

September 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 September "Mason in Motion" printed newsletter was published. **Laundry Care Express** at 231 S. Cedar in Mason and an individual member **Kirt Lawrence** are both new members (although Kirt's business -- Westside Deli -- was a member for many years). More details will be in October'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!

Down Home Days Updated Lineup -- The 35th anniversary Down Home Days will be celebrated in Mason from September 18 through 21 this year, with our signature Courthouse Show being held on Saturday, September 20. Special events will be taking place all around the Mason area during the Thursday through Sunday celebration. Go to www.masonchamber.org and click on "Down Home Days Events" for the latest information. Some events are weather dependent and details may change slightly as plans of community groups firm up. Down Home Days starts off on Thursday, September 18 with the last concert in the fourth season of our "Thursday Night Live" series sponsored by **Independent Bank**. This free concert on the Ingham County Courthouse lawn starts at 6:00 p.m. and is sponsored by **Dart Container Corporation**. It features the **Mason High School Band and Cheer Squad**. The **Mason Optimist Club** will be selling hotdogs, chips and pop to benefit youth programs before and during the concert. Before the concert, the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will do a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the 35th anniversary of Down Home Days. Also at the concert, the annual **Mason Area United Way** campaign will do their kickoff at a booth on the west lawn of the **Ingham County Courthouse** in downtown Mason. Volunteers will be on hand to explain how contributions are used to benefit so many in the Mason community. On Friday, September 19 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., the **Mason Kiwanis Club** will be selling BBQ chicken sandwich dinners from the **Mason Fire Station** at 221 W. Ash Street. Advance tickets are available at **Bestsellers Books & Coffee**, 360 S. Jefferson in Mason. The **St. James Knights of Columbus** will have a fall dinner at family-friendly prices at their church on S. Lansing Street that evening as well. After dinner, everyone is encouraged to take a stroll on the Hayhoe Riverwalk with their friends, families and neighbors from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The start/finish is on the south side of Ash Street across from Lee Austin Park near the **Mason Fire Station** where free food, giveaways and more will be available. The walk is hosted by the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by **Physiotherapy Associates** as part of the Chamber's "Hometown U.S.A." activities. The signature event of Down Home Days begins in the morning of Saturday, September 20, with the 35th anniversary Courthouse Show in downtown Mason. The event is held outdoors -- rain or shine. Michelle Davis of the **Greater Lansing Shopping Guide**, chair of the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce's Down Home Days committee, says that "our estimates are that between 4,000 and 6,000 people attend the show each year." She added that the show features a mix of arts & crafts, flea market, food vendors, entertainment, and community group booths. The show runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday only. Elaine Ferris, the market master for the **Mason Farmers Market**, says that "the market will take place as it does every Saturday morning this time of year on Maple Street." She adds that "some vendors stay later than noon to continue selling during the afternoon hours." At 2:00 p.m., across from the **Farmers Market** booths, the L.A. Cloggers will perform, sponsored by **Ware's Pharmacy**. A Quilt Show will take place at Mason First United Methodist Church from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 201 E. Ash Street, with admission \$3.00 to benefit mission projects. Also on Saturday, the **Mason Area Historical Society** will have their pie sale at **Mason Area Historical Museum**, 200 E. Oak Street in Mason, starting at 10:00 a.m. The **Friends of the Mason Library** will hold their annual book and plant sale at the **Mason Library**, 145 W. Ash Street. Rummage sales will abound in the Mason area during Down Home Days, with the fourth annual "Treasures" Sale by Mason College Club taking place on Saturday in the pavilion by Lee Austin Park, near the corner of Ash and Lansing Streets in Mason. Many homeowners will participate in a citywide rummage sale throughout Mason neighborhoods during the weekend. Down Home Days ends on Sunday, September 21 with a Mason Area Open House event for the residential properties for sale or rent throughout the community. A map and times and directions to all the open houses is available at several booths during Saturday's courthouse show and online soon with a link from the Chamber's www.masonchamber.org homepage. Visitors and residents are also invited to shop on Sunday at many open businesses in the

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downtown and at the **Cobblestone Flea Market** in the **Mason Antiques District**, located in the 100 block of Mason Street near Columbia. A steak dinner to benefit **Child & Family Services' Angel House** in Mason will be held on Sunday, September 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. at **Darrell's Market**, located at the corner of Columbia and Aurelius roads, three miles west of town. Dinner is \$10 per person, with slices of pie available at a small extra charge. You may choose either on-site tent seating or takeout.

Changes in Store for Local Job Expo -- More than 2,000 job seekers will attend the Capital Area Michigan Works! Fall Job Expo 2008 in hopes of connecting with local businesses and finding employment. The event, in collaboration with the Lansing State Journal, Fox 47, Lansing Community College and Davenport University, will take place on Tuesday, September 30 from 2:30 to 6 p.m. in the Lansing Center Ballroom. Employer registrations are due on September 19. "This is a great opportunity for the Greater Lansing businesses to retain local talent," says Douglas E. Stites, CEO of Capital Area Michigan Works! Employers can set up booths at 1 p.m. Registration includes booth space, table linens, chairs, two boxed dinners and parking, as well as refreshments throughout the day. Extensive marketing of the event is included. To register or to receive more information, contact Teri Sand at Capital Area Michigan Works!, 517-492-5516 or tsand@camw.net. A registration form is also available at Capital Area Michigan Works!' website, www.camw.org.

This News from John Krohn, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Ingham County -- "Many thanks to those of you who have already helped out, or made purchases at our stores. We need the continued support of our volunteer base to be able to sustain the level of service we've built up to this point. In particular, we're still looking for help anytime at the Mason ReStore, and for pickups 10am-2pm Tuesday and Thursdays at both stores. If you can help, please give me a call at 517-655-1872. Our ReStores are absolutely vital to our operation, and I think we're starting to build quite a positive reputation in the community. Please help us build on these successes!

Maximizing your Mileage -- With gas prices soaring, here are a few tips you can use to get the most mileage out of your car while saving money at the pump. **Drive sensibly.** Aggressive driving, such as speeding, rapid acceleration and braking, wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent around town. Driving sensibly is also safer for you and others on the road. **Plan and combine your trips.** Combining your errands into one trip can save you time and money. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm. **Observe the speed limit.** While each vehicle reaches its peak fuel economy at different speeds, gas mileage typically decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. **Use cruise control.** Using cruise control on the highway will help you maintain a consistent speed, and in most cases, save you gas. **Avoid excess idling.** An idling car gets 0 mpg. Avoiding unnecessary idling for extended periods of time will save you gas and money. **Keep your car in shape.** Repairing a car that is out of tune or that has failed an efficiency test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent. **Check and replace your filters.** Your car's air filter keeps impurities from damaging the inside of your engine. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent. **Keep your tires inflated.** You can improve your gas mileage by roughly 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 pound per square inch (PSI) drop of all four tires. Source: The U.S. Department of Energy

The Mason Orchestral Society Announces the Start of its 33rd Season -- New members are always welcome. Rehearsals begin September 2, 2008 for the **Mason Symphony** and on September 8th for the **Mason Philharmonic**. All rehearsals are held in the **Mason Middle School** band room (235 Temple St.) throughout the school year from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The **Mason Symphony**, under the direction of Beau Benson, is looking for any string players as well as percussionists & trumpet players with advanced level skills. The **Mason Philharmonic**, under the direction of David Schultz, is looking for strings, winds & brass players. The **Philharmonic** is open to all ages and playing abilities. For more information go to www.masonorchestras.org or call Kay Rinker-O'Neil @ 676-3678.

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.

**FOR THE LAST MONTH'S "MASON IN MOTION" NEWSLETTER
AND OTHER MASON AREA COMMUNITY INFORMATION,
GO ONLINE AT WWW.MASONCHAMBER.ORG**