

The Chamber Courier

Downtown Wonderland

The Chamber thanks everyone who helped to make this year's Downtown Wonderland Christmas celebration a success. This event could not happen without the dedication, generosity, and hard work of the planning committee: Dannette Poteet, Brandy Smith, Marsha Bishop, Rosemary Steele and Debbie Carle.

The Chamber also thanks:
* Hinton Tree Farm for donating the village Christmas tree, the village for putting it up, and Three Sons True Value and Loudon Motors Ford for decorating it;

* Diane Haines and her team of volunteers for creating Santa's workshop on the Roxy Theatre stage;
* Steve Toohey of Rapid Response Restoration and Lynn Carper of Consumers National Bank for portraying the Clauses, listening to wishes and posing for pictures, Keli Ford Photography for taking photos, Minerva Bowl & Lunch for printing photos, and our elf Deb Palmer for managing the crowd;

See *Downtown Wonderland* on Pg. 6



From the President

Dear Chamber members,

I hope with all the rushing around that the "season" brings, you have had a chance to stop and view the beautiful 3d-look mural that Diane Betz Granger painted for the front wall of the Roxy Theatre. The information about the mural and how Diane came up with the design is posted on the window by the door. I have the pleasure of looking at it every day at work, sitting at my desk.

Our Chamber lunch was held at Edgewater Golf Club on Dec. 8. Diane Simms and her staff did a great job of taking care of us with a very delicious meal. The a capella choir from Minerva High School, directed by Deb Imler, entertained us with a varied selection of Christmas tunes. They were

even nice enough to allow us to sing with them on a few songs at the end.

The weather has warmed up a little, but on the day of the Christmas parade it was a little chilly. That didn't stop the many groups that participated in the parade and the spectators who watched. It was a fun parade and I would like to thank everyone who participated in some way. The Roxy looked amazing for the kids to meet and have pictures taken with Santa. It was a fun day to be in Minerva.

I wish everyone a blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Cindy Williams
Edward Jones Investments

Thanks to our Sustaining Members



Thanks to our Supporting Members

- *All About the House
- *BJ Gray Realty
- *Carroll County Park District
- *Catlett Plumbing & Heating
- *Consumers National Bank
- *Coy-Kamph Financial Group
- *Cutler Real Estate, Peggy Cottrell
- *Dowell Dental
- *General Color LLC
- *Gordon's Furniture
- *Great Trail Golf Course
- *Greenport Financial Advisers
- *Grinders Above & Beyond
- *Habitat for Humanity of East Central Ohio
- *The Hart Mansion Restaurant
- *Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Alliance
- *Kishman's IGA
- *Miller & Co.
- *Minerva Grinders Above & Beyond
- *Minerva Local School District
- *Natural Approach Farm Store
- *OhiRail Corporation
- *Rapid Response Restoration
- *Scott's Truck & Auto Service
- *Shopko Hometown of Minerva
- *Subway
- *Summit Glove
- *Uptown Auto Service
- *Ashley Zahn, PGA

From the Director's Desk

Dear Chamber members,

While I am not big on resolutions, the beginning of a new year always feels to me like a fresh start and a time to reassess priorities and refocus. This year in the Chamber office, the board's decision to not hold a 2016 Chili Open means the next big events will be the annual dinner in April and the art & jazz festival in May. I am hopeful this will provide me with an opportunity to get organized and tackle some projects that have gotten set aside in the past.

On my 2016 to-do list are a new website, progress on the Roxy renovation and programming, creation of a Minerva visitor's brochure, and more mundane tasks no one else is interested in, such as revamping the Chamber filing system and organizing the storage area. These are my best-laid plans. We'll see what happens!

Regardless of the state of my files,

2016 is sure to hold many exciting happenings in our community. Be sure to watch for the unveiling of a new public-art project created by Minerva High School students that promises to be fantastic. A committee of the Chamber board is working on plans for a new fundraiser with a goal of bringing a unique event to our community. Plans are also under way for a second Minerva Monster Day, complete with an amateur Bigfoot film festival. The growth of our business community is also promising, with two new businesses opening downtown in December.

As always, the support of the Chamber membership is the most important ingredient in the success of its programs. I thank you all for your support during 2015 and look forward to working with you during the upcoming year.

Denise Freeland



The Chamber represents at MHS Finance Fair

The Minerva Area Chamber of Commerce was well represented at Minerva High School's November Finance Fair, a financial-literacy event for students organized by Janice Nieto, consumer science teacher. Thank you to the following Chamber members who helped with this event: (front, from left) Tom Kishman, Kishman's IGA; Melissa Ulik and Beth Holderbaum, Minerva Area YMCA; Dana Schaub, Sirak-Brockett Agency; and (back) Denise Freeland, Minerva Chamber; Alicia Rocco, Natural Approach Farm Store; Kim Weiss and Theresa Linder, Consumers National Bank; Annette Mapes, State Farm Insurance; Doug Milano, Kiko Auctions & Realty; and Brock Grindstaff, Loudon Motors Ford. Not pictured is Nikki McCarty, Straight A's Arena.

Ohio BWC: The Year in Review

Worker's-compensation insurance is an important cornerstone in Ohio's economy. It not only ensures Ohioans injured on the job get healthy and back to work, but also protects businesses from costly workplace incidents. With these benefits in mind, I've focused during my last five years as the leader of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation on forming partnerships with all of our customers, who at times have contrasting views, but all strived to maintain a system that is financially strong, does not impose a barrier to economic growth, and is dedicated to caring for Ohio's workers.

We've taken our lead from Governor John Kasich, who made turning Ohio's worker's-compensation system into a partner for economic growth and a leader in workplace safety a priority when he took office in 2011. Under his leadership, BWC has established a goal of becoming a world-class worker's-compensation carrier, and we're taking steps in the right direction.

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Overall, employers are paying less, and their once unpredictable rates have been stabilized. Private employer average base rates are 21.4 percent lower than those in effect at the beginning of 2011, and public employers' rates are down an overall 26.5 percent over that time period. A nationwide study of worker's-compensation rates placed Ohio 17th lowest among all 50 states. Ohio ranked third highest in the nation as recently as 2008.

Employers also now have more flexibility and are better able to plan for paying those premiums following our conversion to prospective billing. This was a long overdue upgrade that brought Ohio in line with the industry standard of collecting premiums before extending coverage. Due to our strong financial position, BWC is providing a \$1.2 billion premium credit to employers to ease the billing-system transition.

Additional improvements in 2015 included common-sense modifications to coverage requirements and options that were standing in the way of business growth. A much-needed law change proposed by BWC removed the requirement that nonprofits have coverage for their volunteer corporate officers, freeing up money for these organizations to provide services that help local communities throughout the state. Separately, a new coverage option will simplify worker's compensation for businesses with employees who are injured in other

states, making it easier for them to expand across the border and still make sure their employees are protected.

We know improving the system involves much more than dollar savings for employers. Ohio workers deserve safe workplaces. That's why BWC is also investing in their health and safety. This year we awarded \$15 million in safety intervention grants at a record pace, helping more than 70 employers purchase equipment to improve safety in their workplaces.

The enormous success of the safety-grant program and Ohio employers' commitment to safety are a few likely factors in record-low workplace injury claims. Over the past five years, we have seen our injury claims drop more than 10 percent, from 105,000 to 94,000. With these decreases, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics places Ohio's injury rate below the national average. Ohio stands at 2.9 injuries per 100 workers, compared to a national average of 3.4 injuries per 100 workers and is lower than all its neighboring states.

We want to keep that momentum going with additional investments in safety, including the Occupational Safety and Health Research Program, which is funding research into occupational safety and health research. Six Ohio universities are currently conducting research with \$2 million already awarded by BWC, and we plan to award an additional \$1 million in early 2016. We are excited to support research that could shift thinking on current workplace safety practices in Ohio and across the country.

We're also working to reduce delays in the treatment when someone is injured on the job. We've begun pilot programs to better coordinate care for knee and spine injuries. Our pharmacy management program is resulting in better care and has helped decrease opioid doses by 37 percent since 2010, helping ensure injured workers don't fall prey to addiction or overdose.

Ohio's worker's-compensation system is unquestionably better today than it was five years ago, as evidenced by lower rates, safer workplaces, and fewer claims. Yet, we know there are opportunities for greater successes on the horizon. I am optimistic that the partnerships that made each success possible will continue creating an even stronger collaborative atmosphere for thoughtful assessments of where more improvements can be made.

Steve Buehrer
Administrator/CEO
Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation

New Chamber members

Associate

Rebecca Stoller

330-868-2090; rstoller02@gmail.com
Rebecca is a newly elected member of Minerva Village Council.

Standard

After Hours Care of Minerva

Lori Groff
625 N. Market St., Minerva; 330-522-4251;
lorig@achosp.org
Quality medical services when your primary physician is unavailable, Monday-Friday, 5-9 p.m.

Keli Ford Photography

Keli Ford
312 E. Lincoln Way, Minerva; 330-205-7769;
keliford7@aol.com; Hours by appointment
Minerva native Keli Ford is a wife and mother of four, and has a special talent for bringing the personalities of her clients into each photograph she creates. Her specialties include children, newborns, seniors, weddings, families and special events.

Komodo Dragon Martial Arts

Bonnie Smith
125 N. Market St., Minerva; 330-323-7246
Komodo Dragon Martial Arts offers three different belt systems – Brazilian jiu jitsu, tactical hapkido (self defense), and karate – as well as cardio kickboxing and a weight room. Twenty-five classes per week are available for ages 2 years through adult.

Paychex

Brad Frank

Tip Club updates

The Chamber's **Tuesday Tip Club** is open to any Chamber members, and its upcoming meetings are scheduled for 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Natural Approach Farm Store on Jan. 19, Feb. 16 and 23, and March 1 and 15. Members with upcoming events or special offers should bring flyers, and any Chamber members who would like to host a meeting to spotlight their business to club members, or who would like to speak to the group, should contact Dana Schaub, 330-493-3211, ext. 131, or dana_schaub@glic.com.

The Minerva Area Chamber of Commerce's **Wednesday Tip Club** meets every Wednesday, 8-9 a.m. Members take turns arranging for a once-a-month speaker. Recent speakers have discussed employment law and hiring. This club is open to any Chamber member and offers opportunities for networking, referrals, and mutual support. This group meets at Natural Approach Farm Store, 3944 Whitacre Ave., SE. For more information about this group, contact the Chamber office.

100 E. Hines Hill Rd., Hudson, OH 44236; 330-342-0530;
bfrank@paychex.com

Paychex is one of the largest and most trusted payroll and human resource outsourcing services in the world. We consult with businesses and offer solutions to help aid in various aspects of the employee lifecycle. Payroll, 401k, ACA compliance, health benefits, workers compensation services, human resource outsourcing, etc. - we have the tools that can truly help businesses succeed!

Shades of Summer

Teresa Tanksley
916 E. Lincoln Way, Minerva; 330-868-7930;
shadesofsummer916@gmail.com

Shades of Summer is a one-stop shop, offering hair, nail, and massage service, tanning and spray tanning, and an Iron Age Gym for the body builder in you.

Soul Creations

Sheri Bunn
113 N. Market St., Minerva; 330-868-2600;
sbunn1026@gmail.com

Soul Creations is a custom graphic-design business and gift shop, offering custom T-shirt design, vehicle graphics, NFL game day apparel, adult and children's clothing, and various novelty gifts for all occasions. Soon to come will be candles, oil lamps, retro candy, and more.

Supporting

Coy-Kamph Financial Group

Susan Coy-Kamph
213 N. Market St., Minerva; 330-222-6088;
scoykamph@coy-kamphfinancialgroup.com
The Coy-Kamph Financial Group offers financial planning, retirement services, and investing for all stages of life, with a special focus on women and investing, and education on investment strategies.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Olivia Lescallett
2341 W. State St., Alliance, OH 44601; 330-821-6700;
hixpress@hotmail.com

Discover the Holiday Inn Express – friendly smiles, comfortable accommodations, family fun and great destinations. Whether you are on a business trip, family vacation, or just looking for a place to relax, we have everything you want, and then some!

Member News

Greenport Financial Advisers announces that Denise Sutton Downard has joined its team and will primarily serve clients in the eastern Stark County markets, including Minerva, Alliance, and Carroll and Columbiana counties.

Dana Schaub, Sirak-Brockett Agency, announces that, in addition to her life, disability and investments licenses, *See Member News on Pg. 5*

Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan. 8

Discover Downtown, 5-9 p.m., North Market Street

Wednesday, Jan. 20

Board of Directors meeting, 11:30 a.m., Hart Mansion Restaurant

Thursday, Jan. 28

State of the Village luncheon, noon, Great Trail Golf Club
Updates from David Harp, Village of Minerva; Gary Chaddock, Minerva Local School District; and Rev. Harley Wheeler, Minerva Ministerial Association.

Friday, Feb. 12

Discover Downtown, 5-9 p.m., North Market Street

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Board of Directors meeting, 11:30 a.m., location to be determined

March ?

Quest Recovery & Prevention Services Business After Hours at new location, 620 E. Lincoln Way

Friday, March 11

Discover Downtown, 5-9 p.m., North Market Street

Wednesday, March 16

Board of Directors meeting, 11:30 a.m., location to be determined

Member News (cont.)

she obtained her property and casualty license in 2015 to better serve her clients on all levels of financial planning.

Uptown Auto Service now has a full-service Toyota technician, BMW technician, and full-time Lexus technician, in addition to its Honda and General Motors technicians.

Minerva McDonald's will hold a McTeacher's Night fundraiser for Minerva Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 14, 5-8 p.m., during which time 15 percent of proceeds will go to the school.

The **Minerva Area YMCA** invites you to join the Y in January '16 for \$16 (particular monthly rate applies). Make this your healthiest year yet!

Dutchcraft Truss is expanding again and just broke ground on a 4,000-square-foot lumber storage shed that will make it possible to store approximately 20 semi loads of lumber. This will allow Dutchcraft to buy more lumber when prices are low and have a dry space in which to store it.

Minerva Local School District was awarded a Straight A Grant by the state for demonstrating innovation in education as a member of the Young Entrepreneur's Consortium, which allowed it to update its wireless network and purchase Chromebooks so that it can provide its students with a 21st-century education.

Minerva High School has expanded its dual credit to College Credit Plus, which allows students to earn both

Resource Roundup

Business resources available at Minerva Public Library

Leadership BS: Fixing Workplaces and Careers One Truth at a Time by Jeffrey Pfeffer. Author Pfeffer, Stanford Business School, dismisses most popular business leadership theory and advice as wishful thinking, inspirational stories divorced from reality, and unsubstantiated fads. He goes right to the social science and business research to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving leadership development and performance to benefit both the leader and the business.

The Type B Manager: Leading Successfully in a Type A World by Victor Lipman. The hard-charging Type A boss is the stereotype of the successful business leader. While that personality may be necessary in the organization, Lipman makes the case that the Type B manager is usually more effective at actually engaging, motivating, and developing employees to do the work needed to make the business successful. A succinct case for making sure that there is a balance in the organization, or, in the small business, making sure that managers have both Type A and Type B traits.

Mindware: Tools for Smart Thinking by Robert Nesbitt. Sunk costs, opportunity costs, regression to the mean, the law of large numbers, the availability error, gauging correlation vs. causation, and more are all basic statistical and economic concepts that would help us make better decisions at home and at work. Nesbitt, world leader in the field of social psychology, presents a clear, lively explanation of basic reasoning and analytical tools that should help us to define problems more accurately, and then to make more sensible choices.

college and high-school credits before leaving MHS. By the end of the next school year, students will be able to earn 32 credits without leaving the MHS campus.

Quest Recovery & Prevention Services and Pathway Caring for Children are excited to announce the relocation of their joint Minerva office. The new office will be located at 620 Lincoln Way East, next to Huntington Bank. The new, larger facility is a direct result of an increase in demand for services in Minerva. The new office is expected to be open by the beginning of February. For more information, call the Minerva office at 330-868-3401.

Wilma and David Overholt have sold **Overholt's Market** to David and Tricia Yoder, who will continue to offer the same great products and service the community has come to expect.

Minerva Area Chamber of Commerce

203 N. Market St.

PHONE:
330-868-7979

E-MAIL:
denise.freeland@
minervachamber.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.

minervachamber.

org

2015-2016

Chamber officers

President,

Cindy Williams

Edward Jones

Investments

Vice President,

Richelle Edwards

Frontier

Communications

Treasurer,

Vickie Grindstaff

Loudon Motors Ford



ABOVE: Santa's workshop comes to life in the Roxy; RIGHT: The Minerva Monster wears his Christmas finery in the parade. (Photos by Diane Haines and Clover Photography)



Downtown Wonderland (cont.)

- * The many individuals who volunteered their time the day of the event to help line up the parade, pass out maps, distribute raffle tickets, and other tasks;
- * David Catlett Construction for providing the truck and trailer for the Clauses' float, Unkefer Equipment for providing a tractor, and the crew of volunteers who decorated the float;
- * All groups that participated in the parade;
- * Summit Glove, Loudon Motors Ford, Minerva Music Center, and Hannah Carle and her princesses for making the "Frozen" float a reality;
- * Aaron Stoller for announcing the parade;
- * Frontier Communications for donating the sled full of toys and Grinders for donating a gift card;
- * Kishman's IGA for providing cookie decorating and Chiavari's Bakery & Café for gingerbread house making, and Glenn & Cherie Dover Perkins for providing space in their building;

- * Early Childhood Resource Center and Minerva Public Library for providing crafts;
- * Que Pasa, Minerva Music Center, and All About the House for hosting activities;
- * Theresa Linder for leading caroling at tree;
- * Susan Crawford and Liz Smith for reading Christmas stories and Komodo Dragon Martial Arts for hosting them;
- * All businesses that provided treat trees;
- * Minerva Bowl for providing the bowling game; and
- * All volunteers who wore character costumes.



RIGHT: Santa & Mrs. Claus ride into town on a tractor; BELOW: Elsa and her princesses add a touch of winter. (Photos by The News Leader and Clover Photography)



Stark Parks' FeLeap takes a hike in the parade. (Photo by Clover Photography)



Jeff Wheeler of the Arbors at Minerva, and his wife, Melissa, as Frosty & Rudolph pose with a fan. (Photo by Clover Photoaraphv)