



Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

April 2008

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Mission Statement

The mission of The Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is to be a resource to businesses providing information, connections, advocacy, and opportunities.

Thank You

... Fall Creek Little League for sponsoring the March Business Breakfast!

Management 2000 for hosting an outstanding Business After Hours on March 20!

Photo of the Month



Happy Birthday, Marion Hall!

Marion Hall received a key to the City of Lawrence at a special birthday open house at the Starbucks on Pendleton Pike on March 26. While over 40 people gathered around, Mayor Ricketts read a proclamation declaring Saturday, March 29, 2008 as Marion Hall Day in honor of his birthday.

The Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is now able to accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover courtesy of Fifth Third Bank. Now, if you'd like to pay for meeting fees, memberships or advertising, all you have to do is use your card.

Calling Salute to Teachers Sponsors!

Each year, the Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce sponsors an event to honor four well-deserved Lawrence Township School teachers for their outstanding contributions in the classroom. Last year, Michael McBride from Forest Glen Elementary, Sally Schwarz from Harrison Hill Elementary, Sherrilyn Dobrzezeniecki from Fall Creek Valley Middle School, and Brian White from Lawrence North High School each won a \$1,000 cash prize to put back into the classroom.

The 2008 Salute to Teachers Reception will be on Thursday, May 1 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Garrison. At the time of this writing, Lawrence Township School Foundation has agreed to be an event sponsor.

Are you interested in sponsoring this event and helping the Chamber applaud the efforts of our township's educators?

If so, sponsorships are \$300. As a sponsor, your company name and logo will be on all event promotions including invitations, signage, newsletters, and on the City of Lawrence's cable TV station. If interested, please call Kris Butler at 541-9876.

Thanks to Carletta Sullivan (McKenzie Center,) Sherilee McLain (Teipen, Selander, Poynter & Ayres,) David Ring (Indiana Funeral Care,) who are working on this event committee.

Community Health Network Foundation receives grant to advance breast cancer care

Community Health Network Foundation has been awarded a \$116,568 grant from the Indianapolis Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure to expand the breast health navigation program available at Community Health Network. Created in 2006, the breast health navigation program utilizes certified breast health specialists to deliver free personal consultation and support services to breast health patients and their families.

Joseph Heckman, Community Health Network vice president of oncology (and Lawrence Chamber board member,) said the grant will fund additional registered nurses and administrative support, increasing the center's ability to serve existing patients and previously underserved populations.

"We are extremely grateful to receive this gift that will allow us to expand the patient-focused care and exceptional experiences we offer." said Heckman. "The cancer journey is a difficult process and this grant supports our commitment to help a patient every step of the way."

www.LawrenceChamberOfCommerce.org



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President's *Perspective*
by Kris Butler

**Are Your Children
Employable?**

This past March, I had the pleasure of being a part of a panel discussion at the Lawrence Township School Council meeting. Barry Norman (McKenzie Career Center), Jane Lommel (BRAG), and Jimmy Beard (J. Beard Management, Inc.) and I discussed how to prepare today's children for tomorrow's workforce. The panel was moderated by Gerry Dick from Inside Indiana Business.

The discussion was a lively one as both panelists and audience talked about the emerging workforce. The following list of ten tips represents my portion of the presentation. They are based on my sincere belief that it is the responsibility of everyone in an organization to positively and proactively represent their organization to everyone with whom they come in contact. This includes our young adults as they work as grocery store clerks, babysitters, and restaurant servers. (This list can also apply to adults, by the way.)

1. Consider yourself as your company's best ambassador. Regardless of what you do in a company, you are that company's sales person. Do your job as if you are always being watched by the boss and your customers.
2. The customer is your most important person in your work life. A customer is not an interruption of our work but the purpose for it. A customer is the person who makes it possible to pay your salary whether you are a stocker, office worker, cashier, meat cutter or whatever. (Danny O'Malia)
3. Make sure you know your company inside and out – what products and services it sells, new sales promotions, and anything that can help the customer.
4. Always be willing to go the extra mile for a customer and a co-worker. Be sincerely helpful.
5. Follow the basics of office etiquette: dress for success, be on time, always be polite, be reliable, be professional and smile. Look people in the eye, don't mumble, and be pleasant.
6. Return all phone calls promptly, and if you can't, have someone call for you.
7. If you sit on a committee or board, contribute! Your level of involvement is how others will view your company.
8. Be a self starter. Don't wait for others to tell you what to do. Once a task is finished, don't just sit and wait for someone to notice and give you more work. Take initiative.
9. Always be willing to learn new things. Be a life-long learner.
10. Always say "thank you" for the business!

**COMMUNITY
CONNECTION**

Community Connection is a monthly publication of The Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce. Business-related articles & press releases may be submitted by all members & must be informational or educational. Due to limited space, publication is not guaranteed. We may edit your information for grammar or length.

The deadline for copy and camera-ready artwork for ads is the 10th of the previous month. Submit to Kris at: kbutler@LawrenceChamberOfCommerce.org.

CHAMBER ADDRESS:
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ADVERTISE WITH US!
Ad rates are affordable: 1/3 ad = \$50; Square = \$75; 1/2 page = \$125; Full page = \$250. Don't forget about advertising on the Chamber's website! Banner & square ads starting at \$200 per quarter!

MSDLT Report

What Does the Term “Cultural Competency” Mean to You?

By Brad Eschelman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

One of the current major initiatives of Lawrence Township Schools is to increase its cultural competency among its 2,300+ employees. One of our Core Values over the past ten years has been “Embracing diversity contributes to the strength of a community”. We believe this core value applies not only to the school district, but to the entire Lawrence community as well. As our student enrollment and the entire Lawrence population changes, so must our understanding of cultural competency. An educational definition of cultural competency is *“the effective integration of knowledge about students’ backgrounds into instructional planning and strategies, resulting in learning of curricular concepts at high levels”*. Over the past few years, we have had such influential consultants as Geneva Gay, Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Gary Howard, and Glenn Singleton come to Lawrence schools to assist us in meeting that definition.

One of the ways the Human Resources Department is working in this initiative is to assess the degree of a candidate’s cultural competency to ensure we hire teacher candidates that are already strong in this area. In order to accomplish this task, we are in the process of writing a new set of interview questions directly assessing a candidate’s knowledge and skill of cultural competency. We have divided the questions into four levels: ‘will’ or the candidate’s attitude towards cultural competency; ‘skill’ or the candidate’s experience in the area of cultural competency; ‘knowledge’ or the candidate’s study of / research of cultural competency; and, ‘capacity’ or the candidate’s willingness to engage in the work of cultural competency.

We encourage all members of the Lawrence community to “check” themselves on their level of cultural competency. It is an area in which ways to improve can always be found.



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Member News

Fall Creek Little League is inviting all sponsors to Opening Day, April 19. Come see your company banner displayed and you will be recognized after the parade. For more information visit www.fall-creek.org.

Phi Theta Kappa, an honorary society for community college students, has named Nancy DiLaura, chamber board member and executive director of the **Ivy Tech Lawrence** campus, the state’s Outstanding Administrator for 2007. Nancy accepted the award last month at PTK’s state conference in Madison, Indiana.

St. Mary’s Child Center will host the 2008 Auction Royale: Live and Let Bid on Friday, April 25, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in the Cosmo Ballroom at 7:00 p.m. The evening will consist of a live and silent auction, live entertainment by Jayne Bond and the Pink Martinis, dinner, and an open bar. Tickets are \$75 per person and table of 10 are also available. Please contact Dana Smith at 317-635-1491 or dsmith@stmaryschildcenter.org for more information.

Steve Sergi, Broker and Owner of **RE/MAX Realty Mart** in Indianapolis, has received the RE/MAX Platinum Club Award for his outstanding sales performance in 2007. Steve ranks among the Top 1% in sales of the over 1,500 RE/MAX sales associates throughout the State. RE/MAX Realty Mart is located at 4958 E. 56th Street in Indianapolis and Steve can be reached at 317-507-5883 or stevsergi@remax.net.

– more member news on page three

Member News

Eagle Creek Coffee Company is pleased to announce their new offering and partnership with Judges BBQ. To kick off this new menu, Eagle Creek Coffee Company is holding a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, April 2 at 10:00 a.m. Judges BBQ was voted Indy's #1 BBQ in town, and Eagle Creek Coffee Company is very excited to be offering this food to Lawrence.



James Lambert is the new Operating Manager for **Two Men and a Truck** at their 11135 Pendleton Pike location. Contact him at (317) 644-0707.



Italian Dinner & Music Extravaganza!

Servants of Christ Lutheran Church is hosting their Annual Italian Dinner and Music Extravaganza featuring Special Guest TV Personality Randy Ollis on Sunday, April 27, 5 PM – 8 PM. Come for a delicious Italian dinner and dessert buffet. Also Featuring: "The Spare Parts" Professional Barber Shop Quartet, Gospel Recording Artist, Felicia Cook the Lawrence North Gospel Choir. The evening also includes a Silent Auction. Adult tickets: \$10.00 each; Children 5 - 10 years: \$5.00 each; and under 5 are free. This event is sponsored by the Servants of Christ Youth Group. Call or stop by the church office for more information or tickets. (Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM) 317-823-9580

If you're traveling through Lawrence on the weekend of April 12 – 13, you'll see a lot of activity at the Lawrence Soccer Complex. FC Pride's Red Lion Invitational will be held that weekend featuring 104 teams, 1,800 athletes, and 3,000 spectators. This is a great benefit to the Lawrence economy because families have to eat, drink and be merry between games. In other words, if you're a restaurant, better stock up for this weekend!

In the Community

Community Hospital North a Health Care Hero

Community Hospital North was named a finalist as a Health Care Hero in the Community Achievement in Health Care awards. This is not surprising since Barbara Summers, president of Community Hospital North is passionate about the hospital's health care role in the community. In other words, Summers takes the word "Community" in their name very seriously.

In a recent article in the IBJ, Summers is quoted as saying that in order to fulfill their primary mission of improving community health, Community employees must be involved in the community. Some of the things with which they get involved in the Lawrence Township community include:

- Participating in Farmer's Markets in Fishers & at the corner of Binford & 71st St.
- Staffing school-based clinics in Lawrence Township Schools which are free to students & their families not covered by insurance
- Supporting a BRAG initiative to build walking trails and sidewalks
- Visiting neighborhood daycare centers to share important healthcare information
- Participating with the Lawrence Township School Foundation in the "Kids Up and Running" program in Lawrence Township Schools

Check out the Chamber's website photo gallery at www.lawrencechamberofcommerce.org for more photos from recent events.

Community Shred Day in April

Shred-it and Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana are holding a Community Shred Day on April 26 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the following locations:

- Brownsburg Police Department, 31 North Green Street
- Carmel Police Department, 3 Civic Square
- Cumberland Police Department, 11501 East Washington St.
- Plainfield Police Department, 1075 West Main Street
- Speedway Police Department, 1410 North Lynhurst

All proceeds from your \$5 per box donation will benefit Crime Stoppers of Central Indiana, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization working with your law enforcement agency to solve serious crimes in your community.

In the Community

Lawrence Central Bears Athletic Club Reverse Raffle

The 20th Annual Lawrence Central Bears Athletic Club ("BAC") Reverse Raffle is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2008. The theme for this year's event is "Let's Luau" and it will be held at St. Simon Catholic Church located at 8155 Oaklandon Road. The event runs from 6:30 -11:30 p.m.

The BAC Reverse Raffle puts the "fun" in fundraiser. All attendees will be treated to a full authentic Polynesian Luau meal plus complementary beer, wine, and soft drinks. The band Tropical Zoo will add to the atmosphere by playing its Jimmy Buffet style music in addition to hits from the 60s, 70s, 80s, and today. There will be games of chance including Blackjack, Texas Hold 'Em, tip boards, pull tabs, and raffles. The highlight of the evening is a Reverse Raffle where everyone has a chance to win a grand prize of \$2,000 in addition to many other valuable prizes. There will also be silent and live auctions, hula dancers, a limbo contest, and much more. It is a fabulous time for all.

Tickets for the event are \$50 per couple and include 2 raffle tickets, 2 dinners, and drinks. Individual tickets are \$30 and include 1 raffle ticket, dinner, and drinks. For ticket information, call 543-3340. All proceeds from the event support Lawrence Central athletics.

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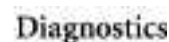
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Members News

Parent Satisfaction with Lawrence Township Schools is High

In November 2007 Lawrence Township partnered with the Survey Research Center at IUPUI to do a phone survey to gather parent input. The phone survey was conducted with 1,022 parents who represented the following demographics:

- 69% female
- 31% male
- 45% white
- 37% black
- 10% Hispanic
- 1 % Asian
- 7% multiracial
- Less than 1% American Indian

Parent Survey Summary:

Over 90% felt Lawrence Township schools can be excellent schools
 Over 85% feel their child's school in Lawrence Township is an excellent school
 Majority graded Lawrence Township schools higher than the nation's schools
 89% responded that they feel Lawrence Township schools are safe.



Lawrence Early College is hosting a DISCOVER LEC Open House, Wednesday, April 9 at 6:00 for current 8th graders ready to enroll for next year. Students ready to earn a high school diploma and FREE Ivy Tech college credits are welcome!! Call 964-9080 for more information!

In the Community

BRAG Update

The Binford Redevelopment and Growth Group (BRAG) needs tons of volunteers on Saturday, April 19 to plant native flowers in the Binford median, new trees in front of the former American Equipment building just south of Graham Road and Binford, and a brand new bed with 20 river birches on the northeast corner of Binford/East 65th. They are hoping to plant trees and shrubs around the south entrance of Skiles Test Nature Park (just west of the intersection of Shadeland and Fall Creek Road). Registration starts at 9:00 am at the northwest corner of Binford and East 71st Street. Contact Karen Kryah to volunteer kjkryah@yahoo.com Volunteers must be 16 and over. Coffee and snacks will be served.

Also happening on April 19 will be BRAG's first ever electronic recycling initiative -- also on the northwest corner of Binford and East 71st Street, starting at 9 am. Bring your dead computers, monitors, and printers to be recycled. Contact www.recycleindy.com to find out what can be donated and what cannot.



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Advocacy Report

by Jim Masur, Robert W. York & Associates

FMLA Legislation

Due to a change in the law, spouses and next of kin of those engaged in military service are now entitled, under federal law, to take FMLA-style time off, to:

- address exigent circumstances, created by being called up, deployed, etc., and
- care for members of the armed forces sustaining injuries or illnesses.
- Indiana law also permits employees to take 10 days' leave, in the thirty days before or after a spouse's (or several other relatives') active duty, as well as during breaks in a spouse's (or several other relatives') active duty.

Therefore, employers covered by FMLA or Indiana law need to make sure that the "leave/pto" checklist includes the questions:

- Is this in any way related to military service?
- If so, please provide all relevant details.

Check out www.dol.gov for further developments, and sign up for updates on FMLA regulations. The state law is at IC 22-2-13-1, available at the www.in.gov website.

There is a new initiative to revise FMLA regulations. It, too can be accessed on the web, at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/FMLANPRM.htm>. The proposed rulemaking requires comments to be submitted by April 11. As an aside, one of the comments I authored for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is mentioned in the February 11, 2008 U.S. Department of Labor notice.

Discrimination

Due to a recent Supreme Court case, long-past evidence of improper bias against others may be used as evidence in a pending discrimination case. Therefore, part of an employer's investigation and response checklist to internal charges of disparate treatment and/or harassment should include:

- admonishment to any person making off-color or biased jokes or statements, reflecting improper bias,
- disavowal of any such jokes or statements to anyone within earshot, or receiving such communications via email.

State-level items of interest--Permanent adjustments to property taxes have been enacted, with caps at 1%, 2% and 3% of assessed values for homeowners, rental property and businesses, respectively.

Strides for Change Walk at the Fort

Join Mothers Against Drunk Driving for a fun filled day at Ft. Benjamin Harrison State Park for their Strides for Change 5K Walk on Saturday, April 12. Opening Ceremonies start at 9:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 10:00 a.m. There will be a festival, kid's activities, pet zone and music and entertainment. To register as a walk participant or volunteer go to www.stridesforchange.org and select Indianapolis as your walk site location. For more information, call 317-781-6233 or check out MADD's insert in the Chamber's March newsletter.

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Robotics Program Wins Regional

The McKenzie Career Center, which includes students from Lawrence Central and Lawrence North High Schools, won the regional robotics competition in Chicago on March 1. As a result, the Center, which has won many other competitions in past years, received a cash reward of \$5,000 which will help defer costs to travel to the international championship in Atlanta.

The McKenzie Career Center also participated in the three-day Boilermaker Regional at Purdue University on March 15. Approximately 40 high school robotics programs, including 26 Indiana schools participated in the event.

Each student is responsible for raising \$400 to help supplement the costs of the trip to Atlanta. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carletta Sullivan at Carlettasullivan@msdlt.k12.in.us.

To see the robot in action, go to www.thebluealliance.net and enter the McKenzie team number 1024 in the box. It will bring up every event and match they've been in for the last two years. If you look at the videos from the Midwest Regionals this year, you'll see that they have a really, really good chance at being national champions.

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