



Chillicothe Ross Chamber of Commerce **Weekly Update** www.chillicotheohio.com

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THE EXCITEMENT BUILDS: We're less than two weeks away from what appears to be the biggest Annual Dinner in this chamber's 92-year history as nearly 750 are planning to attend the Feb. 26 event in OU-C's Shoemaker Center. To add to the distinctiveness of the event, Ellen Tressel, wife of OSU's head football coach, is planning to attend and the dinner will begin with the National Anthem and Carmen Ohio performed by the Bell Choir of Unioto Elementary School. And don't forget this is the evening we announce this year's recipient of the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Again as reminders, plan a little extra time to arrive as parking could be scarce and don't forget to bring along a little extra change for the 25-25-50 raffle and the cash bar. Beer will go for \$2 a can and wine will be \$3 a glass or \$10 for a bottle.



DOWNTOWN GAINS A FULL-SERVICE RESTAURANT:

Grinders with A Touch of Class will open by March 1 in the former Sunnybrook site on North Paint Street at the first alley down from Water Street. Brian Curtis is going in with Grinders' Lenora Kelly. Both are moving from their other locations on North Paint. The eatery will be open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day except Sunday and will re-open at 5 Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings for dinner. Valet parking will be available on Saturdays. Lunch will feature both the Grinders menu and the former Sunnybrook menu.

Desserts will be made in house from scratch. In addition to the restaurant, the two will continue their full-fledged catering business.

NEW PAGE FOR DEVELOPERS: The chamber's homepage on its website always has had links to other sites to aid in economic development efforts. This week, a separate page was designed for this information, making it more relevant and easier to access. In addition, photos of local industries show what already is here. Check it out here: [Economic Development links](#)

AND IT'S NOT EVEN SPRINGTIME: But there's plenty of commercial activity in the county that bodes well for a good construction season. A few examples:

- Work on Wal-Mart's 80,000-square-foot expansion should get under way in about 4-6 weeks.
- Tim Horton's still plans a site on East Main Street across from the new Bob Evans.
- A sewer line was being installed in the middle of the Vaughan property on North Bridge Street just south of E.M. Smith Jewelers, but there's still no word on specifics.
- Work is wrapping up on the El-Bee Shoes strip mall in front of Elder-Beerman.
- Sean Immell continues remodeling for his Blue Gill's seafood restaurant in the former Blue Gables just north of Shawnee Lanes.
- Advanced Services plans a new building on East Main Street.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE SET: The Ohio Rural Partners will conduct a telecommunications seminar Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ross County

Service Center. On the agenda is information about grants from several agencies, state initiatives and the technology infrastructure. You need to register by Wednesday, Feb. 18 by sending \$10 to Ohio Rural Partners, 8995 E. Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

PATHFINDERS GET ARTSY: The Pathfinders Leadership group started February's session at the Pump House Center of the Arts then toured local Underground Railroad sites, heard from Robert Robinson of the NACCP and finished the day at the First Baptist Church on West Fourth Street. Wednesday's theme was Arts, Religion, Diversity and the Media. Next month the theme is Community Service and will start at the Salvation Army.



NEWEST MEMBERS: Here's who's joined the chamber lately:

- Ceramics Plus Studio at 56 W. Water St., by Cheryl Turner, selling ceramics, crafts and supplies.
- Chillicothe-Ross Community Foundation at 15 N. Paint St. with Scott Graham as its executive director.
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Centers at 201 N. Plaza Boulevard by Chad Walters.
- R&D Powerwash Service and Home Detail at 1220 Randall Drive by David and Robert Downard.
- Advantage Data Systems at 45 W. Second St. by Roger Veach.

GAS TAX PUMPS UP FUNDS: One reason for some of those higher gasoline prices is the additional 2-cent tax added by the state last year. Another 2 cents will be added July 1 this year and another 2 cents is scheduled July 1, 2005. Much of the tax is being funneled back to cities, townships and villages. According to figures from the state, Chillicothe's revenue will go from around \$500,000 last year to \$965,000 in 2008 while the county's share will go from about \$1.4 million to \$2.5 million. While this may help fund more road, street and bridge improvements, County Auditor Steve Neal reminds us the state also froze revenues in the local government funds.

WHO'S PACKING HEAT AT YOUR PLACE?: Apparently the state's new concealed carry law for firearms has ramifications for businesses. Private employers retain the right to determine what happens on their property so you may want to think about adding or amending policies that cover your employees and visitors. The law provides civil immunity for private employers for any injury, death or other damage that occurs on their property as the result of a licensed concealed handgun.

VENDORS LICENSES: Here who received licenses recently from the county auditor:

- Balloon and Gift Express, 80 N. Bridge St.
- Holly Bell's Greenhouse, 2184 Egypt Pike.

A HISTORICAL NETWORKING EVENT: That's what Wednesday's Business After Business promises at the new Heritage Center of the Ross County Historical Society. The event runs 5-7 p.m. at the museum on West Fifth Street. You may still register by clicking here: [BAB registration](#)

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR TEEN NOMINATIONS: Monday is the deadline to nominate your favorite youth for the Teen Character Award of the YMCA of Ross County and sponsored by your chamber and the Chillicothe Gazette. Teens selected will be honored in a presentation April 6 at the VA Medical Center. Online nomination forms are available here: [Teen Character nomination form](#)



OSHA EXPERT ON THE MENU: Joan Gates, a former industrial hygienist with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, will be the featured speaker at Thursday's luncheon of the Ohio Valley Safety Council. She'll be talking about tips on ways to deal with the agency. The program starts at 11:30 a.m. in the back room of the Dock at Water. The cost is \$10 if paid at the door and \$12 if you would like invoiced. Register here: [Safety luncheon registration](#)

CANCER RELAY KICKOFF TUESDAY: The Life Relay Kick-Off for 2004 for the American Cancer Society's local chapter is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday at Pike Community Hospital. Special guests will be 2003 cancer survivors, but all cancer survivors are welcome. More information is available from Linda Weingard at 888-227-6446.

CHAMBER CALENDAR:

- Tuesday, February 17-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, February 17-Governmental Affairs Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Tuesday, February 17-Pathfinders Steering Committee, 3:30 p.m., chamber
- Wednesday, February 18- Business After Business at the Heritage Center of the Ross County Historical Society, West Fifth Street, 5-7 p.m. [BAB registration](#)
- Thursday, February 19-Ohio Valley Safety Council luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Dock at Water. Joan Gates, a lawyer with Thompson-Hine, will discuss practical applications in dealing with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. [Safety luncheon registration](#)
- Wednesday, February 25-First Capital District, 8:30 a.m., chamber
- Wednesday, February 25-Networking Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Chillicothe Country Club, featuring Jerry Phillips of Network Financial Services on the newest trend in health insurance -- Health Savings Accounts. To register: [Networking Luncheon registration](#)
- Thursday, February 26-Annual Dinner meeting, Shoemaker Center on Ohio University-Chillicothe campus; 6 p.m. social hour, dinner and program at 7 p.m., tickets sold out.

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