

**Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce  
Weekly Update January 23, 2004**

**YES, MAX & ERMA'S IS COMING:**

While it had been hoped the Columbus-based restaurant group would open its place in Chillicothe by late last fall, plans now have shifted to late May or early June. A building permit has been issued and plans have been approved by the city for the 6,300-square-foot structure that will go on the right side as you enter the Kohls-Wal-Mart shopping area off North Bridge Street. Work on the foundation is expected to start in three weeks and the building itself two weeks after that. According to the plans it will have around 200 seats and take advantage of the view looking south to the Goldie Gunlock Wetlands and the Scioto River with a patio.



**AN ICON RETIRES:** Mary Anne Brown and the Adena State Memorial have been synonymous for 44 years in Chillicothe and Ross County and always will be. Effective the end of January, the former school teacher who became the site manager at the restored home of Thomas Worthington will retire. Her efforts to see that the mansion was restored to its original setting and, most recently, the construction of the new visitors center have been tireless. Her legacy will resonate for generations to come.



**HERRNSTEINS HAD A CROWD:** About 180 members and their guests took advantage of the hospitality of Herrnstein Chrysler Wednesday at the Business After Business co-sponsored by Classic Brands. It was a great occasion to congratulate Bart Herrnstein on becoming CEO and wishing his father Bill a great retirement as the transition in leadership took place recently. Next month's BAB will be at the Ross County Heritage Center of the historical society on Feb. 18.

**ANNUAL DINNER TICKETS NEARLY READY:** The tickets (which must be presented at the door the night of the event) for the Annual Dinner with OSU Coach Jim Tressel on Feb. 26 are expected to go into the mail late next week. If you haven't yet paid for the tickets, please do so now as no tickets will be given without payment. Only about 30 tickets remain.

**A MOVING EXPERIENCE:** The Earley Agency has officially merged its office with the Gustin Insurance Agency at 110 W. Second St., the southwest corner at Walnut Street. Off-street parking is available and office hours include Saturday until noon.

**SMART GROWTH BACK ON THE RADAR:** A group called Greater Ohio has formed to help communities cope with growth issues. In an article in the Columbus Dispatch, the director of the group, Gene Krebs, said, "We hope to make Ohio more competitive and save taxpayers' money by promoting state policies that encourage redevelopment of existing cities and towns throughout Ohio." One of the main goals of the group is to make smart growth a campaign issue in the 2006 race for governor. Ross County's bid to move smart growth along has been stalled for several years.

**CHANGES COMING FOR OT RULES:** In case you missed it, the spending bill approved by Congress Thursday also included a provision to allow the Department of Labor to change the rules regarding how overtime pay is determined. In a few months, the department is expected to require companies to pay overtime to all workers earning less than \$425 a week (up from the present \$155) and to revise the job duties to determine who is eligible for OT, or pay of 1.5 times regular pay for all work beyond 40 hours a week. Stay tuned for more news.

**CALL FOR EXHIBITORS:** The Builders Industry Association of South Central Ohio is taking reservations now for the Southern Ohio Home and Garden Show. Would-be exhibitors may contact Kit Bucy (775-9570) or J.R. Combs (775-5005) or visit the website at [www.southernohiohomegarden.com](http://www.southernohiohomegarden.com). The show will be April 3-4 at the Ross County Fairgrounds.

**NEW FITNESS CENTER OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** Actually, Body Zone has been taking care of its customers, both old and new, in its new structure off Western Avenue for weeks. The formal ribbon-cutting was held last Saturday as Chad Walters and Tina Rinehart did the honors for the 10,000-square-foot structure in which nutritional products will be sold, child-care is available, massages and chiropractic services and, oh yes, fitness and body-building training.



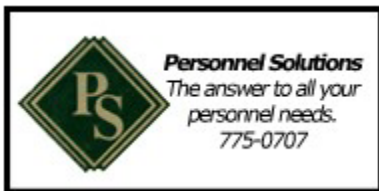
**UPGRADES AT THE HAMPTON:** Guests at the Hampton Inn & Suites will find several changes when they check in this year: wireless high-speed internet access in all guest rooms and the lobby and meeting rooms; hot items on the continental breakfast bar and more amenities in the guest rooms and bathrooms.

**INDOOR MALLS OUT OF VOGUE:** Actually, the trend has been away from large indoor malls for years. Data reported in USA Today showed construction in the general merchandise category was up more than 20% in November from the previous year versus an 11% decline in construction for indoor malls. One

researcher said, "Rather than the mall anchored by department stores, we're seeing big-box specialty stores anchoring outdoor shopping centers." The large discount stores prefer to build from the ground up to fit their specific floor plans and models rather than retrofit empty stores, the article said.

**VENDORS LICENSES:** Here's who's received a license from the Ross County Auditor recently:

- JNOD Apparel, 1080 N. Bridge St., Unit 47
- Healthy Living, 242 St. Clair Drive
- Out West Hair Design, 11509 U.S. Route 50
- Adam Bagshaw Motors, 2133 Western Ave.
- Ed's Bainbridge Feed and Supply, 4988 U.S. Route 50



**DOING BUSINESS WITH THE STATE:** A workshop is planned as part of the EDGE program approved by Gov. Bob Taft. It is designed to help small businesses acquire contracts for supplies and services with the state. The workshop will be March

4. For more information, contact Kelly Lawhorn at 740-377-4550.

**WORKERS COMP SCHOOL COMING TO OU-C:** The annual half-day sessions of Workers' Compensation University are coming to Ohio University-Chillicothe April 16. In the past, these sessions have been held in larger cities. The sessions cover cost-savings strategies, workplace safety tips and general BWC information. To register, you can go to [www.ohiobwc.com](http://www.ohiobwc.com), but not until March.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Here's who's joined the chamber recently:

- Rutherford Law Office, Sherri K. Rutherford, 95 W. Main St., 775-7434
- Dakota's Roadhouse, Ed Steele, general manager, 28 Stoneridge Drive, 772-7427

**NURSING HOME WORKSHOP SET:** The Ohio Valley Safety Council is conducting a workshop for nursing home employees Tuesday. It will run 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Ross County Service Center and will cost \$25 per person. There's still time to register at [www.chillicotheohio.com](http://www.chillicotheohio.com) and following the link from the homepage.

**STILL TIME TO NOMINATE A TEEN:** The deadline for nominations for the Teen Character Awards is just a couple weeks away. The YMCA of Ross County will fete the winners in a ceremony April 6 at the VA Medical Center. To nominate a youth, go to [www.chillicotheohio.com](http://www.chillicotheohio.com) and follow the links.

**CHAMBER CALENDAR:**

- Tuesday, January 27-Ohio Valley Safety Council workshop on safety for nursing home and long-term care employees; 8:30-11:30 a.m., Ross

County Service Center, \$25 per person. [Nursing home workshop registration](#)

- Tuesday, January 27-Ribbon cutting for Community Markets, 10 a.m., Central Center off Western Avenue
- Tuesday, January 27-Entrepreneur of Year Selection Committee, 2:30 p.m., chamber
- Wednesday, January 28-First Capital District, 8:30 a.m., chamber
- Monday, February 9-Marketing and Membership Committee, noon, chamber
- Wednesday, February 11-Pathfinders leadership session
- Thursday, February 12-Ohio Valley Safety Council luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Ross County Service Center. Joan Gates, a lawyer with Thompson-Hine, will discuss practical applications in dealing with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. [Safety luncheon registration](#)

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