
MASON *in Motion*

FOOD, GIFTS, AND FUN AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 3

The Mason Area Chamber's biggest member mixer event, our annual Holiday Party, is on Thursday, December 3rd and is again at the **Ingham County Fairgrounds** Community Building from 5 to 8 PM. As in past years, it is a great time to greet all your friends and neighbors in the community and wish them the happiest of holidays. Admission is just \$7 per person for members and \$10 per person for non-members.

Chamber Ambassadors and other volunteers have worked hard again this year to bring you a Holiday Party brimming with good food, live music, door prizes, auction items, and a whole lot of fun. The event is presented by **Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center**. Other sponsors are **GCC Technologies** and Mason area restaurants and caterers. The mixer committee members Neil Kentner, Jeff Haueter, Robin King-Fuller, Martha Joy, Kathy Smith, Tom Botsford, Karla Spoor, and our other volunteers have planned a great evening.



You'll again enjoy the delightful live holiday music of harpist Kelly Yoakam. You'll enjoy door prize drawings throughout the evening. You'll enjoy the 50/50 raffle. But you'll especially enjoy the wonderful food of the "Taste of Mason," provided by the following area restaurants and caterers: **Mason A&W Restaurant, Eldorado Golf Course, Darb's Tavern & Eatery, Merindorf Meats, Baja Grille, City Limits Sports Grill, Mason Big Boy, Gordon Food Service, Nairda's Catering, Tom's Courtside Pizza, The Vault Deli, Darrell's Market, and Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co.** We thank them for their sponsorship.

Don't forget to bring your holiday gift buying money with you! Inside this newsletter you'll find a catalogue of the auction items we have received to date. Most items are available through a silent auction, but some will be auctioned live at the party. For your convenience, items can be paid for with cash, check, VISA or MasterCard.

Area businesses and individuals have provided loads of auction items – some at a "50/50 consignment" where half the proceeds go back to those providing the item. That helps the committee offer some of the best and most desirable items to you that evening. Please note those who provided auction and door prize items. Our thanks go to them for their support and we hope you'll patronize their businesses throughout the coming year. Come to the party and snap up some really great gifts. Get a little something for yourself, too.

If you can't make the Holiday Party, call the Chamber office to bid on the silent auction items. You don't need to be present if you're the highest bidder. All winners who are not at the party when the silent auction closes at 7 PM will be notified on Monday, December 7.

A publication of the



Mason Area
Chamber of Commerce

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Mason, Michigan 48854

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www.masonchamber.org

December 2009

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

- Don't Miss the December Mixer Holiday Party on December 3
- MACC Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts During This Season
- News From Our Chamber Members
- New Directors Elected to Board
- It's A Wonderful Chamber! *revisited*
- Inserts: December Mixer Annual MACC Holiday Party Auction Catalog, Mason Values Poster

NEW DIRECTORS ELECTED

The 13-member Board of Directors of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce will have four brand-new members this coming year. The Chamber elected four individuals to three-year terms that begin on January 1, 2010 and end on December 31, 2012.

At their November meeting, the Chamber board certified the election of Pam Bullen of **Bullen's Wellness**, Sue Burgess of **B-Dry System**, Jim Harvey of **Mason Public Schools**, and Jamie Robinson of **Darrell's Market & Bestsellers**.

The following Board members will be retiring from the Board at the end of this year: Robin King-Fuller of **Independent Bank**, Tom Botsford of **EAA Chapter 55**, Lance Delbridge of **Mason Public Schools**, and Kim Gorrell of **B-Dry System**.

The Board encourages any and all individuals who are employees, principals, or associates of Chamber members to consider serving on one or more of the Chamber's many committees. Doing so is probably the best preparation for any new Board member.

THANKS FOR 2009 MASON HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION

The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Mason Holidays Celebration Committee would like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers, partners, participants, and all those involved in making our Mason Holidays Celebration on Friday, November 27, 2009 a success.

Thanks go to presenting sponsor **Dart Container Corporation**; parade marshals and decorations sponsor **American Legion Browne/Cavender Post 148** members; and our event sponsors **Ware's Pharmacy, Mason Area Historical Society, LAFCU, Cobblestone Events Center** in the **Mason Antiques District**, and the **Mason A&W Restaurant**. Also we thank our partners: **Eden United Brethren Church, Fat Cat Productions, Mason Optimist Club, Supreme Rental, Mason Girl Scouts, Granger Container Service, Kean's Store Company, Ingham County Facilities, Lear Corporation**, and the **City of Mason's** police, fire, public works and administration departments.

We appreciate the afternoon entertainment contributions of area magicians, Mason Girl Scouts, **Save the Moments Photography, Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co.**, Karen's Dance Place, the Irish dancers, and local storytellers. Thanks also for the great assistance of the **Mason High School Santa Band** directed by Beth Bousfield, **City of Mason Mayor Leon Clark**, and Citizen of the Year **Lee Talboys** during the Christmas tree lighting.

We also appreciate each of the 25 participants in the ninth annual lighted parade not listed above. Some others are listed here: **CATA, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Ingham County Animal Control, Habitat for Humanity, B-Dry System, Two Men and a Truck, Mason Public Schools, Ingham County Fair, CP Federal Credit Union, Mason Dental Group, Mason Public Schools Foundation, Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club, Salon 130, Mason Lions Club** and the **Lions Air Force, ServiceMaster Absolute, TomCo Asphalt**, and many other local floats and lighted units.



The 2009 committee was chaired by Aleasha Wood and members were Lynn Mark, Bob Raab, Jeff Haueter, Tim McElhone, Paul Cucci, Jamie Robinson, Mike Hughes, and Vickie Vandenberg. The committee is looking for help in planning the 2010 Mason Holidays Celebration that will be held on Friday, November 26, 2010. Call the Chamber office at (517) 676-1046 -- or you can e-mail the Chamber at masonchamber@masonchamber.org to volunteer.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

The **Ingham County Fair Board** will host their annual Holiday Winter Carnival & Craft Show on Saturday, December 5 from 11 AM to 10 PM, and on Sunday, December 6 from 12 noon to 6 PM. This carnival will again benefit **Child & Family Services** and their **Angel House**, and will include carnival rides, fair food, games, face painting, a craft show, and musical performances in the heated **Ingham County Fair Main Arena Building**. Admission is free, but each ride or attraction requires activity tickets. Call (517) 676-2428 or go to www.inghamfair.org for more information.

Read this fast or you'll miss out! The annual **Mason Library** Holiday Open House is Tuesday, December 1st, from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, holiday crafts for children, **Friends** book sale, and holiday music by members of the **Mason Orchestral Society**. At 6 p.m. juggler Joel Tacey will have an energetic performance of "Winter Magic" in the library auditorium.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ingham County is looking for dedicated people to fill the following positions: Bookkeeper and Board Member. The bookkeeper (part-time employee) is a 16 hours-a-week position that might be perfect for a recent retiree or an accounting student. The position is in Williamston. They are also looking for new board members (volunteers). The Board of Directors is the heart of **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ingham County**. These volunteer leaders serve as community ambassadors of the **Habitat** mission, and are careful custodians of donor funds, volunteer hours, and family hopes and dreams. Experience with finance, social work, construction, real estate, retail operations, or church leadership all a plus. Residence in the rural areas of Ingham County is a plus. Dedication to the **Habitat** mission a must! Please pass this information to all who might be interested in serving their community through furthering their involvement with **Habitat for Humanity**. Contact Todd Pierce-Ryan, Executive Director of **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ingham County**, 1500 W. Grand River, Suite B, Williamston, MI 48895, (517) 655-1872 - office, (517) 655-5727 - fax.

END OF YEAR TAX TIPS OFFERED BY MI-SBTDC

The MI-SBTDC is presenting an upcoming seminar on "Tax Time: How to Avoid Business Tax Panic" on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Are you following IRS rules and regulations while utilizing all available deductions and credits? This program will provide information on tax planning and preparation. Learn about the most recent changes in the law and relevant issues on business taxes. "Knowledge is power" and we will give you the tools to prepare you now and in the future to make informed business and tax decisions. Topics to be discussed include: travel & auto expenses, sales & use tax, new Michigan Business Tax, web-based business taxes, independent contractor issues, and many more tax topics relevant to small business owners. Your presenter, Angelia McGarry of Carolan & McGarry CPA firm has over 15 years experience in business tax planning and preparation. Location: MI-SBTDC Office, 309 N. Washington Sq., Ste. 115, Lansing, MI 48933. Please call the MI-SBTDC at (517) 483-1921. There is no cost for seminar, it is FREE! Please register as early as possible, as seating is limited.

MACC GIFT CERTIFICATES MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

- Does your spouse, parent, or adult child expect a special gift and you can never seem to pick the right thing?
- Have a friend that you need to buy something for and you just don't know what to get?
- Want to purchase a gift certificate for someone, but you can't decide on just one place to buy it from?
- Are you an employer trying to decide what to buy your employees?



If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce has the perfect solution for your gift giving needs! Mason Area Chamber of Commerce gift certificates offer the gift recipient the option to choose what they want, instead of settling for a gift they don't really like or receiving a gift certificate only redeemable at a single place. From restaurants to entertainment; from office supplies to specialty shops; from automobile repair to retail items – a MACC gift certificate offers you a truly unique gift that is right for everybody.

Mason Area Chamber of Commerce gift certificates are a great way to promote “Mason Values” and the importance of buying locally. Give the gift of choice – MACC gift certificates may be accepted at any Mason area business. Give the gift of variety – choose any denomination, it is a gift that fits any budget! Give the gift of convenience – certificates can be purchased at the Chamber office, they never expire or lose value, and may be redeemed by any Mason area business at the Chamber at full value. For more details, please contact the staff at your Chamber office at (517) 676-1046 by phone or masonchamber@masonchamber.org by e-mail.

WELCOME OUR NEW MACC MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new Chamber members:



Converged Network Solutions

2465 Woodlake Circle, Suite 140 - Okemos, MI 48864
 Phone: (517) 853-7755 - Fax: (517) 853-5798
bmcgowan@cnscom.net - www.cnscom.net
 Robert J. McGowan, President
 Taylor Burton, Sales Associate

Converged Network Solutions matches business needs to the correct technology. The result is successful solutions designed for maximum user productivity with each product engagement.

Fat Cat Productions

3212 Ingham Street - Lansing, MI 48911
 Phone: (517) 819-9736 - fatcatdjs@aol.com
 Paul and Rhonda Ciucci

Professional DJs with 15 years of experience. 5,000 songs, all genres, dance lights. Great for weddings, corporate events, private parties, holiday parties, sales events, baby showers, and tailgating.



IT'S A WONDERFUL CHAMBER! *revisited*

Remember the movie “It’s a Wonderful Life?” This time of year, it is always popular. While Mason isn’t Bedford Falls (although comparisons have been made), did you ever wonder what it would be like with no Mason Area Chamber of Commerce?

- If there were no Chamber of Commerce, made up of 280 members willing to invest in the future of our community, who would host a visitors center open 30 hours a week and a website covering almost everything including tourism and relocation information, a local business directory, shopping, demographics, and community event information?
- If there were no Chamber of Commerce, who would answer the thousands of questions about our community coming in from residents, tourists, prospective residents, and new businesses? Who would represent our community to the region?
- If there were no Chamber of Commerce, who would pursue opportunities to make our area a better place to both live and make a living, by promoting Mason Values and buying locally?
- If there were no Chamber of Commerce, who would put on major community events giving businesses an opportunity to sponsor and support the things that make Mason, Michigan Hometown U.S.A.?

Rest easy though, because the Chamber has been here since 1972 and is doing those very things. By the way, maybe that’s part of why we really do have a pretty wonderful life around here!

POSTAL PRICING CHANGES FOR 2010

The US Postal Service announced that there will be no price increase in 2010 for market dominant products including First-Class Mail®, Standard Mail®, periodicals and single-piece Parcel Post®. Postal officials also confirmed that there will be no exigent price increase for these products.

According to postal officials, “this is the right decision at the right time for the right reason. Promoting the value of mail and encouraging its continued use is essential for jobs, the economy, and the future of both the Postal Service and the mailing industry.”

On USPS competitive products, including Express Mail®, Priority Mail®, Parcel Return Service, new prices have been announced with increases ranging from 3.0 % to 4.7%. These rates take effect January 4, 2010. Not all prices have increased. The retail price for Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelopes, for example, will be reduced from \$4.95 to \$4.90. Complete prices are available at the www.pe.usps.com website.

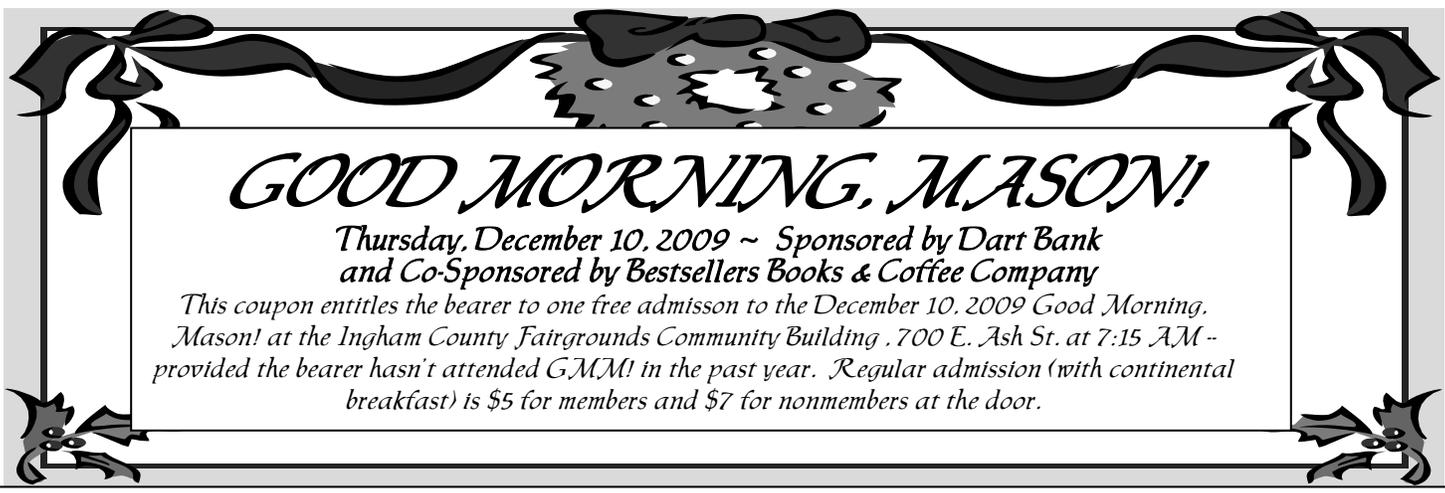
A funny,
heartwarming
musical about
the spirit of
the holidays...



Uh-Oh! Here Comes Christmas!

Mason Coventry Players
performing at the Mason Historical Museum
December 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 PM and
December 6 at 3 PM
Admission \$10, Students/Seniors \$8,
Groups of 10 or more \$8 each.
Contact Phyllis Baisch at: (517) 676-1765





GOOD MORNING, MASON!

Thursday, December 10, 2009 ~ Sponsored by Dart Bank
and Co-Sponsored by Bestsellers Books & Coffee Company

This coupon entitles the bearer to one free admission to the December 10, 2009 Good Morning, Mason! at the Ingham County Fairgrounds Community Building, 700 E. Ash St. at 7:15 AM -- provided the bearer hasn't attended GMM! in the past year. Regular admission (with continental breakfast) is \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers at the door.

2009 Board of Directors

Neil Kentner.....President
Wyns Moor Manor

Michelle Carpenter.....Vice-President
Dart Bank

Robin King-Fuller.....Treasurer
Independent Bank

Jeff Haueter.....Past President
Mason A&W Restaurant

Tom Botsford.....*EAA Chapter 55*

Joe Dean *Coventry Players*

Lance Delbridge *Mason Public Schools*

Aaron Fiedler.....*Fiedler Insurance Agency*

Kim Gorrell *B-Dry System of S. Central Michigan*

Chris Iott.....*Ace Hardware*

Robin Manno *Dart Container Corporation*

Ron Tatro.....*Mason Orchestral Society*

Bob Warnke..... *Mason State Bank*

Doug Klein Executive Director
Bonnie Root Administrative Assistant
Aleasha Wood Program Assistant



Mason Area
Chamber of Commerce

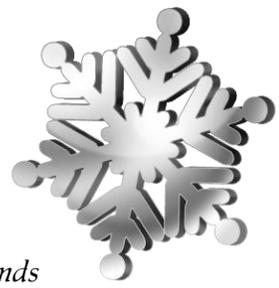
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Mason Area Chamber of Commerce



December Member Mixer **Annual Holiday Party**
December 3, 2009 ~ 5:00 - 8:00 PM ~ Community Building ~ Ingham County Fairgrounds



presented by



A Taste of Mason

A & W Restaurant
Baja Grille
Bestsellers Books & Coffee Company
City Limits Sports Grill
Courthouse Pub
Darb's Tavern & Eatery
Darrell's Market
Eldorado Golf Course
Gordon's Food Service
Mason Big Boy
Merindorf Meats
Nairda's Catering
Tom's Courtside Pizza
The Vault Delt

thanks to all for your sponsorships!

Live Auctions

begin at 7:00 PM
with Auctioneer Jim Hyde

Silent Auctions

from 5 to 7 PM

Music by

Harpist Kelly Yoakam

Sound by

GCC Technologies

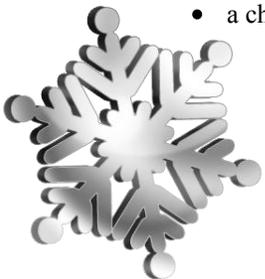
50/50 Drawing

A Visit from Santa

Live Auction Items

- golf a lot more next year with a one-year membership valued at \$1200 from **Eldorado Golf Course**
- a one-night stay in a Jacuzzi room valued at \$129 from **Holiday Inn Express** in Okemos
- she'll just love this diamond and sterling silver "Infinity" styled necklace valued at \$140 from a Friend of MACC
- go fish - with this charter salmon fishing package out of Frankfort valued at \$500 (fish at a time mutually convenient for you and your host Tom Hunt) obtained by **Dart Container Corporation**
- she'll always treasure these stunning sterling silver and ¼ carat diamond earrings valued at \$170 from a Friend of MACC
- a very attractive jewelry item valued at over \$200 from **William Fink Jewelers**
- you'll be cooking up a storm with this stainless steel 12-piece cookware set valued at \$270 from **Ace Hardware**
- a one-night stay in a room with a whirlpool valued at \$139 from **Hampton Inn & Suites** in Okemos
- four choice tickets to a Lugnuts "LAFUCU Fireworks" baseball game valued at \$60 from **LAFUCU**
- it will look perfect on your wall -- a beautiful Mark Wolgamott still life photograph entitled "Olds Logo," professionally matted and framed, valued at \$95 from **Independent Bank**
- a child's teddy bear rocking chair valued at \$100 from a Friend of MACC

(more live auction items, all silent auction items, and door prizes are listed on the other side)



Cive Auction Items *continued*

- a framed MSU poster in 18 x 24 size great for your green & white room valued at \$50 from a Friend of MACC
- a great photo in a great frame from a great guy -- valued at \$50 by and from Jeff Haueter
- another perfect picture with matching frame -- entitled "Ingham Courthouse" valued at \$100 by and from Jeff Haueter
- give her something that's all the rage, a 10K gold & diamond necklace valued at \$140 from a Friend of MACC

Silent Auction Items

- a gift certificate valued at \$25 from **Baja Grille**
- a Christmas décor gift basket valued at \$50 from **Inspired Events**
- a carpet care basket valued at \$140 from **ServiceMaster Absolute**
- a certificate for VIP Executive car detailing valued at \$175 from **Mason Auto Body Repair**
- a nice basket of assorted A&W mugs, certificates and gift items valued at \$100 from the **Mason A&W Restaurant**
- a Target gift card valued at \$15 from **Nena O. Bondarenko Real Estate**
- a Meguier's polish car care kit valued at \$25 from **Carquest - The Parts Place**
- a gift certificate valued at \$50 from **Action Printing & Graphics**
- a ten-piece screwdriver set valued at \$25 from **Carquest - The Parts Place**
- a model 1986 Ford Mustang SVO valued at \$25 from **Carquest - The Parts Place**
- a certificate for standard car detailing valued at \$125 from **Holt Auto Sales**
- a 10" poinsettia with about 20 blossoms valued at \$50 from **Dart Container Corporation**
- a \$50 United States savings bond certificate from **Independent Bank** (2 available)
- an I-pod speaker dock valued at \$50 from **Fiedler Insurance Agency**
- a Polaroid PoGo printer with photo paper valued at \$70 from **Fiedler Insurance Agency**
- a set of 2 Red-Nose Ruckus tickets valued at \$30 from **Child & Family Services** (3 available)
- a set of 4 admission tickets valued at \$48 from **Spartan Speedway** (10 available)
- a lube, oil & filter certificate valued at \$25 from **Andrews Chevrolet** (2 available)
- a wheel alignment at Roger's Cline Tire valued at \$69 from **Tom Husby** (3 available)
- a certificate for cleaning two comforters valued at \$50 from **Laundry Care Express**
- a Crossroads fragrant reed diffuser valued at \$20 from **Ware's Pharmacy**
- a Mary Kay gift basket valued at \$150 from Linda Haueter
- an Applebee's gift card valued at \$20 from **Nena O. Bondarenko Real Estate**
- a \$50 gift coupon for graphics services from **JP Signs & Graphics**
- a VISA gift card valued at \$50 from **LAFUCU**
- a holiday votive garden valued at \$20 from **Ware's Pharmacy**
- a VISA gift card valued at \$50 from **Star Associates and CP Federal Credit Union**
- a certificate for a 30-minute massage session valued at \$45 from **Caring Touch Therapeutic Massage** (2 available)
- a Panera Bread gift card valued at \$15 from **Nena O. Bondarenko Real Estate**
- a carpet care basket valued at \$100 from **ServiceMaster Absolute**
- a MSU themed gift basket valued at \$150 from a Friend of MACC
- a MSU memorabilia gift basket valued at \$175 from a Friend of MACC (2 available)
- a hair care gift basket valued at \$75 from **Salon 130**
- lube, oil & filter certificate valued at \$25 from **Andrews Chevrolet** (2 available)
- a women's Mary Kay gift basket valued at \$150 from a friend of the Chamber -- Linda Haueter
- a certificate for free enrollment valued at \$49 from Mason's **Snap Fitness**
- a gift bag with a \$35 gift card valued at \$55 from **Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists** (2 available)
- a hair care gift basket valued at \$75 from **Ara Bella Salon**
- an exercise therapy body ball valued at \$26 from **Sowers Chiropractic Center**
- a Pollack Glass mirror valued at \$80 from **Peggy Husby**
- an oil change valued at over \$20 from **Davis Automotive** (2 available)
- two rooms of carpet cleaning valued at \$75 from **Paul Davis Restoration & Remodeling**
- a set of holiday décor items valued at \$55 from **Kerr Hardware**

Door Prizes

- three large white Bulldog T-shirts from MACC
- three X-large white Bulldog T-shirts from MACC
- two large red polo shirts with MACC logo from MACC
- seven MacKellar Screenworks prints - blue starburst from MACC
- five MacKellar Screenworks prints - holiday lights from MACC
- a forty-piece tool set from **Independent Bank**
- a still-life print in easel frame from MACC
- Bake N' Cakes certificate for cupcakes from **Star Associates**
- a manicure/sewing kit from **Allegiance Health**
- pair of matching coffee mugs from **Independent Bank**
- pair of matching coffee mugs from **Dart Bank**
- a magic 8 ball from **Sparrow Health Care**
- pair of glass root beer mugs from **A & W Restaurant**
- two gift totes with sweatshirts from **Vision Real Estate**
- pair of matching coffee mugs from **Wolverine Engineers & Surveyors**
- a portfolio with calculator from **Star Associates**
- a candy dish, two heart boxes, and a Courthouse trivet from MACC
- an office desk set & supplies set from **Star Associates**
- a personal care kit from **Ara Bella Salon**
- two CD cases from **Dart Bank**
- two Mason Barber Shop haircut certificates from **Tom Husby**
- a six-piece screwdriver set from **Carquest - The Parts Place**

**Thank you
for buying locally.**

**Here are a few
of the things
you just did:**

MASON HOMETOWN U.S.A. **VALUES**



Mason Area
Chamber of Commerce
Mason, Michigan

- 1. YOU KEPT DOLLARS IN OUR LOCAL ECONOMY**
For every \$100 you spend at one of our locally-owned businesses, \$68 will stay in the community. A Michigan-based business keeps \$54 working for us. A nationally-owned business keeps \$43 in our community. It pays us all to buy locally!
- 2. YOU EMBRACED WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE**
You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the country. So why would you want your community's stores to be the same as everywhere else? How boring!
- 3. YOU CREATED LOCAL JOBS**
Local businesses are by and large better at creating higher-paying jobs for our neighbors.
- 4. YOU HELPED THE ENVIRONMENT**
Buying from a local business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation, less packaging, and you get products that you know are safe and well made, because someone local stands behind them.
- 5. YOU NURTURED COMMUNITY**
We know you, and you know us. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of other businesses. Many are members of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce and support our community events and programs.
- 6. YOU CONSERVED YOUR TAX DOLLARS**
Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify our community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong—right here in your community!
- 7. YOU CREATED MORE CHOICE**
Businesses provide you with products and services based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for our own local market.
- 8. YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF OUR EXPERTISE**
Local people are our friends and neighbors, and have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of that?
- 9. YOU INVESTED IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a stronger local community.
- 10. YOU MADE US A DESTINATION**
The more interesting and unique we are as a community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!