

April-June 2015  
Volume 3, Issue 2

# The Chamber Courier

## 2015-2016 Membership Drive

Our membership drive for the 2015-2016 membership year is currently under way. We appreciate all of our members for your commitment to the Chamber and our community. Your membership fees are the Chamber's biggest source of income and make it possible for us to continue offering networking and education opportunities and supporting new and existing businesses.

Our membership grew again last year, and we ended the year with 126 members. We anticipate another year of growth as we've had five new members join in the last month. Many new members report having been encouraged to join by existing members, and we greatly appreciate your referrals. If you know of a business you think would benefit from becoming a Chamber member, please tell them about our organization and why you are a member. If you would like copies of the newsletter or the membership form to share, please contact the Chamber office.

## Annual Dinner

We will celebrate our 2014-2015 year with our  
*See Dinner on Pg. 2*



## From the President

March 20, 2015

Dear Chamber members,

Today is the first day of *spring* and it was snowing earlier this morning! What else would you expect for this time of year in Minerva, Ohio? You can now actually make plans to come out of hibernation and get involved in the exciting happenings around town. We have the Chamber's annual dinner in April and the Brick Street Art & Jazz Festival in May, to name just a couple of the larger events on our calendar.

The annual membership drive is under way and we hope all of our current members will once again join us to promote our local businesses and the Minerva community. Our

membership has grown in the last couple of years and it has been exciting watching many new organizations come into our community. We also want to encourage our current members to reach out to others to join, as your personal invitation and contact can be more powerful than any letters or marketing campaign.

Please read the entire newsletter so you don't miss out on any interesting activities or opportunities that may be going on during the next several months. We hope to see more work on our Stark Parks trail as many of you look to get outdoors and get some much-needed exercise.

*See President on Pg. 2*

## Thanks to our Sustaining Members



*Thanks to our*  
**Supporting  
Members**

- \*All About the House
- \*Catlett Plumbing & Heating
- \*Consumers National Bank
- \*Cutler Real Estate
- \*David Catlett Construction
- \*Dowell Dental
- \*General Color LLC
- \*Gordon's Furniture
- \*Great Trail Golf Course
- \*Greenport Financial Advisers
- \*Grinders Above & Beyond
- \*Habitat for Humanity of Stark & Carroll Counties
- \*The Hart Mansion Restaurant
- \*Kishman's IGA
- \*Miller & Co.
- \*Minerva Grinders
- \*Minerva Local School District
- \*Natural Approach Farm Store
- \*OhiRail Corporation
- \*Rapid Response Restoration
- \*Safe Staffing of Ohio
- \*Scott's Truck & Auto Service
- \*Subway
- \*Summit Glove
- \*Uptown Auto Service
- \*Ashley (Evanich) Zahn, PGA

## From the Director's Desk

Dear Chamber members,

One of my favorite parts of my job is planning community events, and we are heading into a season packed with them. The fifth annual Brick Street Art & Jazz Festival will bring more than 1,000 people to North Market Street at the end of May, concerts and nature programs will return to Municipal Park starting in June, and several programs will be coming to the Roxy in the next couple of months. I appreciate everyone who takes advantage of these happenings right here in our village, and I am also thankful for the dependable support, both in funds and time, of the Minerva business community that makes so many of these events possible.

I believe the feeling of community that leads to the success of these types of events is not found in every small town. It never occurred to me, however, that

## Dinner *(cont. from Pg. 1)*

Annual dinner on Wednesday, April 29, at the Great Trail Golf Course Tee House. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with cash bar cocktails, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include presentation of our Community Salute awards. Mike Gallina, former Minerva Local School District superintendent and current AultCare director of Outreach and Organizational Development, will present "The Power of WE – A Leadership PEP Talk!"

The cost to attend the dinner is \$30 per person, and RSVPs are due to the Chamber office by Thursday, April 20. Table sponsorships cost \$50 and will be available until April 20.

Gold sponsors for this event are **Consumers National Bank, David Catlett Construction, Frontier Communications, Greenport Financial Advisers, The Hart Mansion Restaurant, Loudon Motors Ford, Minerva Area YMCA, and Rapid Response Restoration.**

Silver sponsors are Bartley Funeral Home, Colfor Manufacturing, Dutchcraft Truss & Metal, Medicine Center Pharmacy, and Summit Glove.

Minerva's sense of community was anything special, however, until I saw the video Roger Bartley created of the Downtown Wonderland Christmas celebration and the footage the Minerva Monster documentary crew has shot around town. I often don't really get to absorb the overall atmosphere of these events. Seeing families enjoying the Christmas parade, the Minerva Community Choir singing on the corner, and kids enthusiastically doing crafts provided by businesses and organizations warmed my heart. I don't think every town is so fortunate.

I also know others are noticing Minerva. I recently received a visit from the director of the Twin Cities Chamber, who had been in town to eat at Norma's, saw our downtown, and wanted to find out what the Minerva Chamber had going on. Then I received a call from a member of a Chamber board in the Sandusky area who was passing through Minerva and thought we must have gotten a grant to redo our entire downtown. He was surprised to learn that property owners had voluntarily renovated their buildings' facades.

I am proud of our village and feel fortunate to work with all of you.

**Denise Freeland**

## President *(cont. from pg. 1)*

Please don't forget to try a Discover Downtown Friday evening in the next couple of months as well. The schedule for concerts in the park this summer is being finalized.

I am at the end of my term as president of the Chamber and would like to thank everyone for their outstanding support of all Chamber activities. It has been an honor to serve this year and I would like to personally thank Denise Freeland for her outstanding efforts, which have made the job painless. I hope to see many of you at the annual dinner on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Great Trail Golf Course Tee House with Mr. Mike Gallina as our speaker. Have a great spring!

**Larry Pottorf  
Minerva Local School District**

## Prospective Billing: Why it's important to remain current on your workers' comp premiums

Prospective billing starts in July 2015 for private employers, and BWC is reminding employers about the importance of staying current on workers' compensation premiums. Paying your premiums in a timely manner will keep your workers' compensation coverage in effect, and it can save you from having to pay costly non-compliance fees as well as preserve your eligibility to participate in money-saving rating and discount programs.

In May, you'll receive your notice of estimated annual premium, which will be based on your reported payroll for July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014. It is not a bill. Please review it for accuracy and contact BWC if you feel something is wrong with the estimate.

The first invoice you will receive will come in August (as part of the transition credit, BWC will make your June invoice payment on your behalf). You'll also need to report payroll for the January to June 2015 period, but BWC will pay that premium with the transition credit as well. Transition credits will not be granted to employers with lapsed coverage or employers who have not reported their January to June 2015 payroll.

BWC's switch to prospective billing also means new deadlines for rating plans and programs. The deadline for programs of Destination: Excellence is now the last business day of May.

A private employer timeline and other resources about prospective billing are available at [bwc.ohio.gov](http://bwc.ohio.gov). BWC is also offering free seminars around Ohio to answer questions and provide details about prospective billing to private employers. For more information, see [www.bwc.ohio.gov](http://www.bwc.ohio.gov). Questions? Please contact your local BWC customer service office, call 1-800-644-6292, or email BWC.

Remember, public employers won't switch to prospective billing until January 2016.

## Hydration Station update

We would like to thank Annette and Stuart Mapes of Mapes State Farm Insurance for donating the final \$275 for the water station to be installed near the Stark Parks trail through Municipal Park.

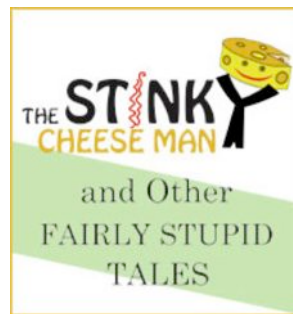
Thanks to all who have contributed to this project. All sponsors will eventually be recognized on a plaque near the station.

## Tip Club updates

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. This club is currently 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.

The Chamber's **Tuesday Tip Club** accepts one representative of each type of business. Its upcoming meetings are scheduled for 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Holland's Restaurant on April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, and June 23. For more information about this group, contact Dana Schaub, 330-493-3211, ext. 131, or [dana\\_schaub@glic.com](mailto:dana_schaub@glic.com).

## "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales" at the Roxy Theatre



**April 11**

performed by  
Magical Theatre Company

Tickets  
\$8 – adults  
\$5 – students

Sponsored by  
Minerva Area  
Chamber of Commerce

## Board News

In recent months several members of the Chamber board have stepped down for various reasons. Paul Swain, Tonya Howell-Myers, and Laura Ford all left the board after many years of dedicated service.

During March, David Catlett, owner of David Catlett Construction, and Reggie Stoltzfus, owner of Dutchcraft Truss & Metal, agreed to serve on the board, and at our March meeting the board voted to appoint them to fill unexpired terms. Thank you, Dave and Reggie, for being willing to serve.

## New Chamber members

### Sustaining

#### Country Carpets & Flooring

Heath Buchs

103 E. High St., Minerva; 330-868-8176;

countrycarpets@frontier.com

Country Carpets & Flooring is an installer-owned flooring retail store, specializing in carpet, laminate, hardwood, and vinyl, and offering free quotes and advice on the best flooring solution for each customer's needs. Country Carpets does residential projects, as well as large commercial jobs like churches, schools or universities, and can provide a solution to meet any budget, from high end to middle of the road to low cost. No subcontractors are used and the owner only sells products he believes in or has experience with. Also offered are small repairs, restretching, and installation of a customer's product purchased elsewhere.

### Supporting

#### Subway

Tamara Morrow, manager

1162 Alliance Rd. NW, Minerva; 330-868-0087;

jacden.13760@gmail.com

Fresh, delicious made-to-order sandwiches, as well as salads and breakfast. Open at 7 a.m.

#### Ashley (Evanich) Zahn, PGA

8135 Licking Rd. NW, Malvern, OH 44644; 330-771-0394;

aevanich44@gmail.com

Ashley Zahn, PGA is a class-A professional member of the PGA of America and committed to helping golfers of all ages and abilities to achieve their goals this summer. Ashley teaches individual lessons, group lessons, and various camps and clinics both at Edgewater Golf Course and The Quarry Golf Course.

### Standard

#### Norma's Roadhouse Restaurant

Irvin and Kimberly Smink

301 W. Lincoln Way, Minerva; 330-868-9900;

normas301kim@yahoo.com

Norma's offers down-home cooking in a comfortable atmosphere. Specialties include the original Menches Brothers burger, a new line of hickory-smoked meats, homemade soups and chips, a full bar, weekly specials and more. Stop by and experience Minerva's past!

### Princess House

Cathy Mutigli

102 N. Market St., Minerva; 330-868-2000;

cathymutigli@aol.com

Princess House has built a successful direct-sales company for more than 50 years, by providing our customers with products of exceptional quality, versatility and timeless design. From our Lifetime Stainless Steel Cookware and versatile Fantasia Bake-ware to our Princess Heritage Hand-blown, Hand-etched Stemware - Princess House offers everything you need for a healthy, organized, beautiful home.

## Live at the Roxy!

In the past three months, the Roxy has hosted two SmArts events sponsored by ArtsinStark. The first was a film fest featuring time-lapse movies created by Minerva Elementary students, and the second was KidScripts, a performance by Magical Theatre Company of short stories written by MES students and dramatized by MTC's professional actors.

In March, the Roxy hosted the third annual evening of Celtic Music & Dance, which continues to grow and was attended by 113 people this year. This event is a benefit for the theater, and all performers volunteer their time

and talents. Participating this year were (below, left) One String Short, under the direction of Dennis Kempthorne and Beth Gray; Sarah, Mike and Logan Russo; Amie Hill Fankhauser, Tom Freeland, (below, right) Conor Freeland, Jim Graysmith and Irish step dancer Kelli Mulhern.

On April 11, Magical Theatre Company returns to the Roxy with "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales," a play filled with fairy tales gone bonkers,

*See Roxy on Pg. 5*



## Calendar of Events

### Friday, April 10

Discover Downtown, 5-9 p.m., North Market Street  
– Visit all participating venues and be entered into a raffle for a pair of tickets for the Canton Symphony's April 25 Beethoven Festival III performance, donated by Greenport Financial Advisers

### Saturday, April 11

"The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales," 2 p.m., at the Roxy Theatre; performed by Magical Theatre Company and geared for students K-4 and their families.

### Wednesday, April 15

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

### Wednesday, April 29

Annual dinner, 6-9 p.m.

Great Trail Golf Course Tee House

Dinner, Community Salute awards, Presentation by Mike Gallina; RSVP by April 20

### Saturday, May 2

The Hall of Fame Chorus, 7:30 p.m., at the Roxy Theatre

### Friday, May 8

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

### Wednesday, May 20

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

### May ?

Business After Hours – If you are interested in hosting, please contact the Chamber office

### Saturday, May 30

The Brick Street Art & Jazz Festival, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., North Market Street

### Saturday, June 6

Minerva Monster Day, noon-6 p.m., the Roxy Theatre; free screenings of the Minerva Monster documentary, speakers, vendors

### Friday, June 12

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

### Wednesday, June 17

Board of Directors meeting and Lionburger Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Municipal Park

### Wednesday, June 17-20

Minerva Homecoming

## Roxy (cont. from Pg. 4)

geared for students in grades K-4 and their families. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, and are available presale at the Chamber office or at the door.

On April 18, 1-3 p.m., the Minerva Area Food Pantry Council will hold a fundraiser for local food pantries at the theater. Come and get some free desserts, enter drawings for wonderful gift baskets, and hear about how the council is addressing the problem of food insecurity in the Minerva area.

On May 2, the Hall of Fame Chorus returns to the Roxy, and June 6 will be Minerva Monster Day, with several free screenings of the Minerva Monster documentary, speakers, and vendors.

The renovation plan is proceeding, and we have received final drawings from the architect. We are beginning to plan for a first phase of renovating the bathrooms and creating a handicap-accessible bathroom.

## SCORE: America's counselor to small business

The Canton Regional SCORE Chapter is a member of your Chamber and may be able to help you with your business issues. SCORE was founded 50 years ago and has 364 chapters nationwide. SCORE is associated with the Small Business Administration and provides counseling and mentoring to small businesses.

The local chapter consists of 34 volunteer counselors, each with many years of business experience covering just about any area of business you can imagine. Some are retired, many are still working, and the group includes both female and minority counselors. The chapter provides free, face-to-face counseling to entrepreneurs starting their own businesses or currently operating businesses and also works with not-for-profit organizations.

SCORE also conducts many workshops during the year on a variety of subjects relevant to small businesses. Last year, the chapter conducted 24 workshops to 409 attendees on subjects including using social media for marketing your business, franchising, and running a nonprofit.

If you would like an experienced business mentor or a coach to help you with business issues, contact SCORE at 330-244-3280, or send an email to [cantonscore@gmail.com](mailto:cantonscore@gmail.com). You can also find many resources relevant to starting or operating a business at the SCORE website at [www.canton.score.org](http://www.canton.score.org). If you would like to share your expertise and passion for business with other entrepreneurs, consider becoming a SCORE volunteer counselor.

## 2015 Chili Open & Warm-up Party

### 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**

**2014-2015  
Chamber officers**

**President,**

**Larry Pottorf**

Minerva Local School  
District

**Vice President,**

**Cindy Williams**

Edward Jones  
Investments

**Treasurer,**

**Vickie Grindstaff**

Loudon Motors Ford

The weather was just about perfect for this year's Chili Open – cold, but not too cold, and snowy, but not too snowy. As always, we appreciate everyone who came out and supported this event and who bought Winter Fantasy raffle tickets.

Congratulations to the winning team of Larry Pottorf, Mark Scott, and John Davis, as well as to Janet Cassidy for winning the Best Chili trophy; Denise Freeland for Best Soup; Dick Haines for Best Bread; and Diane Haines for winning the Ugly Sweater contest. Winter Fantasy Raffle winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> – Lisa George, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jeff Evans, and 3<sup>rd</sup> – Dick Rutledge.

Thanks go to Ice Castle sponsor Hart Mansion Restaurant; Igloo sponsor Frontier Communications; Snow Fort sponsor Plant Perfection Foods; special contest sponsors Colfor Manufacturing and Summit Glove; and hole sponsors St. Luke Lutheran Community – Minerva and Minerva Area YMCA. We also appreciate DanceAble Ballroom Studio for providing a mini lesson in the dances of the 60s; prize donations from Edgewater Golf Club, Frontier Communications, Kishman's IGA, and Que Pasa Mexican Restaurant; donation of a cookie tray by Kishman's IGA; and silent auction donations from St. Luke Lutheran Community – Minerva and Sandy Springs Brewing Company.



ABOVE LEFT: The winning team consisted of (from left) Mark Scott, Larry Pottorf, and John Davis. ABOVE RIGHT: Judge Robert Lavery, Matt Kishman, and Tim Matthews braved the cold.



LEFT: The team of (from left) Damin Clapper, John Williams, Jeannette Leyda, and Darrell Miller take a break. ABOVE: The Jenga during the Warm-up Party was almost as competitive as the golf.