

**Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce
Weekly Update December 12, 2003**



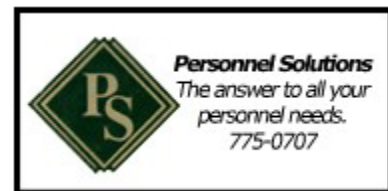
GATES FAMILY 'PAYS IT FORWARD': The impact of Thursday's announcement by Larry and Mary Gates establishing a scholarship fund for Ross County high school graduates will be enormous. The first \$30,000 in scholarships will be awarded next spring for students entering college in the fall of 2004. In the future, the anticipated \$10 million endowment will mean at least \$1 million or more every year going to students who demonstrate an economic need. And the scholarships are renewable for up to four years. "There are few things that impact our lives more than a solid foundation of education and scholastic achievement," Larry Gates said. The Gates Foundation Ross County Scholar's Fund will be administered through the Ohio University Foundation, but recipients may attend any college.

Larry and Mary returned to Chillicothe in 1998 after he retired as senior vice president for human resources and administration with the Phillip Morris Companies which had 160,000 employees. To inquire about the scholarships, call the OU-C Financial Aid office at 774-7228. To read more about the fund, click here: [Ohio University Foundation news](#)

KENWORTH PARENT SHARING WITH SHAREHOLDERS: Paccar, the parent company of the Kenworth Truck Co., announced this week it is issuing a special stock dividend, is splitting its stock 3-for-2 and is increasing its regular quarterly dividend. For a shareholder with 100 shares, that means a cash payout of \$142.50 and 50 more shares. Part of the move was to make Paccar's stock price more attractive to a wider range of investors. Paccar stock ended Thursday at \$82.19.

LOCAL BUSINESS RESEARCH COMING: Ohio University-Chillicothe is pulling together the final plans to launch a new Office of Business and Economic Research that will provide valuable data to local business and help in luring new industry and business to the area. Christi Simmons will head the office.

LOWE'S REMODELING CONTINUES: More than \$1 million in improvements are going into the Lowe's store on North Bridge Street to bring it up to the same standards as the new stores being built, said Manager Larry Slack who's been there since the store opened in 1996. New bathrooms, new displays and a new interior will be complete by Feb. 13, he said. He said it's the first major remodeling since the store opened.



CONGRESSMAN PLANS EVENTS: U.S. Rep. Bob Ney is inviting everyone to an open house at his district office on East Second Street Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. The representative and some of his staffers will be on hand. On Wednesday from 9-10:30 a.m., Ney will conduct an Economic Development Summit for Ross County at the RiverView Conference Center behind the Christopher Inn which also is open to the public. There will be a panel discussion as well as an exchange of ideas and thoughts on the state of the economy and how to move it forward.

NEWEST MEMBERS: Here's who joined the chamber this week:

- Body Zone Total Fitness, 11 Executive Center Drive off Western Avenue, by Chad Walters and Tina Rinehart; a grand opening is planned in January.

- Acloche Staffing, 1109 N. Memorial Drive, Lancaster, Anna Alwood and Cindy Morton.
- Paint Creek State Park, 14265 U.S. Route 50, Bainbridge, John Buchanan.
- Heritage Restoration, 9343 State Route 159, Kathy Brock, antique restoration and sales.

MUSEUM HAS TRAVELING EXHIBIT: This weekend, the Ross County Historical Society will host the "Fallen Timbers: Transforming the American Frontier" exhibit on West Fifth Street. There will be a Native American re-enactor, American soldier re-enactor, a wigwam and reproductions of military, pioneer and Native American gear. It runs noon-5 Saturday and noon-4 Sunday.

LIGHTHOUSE CHOOSES TOP EMPLOYEE: John Kelly has been named both the Employee of the Year and Trustee of the Year by Lighthouse Youth Services. He is currently the director of the Lighthouse Juvenile Justice Services Division. He started in 1992 as the program director of the youth center at Paint Creek which had 33 beds and a staff of 25. Today, the center near Bainbridge in the former summer baseball camp has 60 beds and a staff of 60.

BAB IS WEDNESDAY: Ross County Home Lending has a slew of door prizes lined up for Wednesday's Business After Business at the RiverView Conference Center. There will be two tickets to a Blue Jackets game, a night's stay at the Hampton Inn & Suites, gift certificates from local restaurants and poinsettia arrangements. Hazel is the DJ and New York, New York is catering. 5-7 p.m. behind the Christopher Inn. Please register: [BAB registration](#)

STATEHOOD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT: The Kiwanis Club is seeking nominations for the 2004 Statehood Day Achievement Award to be presented at the March 6 Prayer Breakfast. Nominations go to Elaine Haubeil, Julia Corporation, 33 N. Paint St., Suite 1 by Feb. 3. She also can be reached at 774-2063 or at elaine_jcorp@yahoo.com. Nominations should include the nominee's and candidate's names, addresses, phone numbers and a commentary of the candidate's contributions to society, accomplishments in their field and overall accomplishments.

ODOT PROJECTS ANNOUNCED: Only two projects were on the newest list for new construction in Ross County by the Ohio Department of Transportation. The Ohio 207 connector between Ohio 104 and U.S. 23 north of the city by the fairgrounds is on the Tier 1 list, thanks a great deal to the work by the local Ross County Engineer Don Carnes. Contracts will be awarded next fall (not earlier as previously mentioned here) and construction might be done in 2005. On the Tier 2 list and still in the works is the widening of Ohio 104 to four lanes from the city limits to the new connector. Again, the work by Carnes' office should make this a reality sooner than some other projects around the state.



CICI'S KICKS OFF BUFFET: Busy doesn't describe the activity at the new CiCi's Pizza down from Elder-Beerman's on North Bridge Street, said Michael Martin, owner and manager of the operation. A formal ribbon-cutting was held Monday this week just before the doors opened for another lunch hour rush. Martin is the one holding the scissors.

NEW STAFFING OFFICE OPENS: Ken Shelton and Abby Patches are the managing partners of the new Preferred Staffing Personnel, a subsidiary of Preferred Medical Personnel. The office is at 132 N. Mulberry

St. and they will be specializing in office, industrial and technical placements. Both previously were with the local Manpower office which has closed.

LIGHT PARADE WARMS HOLIDAYS: The Ross-Chillicothe Convention and Visitors Bureau has put together a new holiday attraction with the Electric Light Parade set for Saturday evening at the fairgrounds. The parade has an agricultural theme and each entry will have no less than 2,000 lights. Santa will be available at 6 p.m. in the multipurpose building.

INDUSTRY OFFICIALS TO GIVE UPDATES: The top managers from the local MeadWestvaco and Kenworth Truck Co. plants will bring chamber members up to date on activities and plans for their industries at the Networking Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, January 14. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. at the Chillicothe Country Club. Each company represented will get a chance to talk about their business for up to 60 seconds. To register: [Networking Luncheon registration](#)

SAFETY COUNCIL SETS WORKSHOPS: Ergonomics and nursing home safety are the topics for two workshops to be conducted by the Ohio Valley Safety Council in January. On Thursday, January 8, Jim Dewees will conduct a seminar on "Where the Body Meets the Workplace" concerning ergonomics. He is a consultant and president of ERGO Accommodations in Kentucky. The workshop will be 9-11 a.m. at the Ross County Service Center on Western Avenue. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a luncheon that will follow. To register: [Safety Council ergonomics workshop registration](#) or call Rosie at the chamber at 702-2722. On Tuesday, January 27, a workshop on safety for nursing home and long-term care employees will be held 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Ross County Service Center. Dale Henderson, an OSHA compliance assistant from the Cincinnati office, will go over the new ergonomic guidelines and the top five cited standards among other topics. The cost is \$25 per person. To register: [Nursing home workshop registration](#).

A GIFT FOR EVERYONE AND ANYONE: Don't forget about the chamber's Certifichcks program where you can get gift certificates that are good at any of about 100 participating chamber members. It's great for employees and for those hard-to-please relatives and friends. You can buy as little as \$10. For a list of the merchants and how to get the Certifichcks, check out [Certifichcks](#)



CHAMBER CALENDAR:

- Monday, December 15-"Talk Business" breakfast jointly sponsored with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, 8 a.m., Christopher Conference Center. Featuring state Sen. John Carey and Rep. John Schlichter. No charge. ["Talk Business" breakfast](#)
- Tuesday, December 16-Pathfinders Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Wednesday, December 17-Board of Directors, noon, Kenworth Truck Co.
- Wednesday, December 17-Business After Business at RiverView Conference Center on North Plaza Boulevard sponsored by Ross County Home Lending. [BAB registration](#)
- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 24-26-Office closed for Christmas holiday.
- Thursday and Friday, January 1-2-Office closed for New Year's.
- Tuesday, January 6-Annual Meeting Committee, 5 p.m., the Filling Station.
- Thursday, January 8-Ohio Valley Safety Council ergonomics workshop, 9-11 a.m., Ross County Service Center, \$25 per person, includes lunch. [Ergonomics workshop registration](#)
- Monday, January 12-Marketing and Membership Committee, noon, chamber.
- Wednesday, January 14-Networking Luncheon featuring the top plant managers from MeadWestvaco and the Kenworth Truck Co., 11:30 a.m., Chillicothe Country Club. [Networking Luncheon registration](#)
- Wednesday, January 14-Workforce Academy: "Networking: How to Work a Room," Noon-2 p.m., Ross County Service Center, \$10 per person [Workforce Academy registration](#)