

August 15, 2008

MASON IN MOTION UPDATE

Mid-Month Supplement to the Monthly "Mason in Motion" Newsletter

Mason Area Chamber of Commerce

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Welcome New Members – Extend welcome to a couple of new Chamber members who joined since the August "Mason in Motion" printed newsletter was published. **Greenpark Townhomes** near Columbia and US-127 and **Maple Street Mall** at 108 W. Maple Street are our newest members. The **Maple Street Mall** is managed by Debbie Hedemark and offers a unique collection of antiques, collectibles, jewelry, and hand-crafted items in a friendly, family atmosphere. More details will be in September's MIM newsletter. Remind non-members that there is no financial advantage to waiting until the first of the year to join the Chamber. Everyone gets credit for a full 12 months of membership when they join!

Ara Bella Salon will be having a school supplies drive throughout this month. During August, donate a "back to school" item to benefit **Mason Elementary Schools** and receive \$5 off a child's haircut. Call Bethany or Morgan at 676-6100. **Sowers Chiropractic Center** will also be having a school supply drive for **Mason Schools** the week of August 18-21, 2008. This will be their 3rd annual school supply drive and they are asking our community to donate 10 school supplies in exchange for new patient's first day services at no cost (a \$210.00 value). Established patients can also bring in 10 school supply items in exchange for a complimentary adjustment on Friday August 22, 2008. Call **Sowers Chiropractic Center** at (517) 676-0788 for more information.

M.O.S. Pre-Season Gathering -- The **Mason Orchestral Society** announces their annual Pre-Season Gathering. If you are interested in becoming a member or in joining one of the orchestras, please feel free to attend. The gathering is on Tuesday, August 26th, 7 PM at the Lake Lansing Park South Pavilion, which is located near the band shell. Please come meet the board members and hear what our conductors have planned for the 2008-2009 Concert Season. See more at www.masonorchestras.org.

Chamber Volunteers Needed – We're continuing our request for Chamber volunteers. Any employee, associate, community member, student, etc. who has a few hours a month to work on our Chamber events and programs is most welcome. Call the Chamber office at 676-1046 and talk with Doug to offer your services -- and encourage other people to do so as well. Retirees and others with flexible schedules are ideal.

Cable Channel Slides On Website -- If you don't get Mason's **Broadstripe** Cable Channel 21, don't despair! You can view the **City of Mason** Channel's community event and announcement slides right on our website www.masonchamber.org. They change each week!

Entrepreneur Institute Putts Out -- Fall is just around the corner, according to the Entrepreneur Institute, and it will be time to put up those "putters" for the season. But before you do that, the Entrepreneur Institute will be having its 1st Annual Putt-Putt Golf Challenge on Thursday, September 18th at the Little Hawk Putting Course at Hawk Hollow. Tee Sign Sponsors are available for \$100 if you are not able to play. No golfing skills are required for this putt-putt challenge. Just friends and fun are required. Teams are limited for this event, so get yours together as soon as you can. For more information, contact Denise Peek, Executive Director, Entrepreneur Institute of Mid-Michigan, 517-853-5890, lancomme@tir.com, www.eim-m.org.

"No Worker Left Behind" Scholarships -- Know anyone who wants to make a career change? Scholarships are available for those interested in becoming CNC operators. CNC jobs are available at a dozen local employers with strong career paths and starting wages of \$10-12/hr. with advancement opportunities. Scholarships are for a one-month, 96-hour CNC fundamentals course at Lansing Community College. A solid work history with an interest in manufacturing required. For more information and to see if you qualify to register for an orientation, call or visit Capital Area Michigan Works in Lansing, 517-492-5500.

Child & Family Services Has New Website -- Funded by AT&T (SBC) and designed by Queue Creative, the new site: lists upcoming events and allows registration for them, presents the opportunity to make an online gift, offers easy links to their Positive Outcomes newsletter, and detailed descriptions of each agency program, including **Angel House** in Mason. Check out the website at <http://www.childandfamily.org>.

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Top-notch Employee Named “Brand Champion” -- For the second quarter in a row, the Lansing **TWO MEN AND A TRUCK®** franchise named Driver Dan Ward, a Mason resident, the location’s Brand Champion. The Brand Champion Award recognizes excellent work ethic, care for customers and dedication to the company’s core values. The selection process began with employees nominating their best peer worker. Employees were then reviewed by managers based on number of damages, timeliness, attitude, willingness to work and data received from customer reply cards. Ward led in all categories. “Winning the Brand Champion Award is a true indication of operational excellence and professionalism,” said Jon Sorber, acting franchisee for the Lansing location and executive vice president of **TWO MEN AND A TRUCK®/International**, Inc. “We are proud to recognize such a high-caliber employee. Excellent, well trained employees like Dan allow us to best serve our customers.” Dan has worked for the company for eight months. In his time away from work, he enjoys spending time with wife Nichole and children Mackenzie, 4, and David, 2. He also runs a woodworking company, “Country from the Heart,” out of his home in Mason.

10 Over the Next Ten -- Nominations are now being accepted for the 2nd Annual *10 Over the Next Ten* Awards. Presented by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Lansing Business Monthly and Grand River Connection, these awards recognize the young professionals in our community who are viewed as the leaders of tomorrow. They are 10 people to watch over the next 10 years! The following criteria are required for nomination- Nominees must be: age 35 or younger as of 9/24/2008, professionally centered in the Lansing Region (Ingham, Clinton, Eaton), minimum of 2 years working in the Lansing Region (Ingham, Clinton, Eaton). Submit nominations by August 31. The event is on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. There is a 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM reception that is right before the 6:30 PM dinner and program. Details are available on the GLBM website. To submit nominations, download the http://www.lansingchamber.org/lansing_chamber/nomination_form_2008_1_.pdf form.

Ten Traits of Successful Professionals -- Pass these ten items along to all the young professionals you know. Young people entering the workforce may wonder why some people seem to quickly rise to the top, constantly receiving accolades, while others seem to be overlooked and under- appreciated? They may need to find out about the traits that truly impress. And most importantly, new professionals must ask, “are they traits they possess or can cultivate?” Here are some insights from David Kahle in a recent Avery newsletter:

1. Seriousness -- According to Kahle, “one of the foundational characteristics of true professionals is: we must be serious about our occupations. In other words, we must understand that our occupations are challenging, and we must be dedicated to succeeding.” We all know people who make light of this requirement. “The job is only a job,” they say. “A means to an end.” If you feel that way, according to Kahle, that’s fine. But that’s not a sign of a true professional.
 2. Wanting to Do Better -- “Better than what?” asks Kahle. “Better than we did before. Professionals exhibit a never-ending quest to improve their performance in every variable, every project, every relationship and every detail.” Kahle calls this the characteristic of “personal discontent.” That’s not to say we can’t enjoy our success. “But after we’ve congratulated ourselves for our excellent performance, we need to recommit to doing it even better next time,” says Kahle. Professionals always strive to improve.
 3. Dealing with the Unexpected -- If everything at work always went smoothly and as hoped for, that would be great. But it would also be a miracle. Stuff happens, things change, and the true professional rises to the occasion. They make a new plan, change their direction if necessary and never look back—because that’s the only road to success.
 4. Communication Skills -- No matter what the industry or job description, communication skills are critical to today’s workplace. Real professionals are clear, concise and confident in their communication skills.
 5. Enthusiasm -- Our mothers told it to us when we were very young, and it’s still true today. Attitude is everything. Those who exhibit enthusiasm for what they do and greet each day with a positive attitude inevitably become our leaders.
 6. Helpfulness -- Our mothers were right again. Professionals understand that real success in the workplace requires teamwork. So they’re always ready to lend a hand, make a suggestion and offer a compliment when it’s deserved.
 7. Taking the Initiative -- One of the great strengths of a real professional is taking the initiative to get things done. Words like, “that’s not my job” are not in their vocabulary. They recognize what needs to be done and they take on the task, great or small.
 8. Cool Under Pressure -- If there weren’t pressure in the workplace occasionally, they wouldn’t call it work. But true professionals never point fingers. They remain level headed and calm, with a cheerful demeanor—even under stressful times.
 9. Remaining Focused -- True professionals remain focused on the task at hand and the goal ahead. They navigate through obstacles or setbacks but never lose sight of where they’re going.
 10. Don’t Follow, Lead -- It isn’t always easy to stick your neck out, but true professionals aren’t faint of heart. They analyze the situation and are willing to take new paths and try new solutions. That’s why they call it leadership!
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MACC Now Distributes Update by E-Mail In “Constant Contact” HTML Program– This “Mason in Motion Update” bulletin is being sent to those who have e-mail addresses registered with the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce as Chamber members, associates of Chamber members, and select Chamber stakeholders. To be removed from this list, do NOT reply to this e-mail. Instead, please send a new e-mail with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line to masonchamber@masonchamber.org. If you know of anyone who should get one, also let us know.

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