



# MEMBER CONNECTION

July 2009

P.O. Box 371  
Wabash, Indiana 46992  
Voice: 260-563-1168  
Fax: 260-563-6920

Kimberly Pinkerton, Editor  
Beth Miller, Layout & Design  
Email: [info@wabashchamber.org](mailto:info@wabashchamber.org)  
URL: [www.wabashchamber.org](http://www.wabashchamber.org)

## NEW LOCAL GIFTCHECK PROGRAM HAS LAUNCHED

"We are very excited to announce our new Chamber GiftCheck Program," says Chamber President Kimberly Pinkerton. "The new Shop Local initiative will be managed completely in-house, with all funds held at a local financial institution. We are very grateful to Crossroads Bank for working with us to develop a security GiftCheck that will be very easy for our businesses and citizens to utilize for all their awards and recognitions, as well as birthday and holiday gift giving."

The new GiftChecks may be purchased at the Chamber office or online in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, \$25 or, \$50, with special orders available. The GiftChecks are redeemable at any Wabash County Chamber business, so consumers have the ability to use them at over 325 locations. Whether someone wishes to purchase food, car detailing, celebrate at a restaurant or pay their utility bill, their GiftChecks allow them to make the choice. Each GiftCheck will come with a list of Chamber Member Businesses, so they may easily decide how to spend their dollars in Wabash County. There are no fees associated with purchasing these GiftChecks, unless they are purchased with a credit card. A modest charge to cover the extra costs associated with that service is necessary since a GiftCheck is a cash-in/cash-out process. The Chamber's goal is to encourage consumers to shop locally. Statistics show that these dollars will re-circulate 5-7 times throughout the Wabash Community.

Ms. Pinkerton also announced that the Chamber has replaced all outstanding Gift Certificates that were reported to them, due to the closing of the former gift certificate management company. "Any merchant, citizen or other business that had outstanding, unredeemable gift certificates that were reported to us by our deadline date has been contacted and asked to bring those to our office for replacement." In all, the Chamber issued about \$11,000.00 worth of replacements. "The Board of Directors felt that this was the right and only recourse to our customers. We have had a successful Gift Certificate program that supported our local businesses since 1985. We want to continue that strong commitment."

GiftCheck Information Packets were sent to all merchant members allowing them to familiarize themselves and their staff with the new GiftCheck appearance. They may also be assured of its check security features, understand that it is simply deposited like any other check and included training material for their cashiers, to ensure ready acceptance of the new GiftChecks.

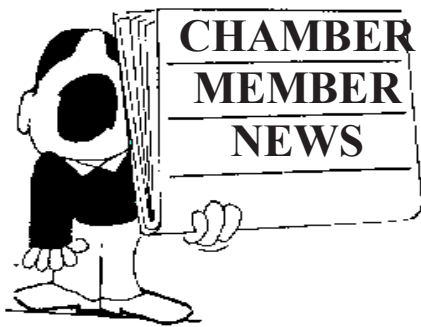
A sample of the new Gift Check is shown at right:



MEMBERS ARE REMINDED NOT TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:



To order GiftChecks for your employee awards or other needs, to obtain a poster for your cashiers, or if you have any other questions about the program, please call the Chamber at 260.563.1168.



## HAVE A NEWSWORTHY ARTICLE OR EVENT YOU'D LIKE US TO PUBLISH?

Are you holding a special promotion, event or want to congratulate and recognize an employee? We are happy to share your news with the business community. The Chamber newsletter deadline for article submission is the 3rd Monday of the month prior to publication. Email your news and pictures to: [info@wabashchamber.org](mailto:info@wabashchamber.org) or fax news to 260.563.6920.

## PRESS RELEASES

Please feel free to add us to your Media list for all of your Press Release articles so that we too can announce your news. If you would like to submit your Press Release to us, we would be more than happy to send them out to the media for you.

**Community Connections** is now accepting applications for three new volunteer positions targeted to begin in July. The three new positions are for VISTA volunteers through AmeriCorps, a Corporation for National & Community Service. "The VISTA volunteer program is an outstanding partnership between Pathfinder Services, Inc., AmeriCorps, and NeighborWorksAmerica," states Jan Baumgartner, Director of Community Connections. "It is a perfect opportunity for individuals to add one year of community service to their resume. Our three volunteers will work hands-on in Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Development through our Fort Wayne office, and in developing our Voluntary Free Income Tax Preparation program for the 2010 tax year," concluded Baumgartner.

**Community Connections**, the Housing Division of Pathfinder Services, Inc., recently promoted Natalie Fisher to the position of Home Buyer Education Coordinator. "Natalie has been an important asset to the success of Community Connections, and I am excited to announce this promotion," stated Jan Baumgartner, Director of Community Connections. "Over the coming months, Natalie will have an instrumental part in training our three new VISTA volunteers while continuing and building on her current job duties," Baumgartner concluded.

The **Wabash Friends Counseling Center** has announced the next program in their leadership training series. July 2, 2009: First, Break All the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently by Ed Turi, Turi Business Coaching, Indianapolis. Leadership Luncheon is from 12 noon to 1pm at Wabash Friends Church. Cost is \$20 which includes your meal or \$15 for 5 or more. Email [scott@wabashfriends.org](mailto:scott@wabashfriends.org) or register on line at [www.wabashfriendscounseling.com](http://www.wabashfriendscounseling.com)

**Manchester College** will host patriotic party Saturday, July 4 for the community. Independence Day is on the horizon and Manchester College is ready to celebrate in a huge way, lighting up the sky and hearts of all ages with music, patriotic readings, games and, of course, fabulous fireworks. It's all free, on Saturday night, July 4, on the North Manchester campus. If it storms, the party moves to Sunday, July 5 – same times, same place. For more about the 4th of July Celebration, contact Manchester College at 260-982-5210 or [pr@manchester.edu](mailto:pr@manchester.edu).

**Honeywell Center** announces the following upcoming events:

<i>The US Army Field Band: The Volunteers</i>	Sun., July 5	3:00 pm
Sponsored by Beacon Credit Union		
<i>Merle Haggard</i>	Thurs., July 16	7:30 pm
Presented by SHOUT! Promotions and WWKI		
<i>Michael Bolton</i>	Tues., July 28	7:30 pm
Sponsored by D&J Radabaugh Inc. and Visionary Web		

## **AFFORDABLE AND FUN THINGS TO DO IN JULY**

### **Great Opportunities for Your Stay-cation!**

- Take a canoe trip offered by Miller's Cool Running Canoe Rentals (765.985.2000)
- Take in a baseball game at Morrett Sports Complex or City Park
- Bicycle all or part the 92 mile county trail
- Stop for ice cream at The Works or Kelly's
- Join in the July 4 celebrations at Morrett Complex – 5k run, BBQ, fireworks and more!
- Explore the Charley Creek Gardens
- Visit the Wabash County Historical Museum and Gift Shop as well as the Dr. James Ford Historic Home
- Enjoy the art gallery and have lunch in the Honeywell Center
- Swim in the Honeywell Pool, or enjoy the beach at Salamonie or Mississinewa Reservoirs
- Check out the various family activities at the new YMCA
- Participate in family fun at the 4H Fair – July 11 – 18.
- Take a walking tour and enjoy the architecture of the Historic Downtown North Manchester or Wabash
- Fish, hike, camp and wander the area lakes and reservoirs
- Visit the Covered Bridges in Roann and North Manchester
- Picnic and play at various county parks where you can also explore creeks and waterfalls
- Explore the historic Stockdale Mill
- Cool down with a Frappe at Modoc's while connecting to the wireless internet
- Participate in small town festivals

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### **LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES FROM THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	RATE	Seasonally Adjusted RATE
U.S.					
May 2009	154,336,000	140,363,000	13,973,000	9.1	9.4
April 2009 (revised)	153,834,000	140,586,000	13,248,000	8.6	8.9
May 2008 (Benchmark)	154,003,000	145,927,000	8,076,000	5.2	5.5
INDIANA					
May 2009	3,227,693	2,891,242	336,451	10.4	10.6
April 2009 (revised)	3,193,113	2,877,908	315,205	9.9	9.9
May 2008 (Benchmark)	3,243,514	3,076,506	167,008	5.1	5.3
WABASH					
May 2009	16,399	14,168	2,231	13.6	
April 2009 (revised)	16,357	14,260	2,097	12.8	
May 2008 (Benchmark)	17,247	16,055	1,192	6.9	

## SHOP LOCAL PROMOTIONS FOR JULY

We have encouraged our members to let us know of any special promotions so we may assist in getting the word out to consumers about these local shopping opportunities. This space will be used to pass that information along. **If you have promotions for August, please let us know by July 17.** Kp

Wabash Plain Dealer announces the “**SPEND \$20 ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup>!**” promotion. They are encouraging the community to spend \$20 in our LOCAL businesses on July 20<sup>th</sup> to help stimulate the Wabash economy. Call them if you would like to advertise your 20/20 special at 260.563.2131.

The Chamber reminds you that you may purchase \$20 **GiftChecks** to use at the restaurant, retailer or other member business of choice, for the “SPEND \$20 ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup>” promotion.

Also, encourage all your employees to utilize their **Member2Member Discount Cards** anytime of the year. These cards offer discounts for products/services at the following Chamber Member businesses: Wabash Valley Chrysler, K&R Office Supply, Indiana National Guard (10% off facility rental), Dorais Chevrolet, GarbEdge Custom Clothing, Asian Buffet, Big Brick House Bakery, First Merchants Bank, Miller’s Cool Running Canoes, Portraits by Kimberly, Wells Fargo Bank, Kirtlan Automotive, Modoc’s Market, LoveBug Floral Boutique, Great Wall Grand Buffet, First Farmers Bank & Trust, The Works Ice Cream Café, Aztecaz Mexican Grille, Goodfellas Pizza, Daywalt Pharmacy, Sunshine Pack and Ship, Papa Johns Pizza, Wabash Gardens Restaurant, Visionary Computers, and Border Patrol Curbscaping.

## COMMITTEE NEWS

We would like to thank our recent retiring committee members for all of their time and hard work. Toni Benysh has recently retired from the Public Relations committee after serving for over 3 years. Jennifer Southers has retired from the Membership Committee after serving for over a year. Both of these individuals were great assets to the committees and always came to meetings with great ideas. Thank both of you very much for all that you have done!



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN JUNE

- Atlas Building Services, Inc.
- Borders & Beyond
- City of Wabash
- Gaunt & Son Asphalt
- Huntington University Excel Program
- Investment Center at Crossroads Bank
- K & M Floor Covering
- Lori Overmyer Photography
- Metropolitan School District
- Metz Title Company
- Mosier’s Tarps
- Nancy J’s Fabrics
- North Central Respiratory
- Presbyterian Church
- Subway
- The Historic Eagles Theater





## JULY BLUE RIBBON BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



July will find the Blue Ribbon Business of the Month sign in front of the Great Wall Grand Buffet Restaurant. Located in the Wabash Crossing Shopping Center (1439 N. Cass St.), Owner Birdie Ou has managed the restaurant since 1992. When presented with the Blue Ribbon Business designation, Ms. Ou said, “Thank you, Wabash, for letting us serve you for fourteen years and for recently voting us the best Chinese restaurant.” Great Wall has been a member of the Chamber for six years and employs three full-time persons.

Birdie invites you to visit Great Wall anytime during their business hours of 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Ms. Ou will be happy to share news from her recent visit to China, including pictures of the Beijing Olympics. During the month of July, there will be discount coupons available in the Wabash Plain Dealer so customers may enjoy the best deal possible.

The restaurant is also available for special occasion events, and welcomes your reservations by telephoning 260.563.7987.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT YOUR CHAMBER

The Wabash County Chamber Board of Directors had decided to **discontinue our Post Office Box address.** Please update your contact data for the Chamber to our physical mailing address of:

210 S. Wabash Street  
Wabash, IN 46992

### STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to our own Executive Assistant, Beth Miller, for being inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society. Ms. Miller will be completing her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration by December 2009 through the Huntington University EXCEL Program.



The Pinnacle Honor Society is for non-traditional students who have a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average and who have demonstrated leadership through community and/or church involvement. Applicants must be in their last year or graduating from a bachelor’s program.

In his letter to Ms. Miller, Dr. Rick Upchurch, Director of the Excel Program, stated, “We received double the number of applications that we were allowed to choose, which means that some were not chosen. Each application had strong points which made the selection difficult. I am pleased to report to you that your name was chosen for induction in to the Pinnacle Honor Society.”

Ms. Miller currently handles the Accounting and Fund Development areas of the Chamber which also includes management of the GiftCheck Program, general office functions and ensures operating procedure compliance.

## LABOR POSTERS

It is time again to update your Labor Posters in order to be in compliance. Fines for outdated postings can cost as much as \$15,000. The new poster sets include the Revised Child Labor Law poster (Indiana), FMLA update, Indiana Minimum Wage Notice, and Military Family Leave Act. The cost of the posters will be \$37. We will be ordering these posters soon, so reserve your set now!

To reserve your posters, call the Chamber office at 260.563.1168 or email [info@wabashchamber.org](mailto:info@wabashchamber.org).



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## INDIANA CORPORATE REGISTRATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS FILINGS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT NO CHARGE

Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita implements the latest in online service, efficiency which will specifically benefit Indiana business, financial and legal community

More than 6.5 million images of corporate documents, business filings and other registrations on file with the Indiana Secretary of State Business Services Division are now accessible instantly and free of charge through the INBiz portal found on Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita's Web site: [www.sos.in.gov/business](http://www.sos.in.gov/business).

The business filings now available online date back to the 1800s. They are commonly accessed to research the names and addresses of the principal officers of a business, for use in mergers and acquisitions or in the pursuit of capital to allow businesses to grow.

"Whenever it can, government should harness and leverage technology to drive down costs and drive up access for taxpayers," said Secretary Rokita. "I am proud of my staff's work and the culture that we have created here at the office of the Secretary of State to meet, and often exceed, the efficiency standards that are in place in the private sector."

These document filings, specifically accessed hundreds of times a day by the legal and financial communities, along with the businesses themselves, were previously available only in person at the Business Services Division in Indianapolis or through the mail. This is just one of the latest efforts to increase government efficiency that is allowing Secretary Rokita to operate his division on the same budget, unadjusted for inflation, as that of the secretary of state in 1987.

"In the instantaneous world we live and practice in, delays can't happen, and with this new service they won't," said Michael Mustard, a partner in the Ft. Wayne law firm Hunt Suedhoff Kalamaros, LLP, who has used the new online service. "We work with many states, and Indiana has some of the best, forward-thinking services in the country."

Users of the free service, which went online at the end of April, have already successfully accessed more than 106,000 images. Previously, the state charged \$1 a page for paper copies of these corporate business filings and documents and an additional \$15 for certified copies, but there will be no charge for the online service going forward.

# MEMBERSHIP UPCOMING EVENTS

By

Chasity Milliner, Membership Services Coordinator

## YPN Mixer

Thursday July 9, 2009 @ 5:45 at the Cruise-Thru

This is a great networking event and a chance to meet other young professionals in the community. Come out and see what everyone is talking about! Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

## Sizzlin' Summer Plaza Series at the Honeywell Center Plaza

The Honeywell Center, 105.9 The Bash, Real Country 101.9 and the Wabash Plain Dealer music series features free musical entertainment on the Honeywell Center outdoor plaza from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Thursday in July. In addition to the concerts, Eugenia's Plaza Grille will be open during all performances and be offering grilled food, beverages, and desserts.

The John Kirkwood Band  
Thursday, July 2  
5 – 7 p.m.

An energetic band playing R&B, pop, and dance hits from all eras.

Blue Luster  
Thursday, July 9  
5 – 7 p.m.

An original hard rock band... with attitude!

Michael Kelsey  
Thursday, July 16  
5 – 7 p.m.

A variety of sounds using acoustic guitar, technology, and anything within reach! Voted best unsigned guitarist in Guitar Center's national search.

Steel  
Thursday, July 23  
5 – 7 p.m.

Four-piece band playing hits from the 70's, 80's, and 90's.

Tuxedo Junction  
Thursday, July 30  
5 – 7 p.m.

Come hear one of the region's best swing and jazz bands!

For more info visit

[www.honeywellcenter.org](http://www.honeywellcenter.org)

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## BUSINESS BEFORE HOURS



The next **Business Before Hours** will be August 12, 7:00 a.m., at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., Wabash.

Business Sponsors are **Wabash Friends Counseling Center, Resource Connection, Huntington University EXCEL, Wabash Community Club, Wabash Plain Dealer, and Chili for Charity.** The emcee will be **Dan Gray, Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition.** To make reservations call the Chamber at 260.563.1168, email [beth@wabashchamber.org](mailto:beth@wabashchamber.org) or visit our web site at [www.wabashchamber.org](http://www.wabashchamber.org).

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

The next **Business After Hours** is scheduled for July 30, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The sponsor will be **Charley Creek Gardens.** Please plan to visit the 518 North Wabash Street location. Don't miss this opportunity to visit this unique Wabash attraction and walk through the peaceful gardens, network with their staff and other business people, and tour the greenhouse.



## BOARD MEMBERS

2008-2009

Trisha Metzger, Chair  
Crossroads Bank  
Rob Pearson, Chair Elect  
Wabash County REMC  
Mark Sapusek, Vice Chair  
Visionary Web/Computers  
Doug Mays, Treasurer  
Thermafiber  
Brian Campbell  
Randall Miller & Associates  
Andy Eads, Past Chair  
Huntington Herald Press  
Kimberly Pinkerton, President  
Chamber of Commerce

Celia Herrell-Shand  
Wabash City Schools  
Deborah VanMeter  
Huntington University Excel  
Lance Agness  
Ford Meter Box Company  
Skip Daughtry  
Beauchamp & McSpadden  
Chris Goff  
Judge, Superior Court  
Phil Brown  
Alumitech  
Diane Morris  
Borders & Beyond  
Larry Hoover  
Quality Electric  
Lindsay Barnett  
Midwest Eye Consultants  
Matt Mize  
Tiede, Metz & Downs  
Marlea Dale  
Northwestern Mutual Ins.  
Marilyn Custer-Mitchell  
Wabash County Hospital  
Brad Thurmond  
Ivy Tech Community College

## Upcoming Events



July 3	Office Closed	4th of July Holiday
July 9	5:45 p.m.	Young Professionals Network Mixer Cruise Thru Market
July 11-18		4-H Fair
July 30	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Business After Hours Charley Creek Gardens
August 12	7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Business Before Hours Honeywell Center

# GOLD MEMBERS

We thank and salute those member businesses who carry GOLD LEVEL status:

**Beacon Credit Union**  
**Pettit Printing, Inc.**  
**Crossroads Bank**  
**Charley Creek Foundation**  
**Bulldog Battery**  
**Wells Fargo Bank**  
**Miller's Merry Manor**  
**First Merchants Bank**  
**Ford Meter Box Co., Inc.**  
**First Farmers Bank & Trust**  
**Physicians Health Plan of Northern Indiana, Inc.**  
**Dr. James Ford Historic Home**  
**Indiana American Water Company**  
**Mutual Bank**  
**Duke Energy**



Any Wabash County Chamber Member can elevate their membership status to Gold Level by investing an additional \$500 above their regular membership investment. In addition to having their company acknowledged at Chamber events and in publications, Gold Level Members receive \$100 in Chamber Bucks and receive a free large rotating banner ad on the Chamber website.



Wabash County Chamber of Commerce  
presents



# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



**518 N. Wabash Street  
Wabash**

**July 31, 2009  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Check out this  
unique Wabash  
attraction!**

- ◆ Great Networking Opportunity
- ◆ Refreshments
- ◆ Tours
- ◆ No Charge

To make your reservation contact the Chamber at 260.563.1168,  
Fax: 260.563.6920 or email [info@wabashchamber.org](mailto:info@wabashchamber.org)

**Reservations Requested**

## Release of Responsibility

*Must be signed  
(parent or guardian if under 18)*

In consideration accepting my entry, I, intending to be legally bound, do hereby for myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, do wave and release forever, any and all rights and claims for damages I may accrue against all persons and agencies namely the Wabash Optimist Club and any Firecracker 5K sponsors involved with promoting the race as listed by their successors, representatives and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me while traveling to and from and while participating in the Firecracker 5K Race and Fun Run/Walk competition on July 4, 2009 in Wabash, Indiana. I further state that I am in proper physical condition to participate in this event. I also release publication rights to photographs of me shot during the Firecracker 5K events for the purpose of publicity for this and future Optimist events.

Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian *(if under 18)*

Wabash Optimist Club  
106 N Miami St  
Wabash, IN 46992-3153



# Wabash Optimist Club 1st Annual



## Optimist Firecracker 5K Race Fun Run/Walk

7/4/2009

Fun Run - 7:00pm

Race - 7:30pm



Morette Sports Park/  
Field of Dreams Sports Complex  
Wabash

*(entrance to sports park is about 1 mile south of  
US24 on Hwy 13 on the north side of Wabash)*

## Optimist Firecracker 5K July 4, 2009

This evening race will use the beautifully paved and wooded Charlie Creek Trail both out and back. After the race you can stay and relax at the sports park and enjoy after dark fireworks display (weather permitting). Bring your lawn chairs. The Wabash Optimist Club is active in sponsoring Youth Activities



- Course begins and ends in the sports complex parking lot
- Race day registration begins at 6:00PM
- Early registrants may pick up their packets at registration table 6:00PM to 7:15PM day of the race
- 7:30PM Race start time
- \$50 gift certificate will be given to the top male and female winner
- First 100 5K entrants will receive a free T-shirt



## Entry Form

Please check one:	Time	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>5K Race</b>	7:30 p.m.	<b>\$13.00</b>
<small>(\$15 after June 26th and day of race)</small>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 Mile Fun Run/Walk</b>	7:00 p.m.	<b>FREE</b>
<small>(\$10.00 for adult size T-shirt)</small>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gender (Please circle one) M F

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

Age on Race Day \_\_\_\_\_

### T-shirt Size (check one)

SM  M  L  XL

### Age Division (check one)

Under 14  25-29  45-49  
 15-16  30-34  50-54  
 17-18  35-39  55-59  
 19-24  40-44  60 & Over

**Make Checks Payable to Wabash Optimist Club**  
 Important Release of Responsibility (on back).  
 Must be completed and signed.