enjoyed another solid season that included his first start in a silver crown car at the Eldora Four Crown Nationals coming from last to thirteenth place and earning the hard charger award. Dallas competed at various Ohio tracks through out the season, earning A-main wins along the way.



For the 15th consecutive year, Mike King served as the emcee. This year's event took place at Romer's Banquet Facility in St. Henry, Ohio on Friday, November 27th.

This fantastic evening provided intriguing and great racing stories as the guests spent time on the stage with Mike King. Mike has the knack of bringing out insightful and colorful answers from our guests regarding their own careers, other competitors and the sport of auto racing. With Kyle Petty leading the way, it was a very entertaining evening.

This event serves as a fundraiser with over $210,000 raised for the Chamber, State of the Heart Hospice, and Community Health Professionals Hospice over the past 20 years.

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Mercer Healths New Offices

Mercer Health moves offices to Galleria Congratulations to Mercer Health. In early November, they held a ribbon cutting and open house at the Galleria in Celina. Mercer Health Home Health Care & Home Health Medical Supplies along with Rehabilitative Services have moved to the Galleria. The Galleria is located at 909 E. Wayne Street in Celina.

From left to right:
Pam Buschur - Executive Director of Celina Mercer Co. Chamber
Deb Borns - Broker for Coldwell Banker Lakeshore & Manager of Galleria
Milan Bratin - CEO of Remer Holdings
George Boyles - CFO of Mercer Health
Lisa Klenke - CEO of Mercer Health
Sharon Muhlenkamp - Director of Home Care & Medical Equipment for Mercer Health
Robert Hibner MS, PT - Executive Director of Community Sports & Therapy Center

Armcorp Gives Back

With a motto of "Expect the Best, and We'll Exceed It" and a mission statement that speaks of honor and integrity, Armcorp Construction has its values in the right place. I have had the pleasure of teaming up with Tim Rosengarten and his group for over five months now, and he has continued to impress. As founder and CEO of Armcorp, Tim believes in giving back, which is why he created the program he appropriately named Armcorp Gives Back. His employees were asked to submit an organization, individual, family, or other cause that was in need this holiday season, with the idea of narrowing those down to the most deserving of a monetary donation. Tim then unveiled his true plan by surprising everyone with the fact that Armcorp would be donating to each and every cause that was submitted! That led to seven causes being assisted and a total of $5,000 donated just in time for the holidays. The positive impact and ripple effect of this will be felt for a long time; hats off to Armcorp Construction!

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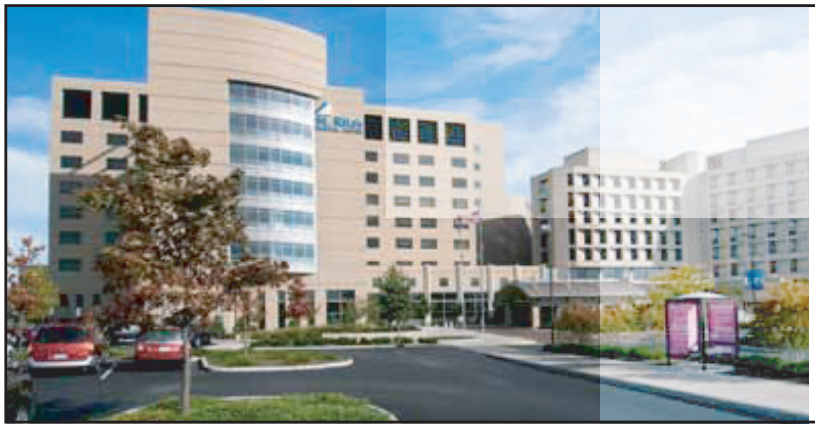

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New Chamber Member

Medicine and More Home Medical Equipment

Medicine and More Home Medical Equipment has joined the Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce. Their office is located at 808 E. Wayne Street in Celina (west of Peoples Bank Company). For your home medical needs, they can provide scooters, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, lift chairs, home oxygen therapy, CPAP/Bi-Pap Therapy for sleep apnea, nebulizers, bathroom safety and much more. There is free delivery and set up by trained personnel. The staff at Medicine and More can be reached at 567-890-8687.

Pictured from left to right:
Pam Buschur – Chamber Director
Penny Ahlers – Home Care Consultant
Jennifer Heitkamp – Manager/Registered Nurse
Doug Knapke – Delivery Tech

30 Year Celebration

Orchard Tree Celebrates 30 Years in Business

Orchard Tree Celebrates 30 Years in Business
On behalf of the Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and its 400 members, we would like to congratulate the owners and staff of the Orchard Tree Restaurant in Celina. They are located at 501 Grand Lake Road. The Orchard Tree Restaurant is celebrating 30 years in business this past October. Pictured from left to right: John Shreves, co owner and staff Diana, Abbe, Sara, Kristin, Rachel, and Travis. Co owners, Steve Adams & Lyn Whitaker were not available for photo. Stop in for breakfast, lunch or dinner and don't miss the desserts!

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Appreciation of Support of the Santa House

This year approximately 960 children and their parents visit the house of the jolly elf on the Mercer County Courthouse steps. These children came from all over Mercer and Auglaize Counties. This Santa house is organized by the Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of these 960 children, we would like to thank the following sponsors who donated this year for the expenses of the house. They are CAPT, Celina America Legion, Celina Eagles Lodge, Celina Moose Lodge, Citizens National Bank, Deluxe Dry Cleaners, Jones Jeweler, Stammen Insurance, VFW of Celina, VFW of Celina Ladies Auxiliary, and Women of the Celina Moose Lodge.

We would also like to thank the Celina Mercer County Chamber Trustees and Ambassadors who assisted Santa during the hours that the house was open. Thanks to Dick and Jodie Swaney and sons for all their help with moving and putting up the decorations. Brenda Robinson for lighting the soldiers with flood lights. JD Construction for moving the house to and from the Courthouse steps every year and we appreciate that very much.

We appreciate the city of Celina utilities department for their help with the electrical needs of the house. Also, thank you to the Mercer County Commissioners for allowing the house to be placed on the Courthouse steps.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to call the Chamber office at 419 586 2219.

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New Chamber Trustees

We would like to welcome new Chamber Trustees Eydie Kremer and Jeff Hazel.
Edyie is accounting manager at Cooper Farms in St. Henry. She has worked in the accounting field for over 30 years at various manufactures. Jeff is the Mayor of Celina and the owner of Hazelnut Coffee Company.
We are very excited to have both of these experienced, talented business people on the Chamber team.

New Chamber Members

TrendZ Boutique and Hair Salon Joins Chamber

A new boutique and hair salon has joined the Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce.
Trendz Boutique and Hair Salon is located at 715 West Logan Street in Celina. They have remodeled the old Landmark building and it looks great. You can check out their website at www.trendz-boutique.com or give them a call at 419 586-9035.

Pictured from left to right: Steve Schmidt – Chamber Trustee from Peoples Bank Co
Deb Bollenbacher – TrendZ Boutique & Hair Salon Owner
Pam Buschur – Chamber Director

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Irish Splendor

The Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a trip to Ireland, Irish Splendor. Just in time for the beautiful fall of the Irish countryside, this exciting trip will take place October 19th- 26th. Experience a true taste of "Irish Splendor" on this trip that combines fabulous accommodations, stunning scenery and sumptuous food. Join us for an unforgettable tour of the amazing Emerald Isle. See the enclosed brochure for details.

Rebates

Does your Company want a Rebate?

The Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce facilitates the Grand Lake Area Safety Council. This group is co-sponsored by the Ohio BWC. Monthly programs are organized by a steering committee which is made up of representatives from Auglaize and Mercer Counties companies. Each month the group receives an update from the local BWC representative. In addition, each month a program is presented on health, wellness, equipment and electrical safety, weather safety, and much more.

Companies may be able to receive a 2 to 4 percent rebate off their BWC premiums by attending the monthly meetings and filling out two semi-annual safety reports. Last December approximately $64,000 was given back to local safety council member companies from the Ohio BWC.

If you want more information on the Grand Lake Area Safety Council, call the Chamber at 419 586-2219 or email safety@celinamercer.com. Visit www.grandlakesafety.com.

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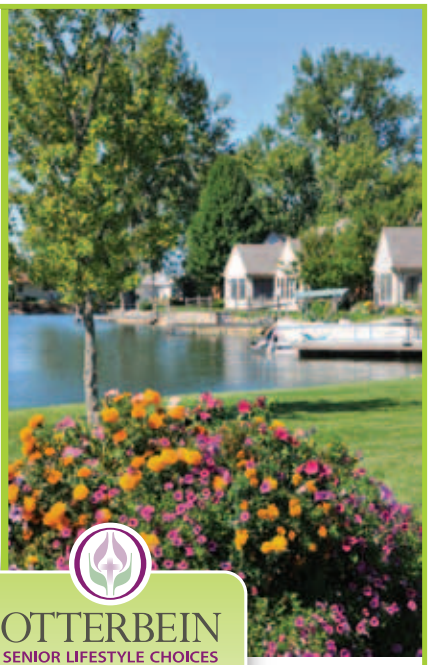

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Chamber Open House— December 3 and 4

The Chamber held a Business After Hours on December 3rd and an open house on December 4th. This was to allow the general public to take a look at the new Chamber office located at 121 E. Logan Street in Celina. The office was decorated for the holiday season. The Chamber gave away four $25 Chamber gift certificates and a carry on suitcase for door prizes. The winners of the $25 Chamber gift certificates were Jeff Wolters, Joanne Koening, Mike Robbins, and Lisa Jeffries. The winner of the carry on suitcase was Evelyn Vian. If you missed the open house, feel free to stop by the Chamber office and take a look. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM.

Final Touches at Chamber Office

Despite the frigid weather, the bright blue awnings have been put up on the Chamber office. After moving to a new location in September, the final touches are done. Feel free to stop by at 121 East Logan Street in Celina.

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Humanitarian Tents

Celina Tent supplies humanitarian tents. Global Medic deployed Celina's Humanitarian Tent in Iraq. They are used as child friendly spaces and in disaster conditions. For more information on Celina Tent, visit http://www.gettent.com.

Grand Lake Sunset

This photo of a Grand Lake sunset was taken by Dave Shaner and shared with the Chamber office to cover up an unsightly window. The window was covered up on the inside of the Chamber building but still was an eyesore on the outside. The building had been upgraded with all new windows and the bricked cleaned and tucked. Nothing had been done to this window and it really took away from the charm of the old Baker Building. Tom Kirk of Designer Imaging came up with the idea of putting a photo in the window frame. It came out beautifully as you can see from the photo. If you want to see other photos from Dave Shaner visit his facebook page.

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Sponsors Needed for a Taste of Celina Block Party & Car Show

A Taste of Celina Block Party and Car Show began several years ago to celebrate the re-opening of Main Street. Several blocks of Main Street had been closed off and on for about two years due to reconstruction. This first celebration was a huge success and has continued ever since. It has grown to draw people from all over Mercer, Auglaize, and Darke counties and a few from the Dayton and Columbus area. This year's event will take place on Friday, July 8th in downtown Celina.

To cover the costs of this event, we need approximately $7000 in sponsorship. These costs help to promote the event, pay for tables, chairs, tents, security, music, car show, and a few miscellaneous items. If your business is interested in sponsoring this event, please see the enclosed flyer for the different levels. If you have any questions, please contact the Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce at 419 586 2219. See enclosed sponsorship flyer.

Leadership In Action - Mercer County

The 2015-2016 Leadership In Action Class recently toured the Mercer County Engineers office as part of Elected Officials Day. Leadership in Action, Mercer County is a leadership development program designed to identify, educate and motivate a network of community leaders and increase their capacity to serve the Mercer County area. The Leadership Class consists of 10 classes from September through June. Classes include History, Ag, Law, Education, Health and Wellness, Economic Development , and many other interesting topics. Each day is planned by a committee of local business professionals.

For more information on Leadership In Action-Mercer County or to be put on the list for next year, contact Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce 419 586 2219.

Pictured are (left to right) Abbie Kelly, Sara Bruening, Vickie Bruns, Monica Gloria, Larissa Cunningham, Linda Castorena, Beth Butler, Mary Beougher, Keith Selhorst, Janessa Huftel, Anne Guggenbiller, Molly Hay, Rachel Heitkamp, Diana Russell & Scott Montgomery. Class members absent that day are Aaron Bruns, Don Davidson, Jodi Homan, Victoria Marks, Jill Rutschilling.

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