

“Don’t Give Up the Ship”

Just as War of 1812 Captain James “Don’t Give Up the Ship” Lawrence to whom Lawrence County is named after, we the present day citizens have to remind ourselves to “Don’t Give Up the Ship” as well. Our Lawrence County was organized in 1819, and continuous changes have taken place ever since, both in people’s lives, and in people’s types of work.

It is the work changes that we need to address. I recently read an article written by Gerry Dick – Host, Inside INdiana Business. In his article, Mr. Dick stated: “In our recent list of the top ten revolutionary moments impacting Indiana business over the past ten years, the transition of Indiana’s manufacturing economy came in a number four, based on pain of the past and potential for the future.” He goes on to say, “To be sure, the loss of tens of thousands of traditional manufacturing jobs has resulted in great pain for numerous Hoosier communities over the past 30 years. While the news from places like Anderson, Marion, Muncie, New Castle and Richmond has largely been grim, there is ample evidence to suggest that manufacturing will play a key role in the state’s future. That’s right, manufacturing is not dead.

In fact, it represents one of our greatest opportunities.” “It’s no secret that manufacturing employment in the U.S. and Indiana has been declining since the late 1970’s, due in part to the fact that productivity has been increasing. Manufacturers in this country are producing much more with fewer people, by using technology, knowledge and good old fashioned American ingenuity to become world class.”

We can share the grief of the people mentioned in the cities above with our own personal manufacturing losses reflected in the closing of Dana Corporation in Mitchell and the most recent, soon to be closed, Visteon facility in Bedford. We indeed feel and can visualize the loss of what we call the traditional manufacturing jobs, but remember manufacturing currently employs approximately 1.9 million Hoosiers, and accounts for about 35% of local and state tax revenues. These jobs represent the highest average annual wages within the private sector. In fact, Indiana leads the nation in number of percentage of manufacturing jobs

within the state at 20.1 percent.

Manufacturing jobs are expected to grow in the future. In fact, according to Gerry Dick, “It’s estimated that 85% of the manufacturing jobs in central Indiana are in sectors projected for growth over the next five years, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.” “The manufacturing picture in Indiana today includes pharmaceuticals, orthopedics, food processing and electronics as well as autos and steel,” reports Gerry Dick. He further states that, “The challenge of educating Hoosiers about advanced manufacturing and the need for a trained, world class workforce is a focal point...” In drawing his conclusion Gerry Dick states: “Let’s face it, Indiana is a state that makes things. It’s what we do and do well. And with assets already in place and a growing momentum fueled by the public and private sectors and academia, there’s every reason to believe that as a state

we can turn the pain of the past into a positive for our future.”

Lawrence County, let us too, face it—take James Lawrence’s advice and “Don’t Give Up the Ship.” We have a future and it is up to us to prepare our workforce, and if necessary retool our manufacturing capabilities, and beyond all else work to promote our Lawrence County as not only a wonderful place to live and raise a family, but a County that contains a business friendly environment readily available to change and accept new methods and modes of manufacturing.

By: Gene McCracken,
Executive Director
Lawrence County Economic
Growth Council



The Chambers Buyers Guide/Membership Directory

As 2008 rapidly approaches, the Chamber requests your assistance in updating one of our largest marketing tools, the 2008 Buyers Guide/Membership Directory.

The Chamber will send proofs to all member businesses. Once you receive the information please review it, make any necessary changes or corrections and return the form as soon as possible. All forms should be mailed to 1116 16th Street, Bedford, IN 47421 or faxed to (812) 279-5998. The Chamber Buyers Guides are sent to all Chamber members PLUS anyone relocating their family or business to the Bedford area. If your business is not currently a member of the Chamber but would like to be included in the 2008 Buyers Guide call **Julia Johnson** at 275-4493.



**The Bedford Area
Chamber of Commerce is
now accepting nomina-
tions for the 2007 Resi-
dential & Commercial
Christmas Lighting Con-
test. Nominations should
be for individuals and
businesses located within
the North Lawrence Com-
munity School district and
should include the com-
pany/individual’s name,
street address, telephone
number and driving direc-
tions. Mail your nomina-
tions to:
Christmas Lighting
Contest
1116 16th Street, Bedford
or email to:
bedford@bedfordchamber.com**

**Entrees should be
received
no later than Monday,
December 10, 2007.**



Celebrate the Holidays with the Chamber!



The Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce

*invites you to a
Member Appreciation Reception
on Thursday, December 13th
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
at the Chamber office,
1116 16th Street in Bedford.*

*Join us for hors d’oeuvres, door prizes
and networking.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Cooper - Chairman
Dunn Memorial Hospital
Mike Foster - Vice Chairman
Crane Division NSWC
Peggy Tripp - Treasurer
Paoli, Inc.
Barry Key - Past Chairman
Carriage House Furniture

DIRECTORS

Stephanie Cobb
Olson & Company
Gary Conner
NLCS
Lee Cuba
Nanlee Engineering
Debbie Deckard
Sallee & Company
Joe Green
Times Mail
Jeff Helfrich
Hoosier Hills Credit Union
Melody Karr
West Baden Springs Resort
JoAnn Kasprzycki
JCB
Holly Lindsey
Adventure Media
Kathy Maurer
French Lick Resort & Casno
Gene McCracken
LCEGC
Bob O'Callaghan
Whitney Tool Company
Debra Reynolds
Chase Bank
Judge Michael Robbins
Superior Court I
Charles Shetler
BRMC
Keith Wadsworth
GM Powertrain

STAFF

Adele Bowden-Purlee
President
Julia Johnson
Membership & Communications Director
Kristy Hardman
Administrative Assistant
The *Chamber Advantage* is published monthly. Deadline for entries is the 10th of every month. Please notify the chamber office of news you might have or of any address changes. The chamber office may be reached by phone: (812) 275-4493, Fax 279-5998, or e-mail bedford@bedfordchamber.com. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Welcome to Our New Members



Abate of Indiana
Jay Jackson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 665
Bargersville, IN 46106

Phone (317) 422-8040
Fax (317) 422-8373
Email: jay@abateonline.org
url: www.abateonline.org
Organization



Little America Records, LLC
Brandon Pfeiffer, Owner
1526 I St., FL 2
Bedford, IN 47421

Phone (812) 675-4203
Fax (815) 327-1427
info@littleamericarecords.com
[url:www.littleamericarecords.com](http://www.littleamericarecords.com)
Audio, Video, Website Production



Pizza Express
2806 Washington Ave.
Bedford, IN 47421

Phone (812) 278-7800
Email: mlitwin@bloomington.com
url: www.express.bloomington.com
Pizza Delivery & Take-out



The Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce thanks the following businesses for their past support and hopes to see them among the Chamber's membership ranks again in the future:

Barrett Rent-All
Free Spirit Campground
MidAmerica Imaging Technology
Old Buggy Buffet
Pricebuster Charlie's Used Cars & Fireworks
Southern Indiana Genral Surgery, Inc.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies



Allure Beauty Salon invited members of the Chamber and guests to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony celebrating their grand opening at 619 Lincoln Ave., Suite D.



Let's Talk Sports had a Ribbon Cutting celebrating their grand opening. Let's Talk Sports is located at 911 Constitution Ave. in the Comfort Inn.



Michael & Susan Coomer were the winners of the Semi-Annual Beautification award for their Residence at 503 S. Street.



Oasis Therapeutic Touch located at 2734 Washington Avenue was the Commercial Beautification Winner. Oasis Therapeutic Touch was remodeled by Bob & Leesa Fidler

Business After Hours



Copy Trolley welcomed members of the Chamber and their guests to the November Business After Hours.



Chamber members and guests at the Copy Trolley's Business After Hours to take advantage of networking opportunities.

Thank you to our Renewing Members

The chamber encourages all members to do business with each other. Companies, organizations and individuals listed below have recently made an important investment in their business by joining or renewing membership in the chamber.

Captain D's
CPI Supply
Half Moon Limestone Products, Inc.
Edward Jones Investments
John Zollman
Stone City Ironworks, Inc.
Atrium Dental Center
Hearing Center
Johnny's Signs, Inc.
Parker Group
Debonair Designs
Paoli Health & Living Community
PHI BETA SPI Soririty
Theta Alpha Gamma Chapter
Fourwinds Resort & Marina
Day & Carter Mortuary, Inc.
D.L. Morrow and Associates
Bedford Ford Lincoln Mercury & Quicklane
Applacres, Inc.
Indiana Stoneworks, Inc.
Geo-Flo Products Corporation
An Angel's Touch Nail Salon
Bedford Hearing Aid
Specialists, Inc.
Best Beers, Inc.
Cambridge Square
Bedford Winnelson
Full Line Electric, LLC
Common Scents
Sallee & Company, Inc.
Axsoms Floor Covering
Hoosier PC Wholesale
Hoosier Hills Credit Union
Casa Brava Restaurant
Crowder's Drugs
Sears
Casey's General Store
The Mulch Guy



Happy Holidays
from the
Chamber Staff
Adele,
Kristy & Julia



**Purchase Chamber Checks
For the Holidays!**

Don't forget about Chamber gift certificates when searching for the PERFECT Christmas gift. Chamber Checks can be used for your employees, family members or next door neighbor, especially those hard-to-buy for people on your list.

What's so great about Chamber Checks? Chamber Checks take the guesswork out of buying a gift because they can be redeemed at any one of over 110 participating Chamber members for food, goods or services. They also keep dollars in our local economy. So, "Why Roam, Shop at Home" for the Holidays! You CAN'T go wrong with Chamber Checks.

Calendar of Events

Chamber:

Saturday - December 1 - Christmas Lighting Ceremony - Downtown Bedford - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday - December 1 - Christmas Parade - Downtown Bedford - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday - December 13 - Member Appreciation Reception - Chamber - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday - December 24-25 Chamber Office Closed - Christmas

City & County Government:

Tuesday - December 11 - Commissioners Meeting - Lawrence County Courthouse - 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday - December 11 - City Council Meeting - Bedford City Hall - 7:00 p.m.
Friday - December 21 - Commissioners Meeting - Lawrence County Courthouse - 9:30 a.m.
The County Council will not meet the month of December

Happy Holidays 



'Tis the Season...

'Twas the week before Christmas, when once and for all
 I made up my mind to stray from the mall.
 I'd had it with traffic, rudeness and stress.
 My holiday shopping was under duress.
 With 6 days and counting, determined to find
 The presents I needed at stores right nearby,
 I'd grab my snow shovel, my mittens and boots
 Papers and pencils – to cross off the loot.
 What I needed was **here**, at the tip of my nose.
 As simple as writing this holiday prose.
 Our Village was waiting, a ready surprise
 Unwrapping it's magic before my own eyes.
 On jewelry, On flowers, On jackets and sweaters.
 Off to the Village for gifts and for letters.
 I'd buy them and wrap them and mail them right out
 To hither and yonder with nary a doubt.
 For, I knew I'd be heartened by **people who care**,
 By courteous service and a spirit we share.
 A spirit embedded and passed through the years
 Like traditions at Christmas that bring us to tears.
 When all the excitement of shopping might pass
 This positive spirit I know will still last.
 So, friends in each business I pass everyday,
 Here's hoping you have a rich holiday.

On the **1st day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Networking opportunities through Business After Hours.

On the **2nd day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: A ribbon cutting to advertise my business to Lawrence County residents and beyond.

On the **3rd day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: A free listing of my business on the internet.

On the **4th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Referrals to potential customers.

On the **5th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Phone books, city maps and other information on the area.

On the **6th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: An invitation to participate in workshops and seminars.

On the **7th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Free advertisement on the Chamber Advantage Card including the opportunity to offer discounts to fellow members.

On the **8th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: The use of their bulk mail permit to save on postage.

On the **9th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: The opportunity to participate in the Chamber gift certificate program.

On the **10th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Inclusion in the Membership Directory/Buyers Guide and Chamber newsletter.

On the **11th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: A chance to volunteer for the betterment of our community through Chamber Task Forces.

On the **12th day of Christmas my Chamber gave to me**: Lots and lots of informa-