



CHAMBER NEWS !!

Annual Banquet, March 16th

Don't miss YOUR Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet/Social Event on Monday, March 16 at Ludowici Roof Tile Festival of Ideas Center. Social time begins at 6:00 pm and the program begins at 6:30pm.

Ohio Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher will be our guest speaker.

Contact the Chamber office for reservation information if you have misplaced your invitation!

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Capital Access Workshop, March 12th

Do you have a business or a business idea that needs money? Whether you are a business looking for a loan for working capital and equipment or a person with a high tech idea that needs funding, this session will help you navigate the world of investment, bank and government financing. Enjoy special programs to help you fill the gaps of Conventional Lending.

This workshop will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Perry County Senior Center located at 520 First Street, New Lexington. Please call the Chamber office to register and/or for additional information.

Submitting Proposals for Stimulus Dollars Info

If you have a proposal for possible stimulus dollars, you are encouraged to work through the County Commissioners for their consideration.

Criteria and guidance for the various pots of money are continually coming to the state, with the only clear stipulation currently is that the project needs to be shovel ready. This means that all the feasibility environmental work (permitting and the like) has to be completed and ready for the project to begin construction.

Contact the Chamber office and/or the County Commissioners for additional information!

Red Cross "Change A Life" Contest Info

Please share with your employees, families, friends, etc.

Log on to the Red Cross Website at : www.redcross.org and click on the "Change A Life" link to participate in the contest. In 75 words or less, tell us how a Red Cross experience changed your life or someone else's life.

The contest runs from March 2 to March 16, 2009. Entries can only be done online.

- Grand Prize— concert package to see Keith Urban in concert on August 20, 2009 includes 2 tickets, back stage passes, hotel accommodations and a tour of The National Red Cross Disaster Operations Center.
- Second Prize—52" flat screen TV, DVD player and videos.



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John Ulmer, Executive Director
Amy Reeves, Executive Secretary

Ohio Safety Congress, March 30-April 2

This event will be held at the Columbus Convention Center. The link for all the information is www.ohiobwc.com/employer/programs/safety/safetycongress.asp.

Worker's Compensation Information

The BWC Board of Directors recently met to review the proposed changes to group rating and all other rating programs. They discussed preliminary plans to change many of their programs for the upcoming year. Although final decisions are yet to be made, the potential changes include:

- Surcharges on group rating programs, ranging from 45% to 25%
- Increased certification requirements for group rating sponsors
- Possible elimination or changes to alternative rating programs such as Premium Discount Programs (PDP), Drug-Free Workplace Program (DFWP) and Safety Council Discounts
- Significant reduction of expected loss rates, potentially causing more employers to not be eligible for group rating
- Potential base rate reductions
- Capping premium rate increases (experience modification) from year to year.
- Implementation of new programs: Deductible and Group Retrospective Rating

These changes may have a significant change on the entire Ohio workers' compensation system. CompManagement is currently evaluating these proposals and sharing our concerns with the BWC. Group rating is a successful program for your members and we will continue to work toward a positive resolutions and keep you updated in the days ahead. Remember, the filing deadline for the group rating programs has been extended from February 28th to April 24th.

Contact the Chamber office for additional information or assistance.

Dealing with Foreclosure Help Available

If anyone you know; employees, family members, friends, etc. are facing the possibility of foreclosure or eviction have them contact Jenny Dillon, the Perry County Housing Coalition representative, at (740) 684-0942 or perryhousingcoalition@gmail.com.

This is a real concern and problem in Perry County, but help is available here in the county.

Building Guide/Co. Directory Available

This publication, by the Perry Soil and Water Conservation District, is to assist the prospective home buyer or home builder by providing a list of contacts and procedures to follow for Perry County. It is not intended to serve as a complete list, but to point that person in the right direction.

Contact the Chamber office for this booklet.

Various Phone Books Available

We have been able to secure a nice supply of current phone books for Fairfield County, Licking and Knox Counties, Morgan County (including Crooksville and Junction City), Muskingum County, and Perry County.

Stop by the office (or call) if you or your business would like any of these books.

TechColumbus Upcoming Events

Contact the office for additional information if interested in any of these events:

- 3/11 Ohio Women's Business Growth Initiative
- 3/13 Leaders Luncheon with Mervin Dunn
- 4/1 Successful Utilization of Web 2.0 and Social Networking Tools Within the Corporate Environment

All are held in Columbus at different locations.

Upcoming Local Calendar of Events

- 3/7 Rendville Walking Tour and Volunteer Day
- 3/7 Sheridan High School ASTRA Dinner
- 3/12 Capital Access Workshop, New Lexington
- 3/16 Chamber of Commerce Annual Bqt./Social Event
- 3/21 Eagles Comedy Night, New Lexington
- 4/3 Am. Red Cross Lunch/Fundraiser, New Lexington

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!!

HAVE A GREAT MONTH!!

Sincerely,

John Ulmer
Executive Director
Perry County Chamber of Commerce

PS. Please share the information on the enclosed flyers with your employees. Thanks!