

May 14, 2007

MASON IN MOTION UPDATE

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

Mason Area Chamber of Commerce

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2007-2009 Downtown Streetlight Banners -- Our new "Mason, Michigan Hometown U.S.A." banners produced by Mike Smith at **Sign Smith** are in the Chamber office. We're doing prep work to get them ready to be put up by the City crews. If you have even a little time on Monday 5/14 anytime from 9 to 3 to help us, please stop in! We're anxious to have the banners up faster than they went up in 2004.

Welcome New Members – Extend welcome to the following new Chamber members since the May "Mason in Motion" printed newsletter was published. **Tom's Courtside Pizza & Deli** (soon to open at 551-1/2 W. Columbia in with Paul's Marathon) brought their tasty wares to Spring Fling last week. Great way to start-up in Mason! Also at Spring Fling was **Don Keith**, who has rejoined the Chamber. Details on these folks and other new members will be in June's newsletter. By the way, unlike other Chambers in mid-Michigan, we've had a net increase in membership from last year at this time. We're officially at 254 members as of today!

Second Mason Promise Scholarship Ceremony is May 16th – The awarding of Mason Promise Scholarships to a second group of sixth-graders-to-be will take place Wednesday, May 16th at 7 PM at the cafeteria/multipurpose room at **Mason Middle School**. Speakers include Tiffeny Forrest of the YMCA, Toni Hughes Glasscoe of LCC, and **Mason Public Schools** Superintendent James Harvey. Please RSVP to Liz Luttrell-Wilson of **Mason State Bank** at 517-676-0500 ext 228 to attend. Liz reminds you that you can make a donation by sending it to: Mason Promise Scholarship, c/o Capital Region Community Foundation, 6035 Executive Dr Suite 104, Lansing MI 48911.

MACC Scholarship to be Awarded – That same evening, Mark Howe of **Dart Bank**, president of our Chamber, will be presenting our annual scholarship at the **Mason High School** awards ceremony – also on Wednesday, May 16th. Each year, the Chamber gives out a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who volunteers their service to our community. The name of the scholarship recipient chosen will be in the June *Mason in Motion* printed newsletter. Donations toward the annual scholarship are always welcome.

By the way, we also need a few more good people like that student right here at the Chamber office – With a few of our usual and important Chamber tasks getting pushed too far down the to-do list lately, it is time to again put out a request for Chamber volunteers. Any employee, associate, community member, student, etc. who has a few hours a month to work on our community events and Chamber 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.

Chamber Anniversary Ribbon Cutting, Chamber Office Open House, and Mason Values Campaign Kickoff – Join us on Thursday, May 17th at 5 PM sharp as we do a special ribbon cutting to continue our celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber office, 148 E. Ash Street. A special Chamber open house reception will begin at 4 PM and continue until 7 PM. Beverages and light refreshments will be served. Also at that same event, the Chamber will kick off our **Mason Values** campaign, with stickers and buttons for all attendees.

Entrepreneurs Club on Tuesday May 22nd at City Hall – Running a business of your own in the Mason area? Know someone who is thinking about starting a business? Being on your own doesn't mean you have to be alone. Meet up with other area entrepreneurs who are willing to help each other in a group discussion sharing session on questions that are of interest to you. Stop by for a couple of hours between 6:30 and 8:30 PM on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at **Mason's City Hall** Community Room (enter in the back door), and just down the stairs, at 201 W. Ash Street. This session is free. Snacks and beverages are provided. While participants will probably find out about products, programs and services available to help manage a business better in response to questions, no one may actively solicit. There is no speaker. There is no program other than informal networking and the guided group discussion. The group will be a sounding board for problems, ideas and opportunities. For more information, contact Brian Tort of **Central Solutions, Inc.** at info@centralsolutions.biz or (517) 676-4787.

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Market Break on Thursday, May 24 –The next free workshop to help members sharpen their marketing efforts will be on Thursday morning, May 24th. The topic will be “**Publicity**.” This workshop is ideal for those interested in retaining existing customers or clients, aiding word-of-mouth, and attracting new people to their businesses or organizations. The workshop will be held from 7:30 to 9 AM in the Chamber office. There is an absolute limit is just 12 people, so reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. There are eight spots left! The only cost might be an optional free-will donation for coffee, juice and bagels. Call the Chamber at 676-1046 today to get your spot reserved. Past topics were niche marketing and sales promotion. Future topics will include merchandising, advertising, and more.

Thursday Night Live Starts May 31st – Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to downtown Mason on Thursday evening, May 31st, and enjoy the sounds of the Mason Middle School Jazz Band. The MMS Jazz Band, under the direction of Dan Tembras, will play for your enjoyment on the Courthouse lawn from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Mason Middle School Jazz Band kicks off the third year of Thursday Night Live!, a summer series of musical entertainment that will be held on eight select Thursdays from May through September, weather permitting. This series is generously sponsored by **Independent Bank** and the May 31st concert sponsor is **Ware’s Pharmacy**. The **Mason Optimist Club** will be selling hot dogs, chips, and pop on the lawn and many other goodies are just across and down the street in our downtown. More details will be in the June *Mason in Motion* printed newsletter coming out on May 29-30.

Mark Your Calendar for June 7th – A “**Western Roundup**” **Family Member Mixer** will be all “gussied-up and ready to ride” on Thursday, June 7th from 5:30-8 PM at the **Ingham County Fairgrounds**. Jon Grocki and Karla Spoor of **Dart Bank** and their fellow mixer committee members have planned some western-themed games along with our regular euchre tournament. And we’ll “rustle up some good grub” for you – hot dogs, chips, chili, beverages, dessert, and ice cream – all at just \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers. Help us celebrate on the eve of our **35th Annual MACC Arabian Horse Show** at the **Ingham County Fairgrounds**! A few mixer sponsorships are still available at \$100 with the following benefits: four complimentary admissions to the member mixer, publicity and advertising as a sponsor in a wide variety of media, logo and/or name recognition as a sponsor on the printed materials, logo and/or name recognition as a sponsor on posters, on-site signage as a sponsor at the event, live on-site public announcements as a sponsor, and space provided for literature and other materials on-site. **Express Tree Service, Barb Byrum, Oesterle Farms**, and **LAFCU** are currently sponsors. Join them by calling the Chamber office at 676-1046.

Good Morning Mason! -- Our last and 68th Good Morning, Mason! news and networking breakfast meeting on Thursday, April 26th had a record 74 people in attendance! Maybe it was because we had a chance to meet the new folks running the **Ingham County Fair** and **Dart Bank**. Maybe it was because the meeting was sponsored by **Dart Bank** and was enhanced with a full catered breakfast from co-sponsor **Tax Returns Unlimited**. Maybe it was because it was the first chance to see this year’s Corvette convertible in October 2007’s MACC Raffle. Maybe it was because of our 50/50 drawing and special “Spring Fling” décor. Maybe it was because the meeting was at the **Ingham County Fairgrounds** Community Building. (People tell us that it wasn’t because the admission was \$5 for members and \$7 for nonmembers, but who knows?) Our next GMM! Is on Thursday morning June 28th – sponsored by **Dart Bank**, co-sponsored by the **Mason Area Historical Society**, and with a continental breakfast from **Darrell’s Market**.

MACC Distributes Tenth E-mail Update – 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.

**FOR THE LAST MONTH’S “MASON IN MOTION” NEWSLETTER
AND OTHER MASON AREA COMMUNITY INFORMATION,
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