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Matt Cummings is presented the NOACC Bright Star award by TV-3 news reporter Maureen Kyle. Looking on are NOACC chairman Wayne Lawrence and Chamber director Sheila Ehrhardt.

Matt Cummings Honored As NOACC Bright Star

By Sheila Ehrhardt

The Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) is observing its 15th anniversary this year. The group is made up of 120 Chambers located in towns all across northern Ohio, representing some 30,000 members.

"For these fifteen years, we've been fulfilling a mission to secure benefits to business owners that they would not be able to get on their own. It's an invaluable resource," said Vicky Hawke, NOACC's executive director, speaking at the semi-annual Board of trustees meeting at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Chambers, like any progressive service organization, could not function without a great team of dedicated volunteers. "That can mean everything from event planning to recruiting and retention efforts, to chairing committees and stuffing envelopes," explained Wayne Lawrence, executive director of the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the NOACC board.

"These volunteers help run the Chambers, expecting nothing in return," said Ms. Hawke, introducing the forty-six winners of Bright Star awards for 2010. Gorillas, snow leopards, and a couple of ring-tail monkeys peered out of the floor-to-ceiling glass panels of their habitats, just inches from the more than 150 guests enjoying dinner in the primate building.

Presenting the awards was Maureen Kyle, an anchor and reporter at WKYC-TV3. Selected to receive one of this year's NOACC Bright Star awards was Matt Cummings, Huron Chamber Vice President and two-term board member.

A young man who worked his way through high school and college working part time at Sandusky Pizza House West for Barbara Leber, turned proprietor of the Huron Pizza House in 1991 and the rest is history. Matt is a vital member of the Huron business community, making generous donations for school activities throughout the year, hosting dinners at his Main Street pizzeria, with proceeds going to local families facing medical crises, as well as numerous Huron Tiger fundraisers.

He recently assumed the Vice Presidency on the Chamber Board of Directors. He lends his strong arms and spirit of cooperation to just about every Chamber project throughout the year. Dressed in his signature denim shorts and Pizza House t-shirt, whether it's 90 degrees during the River Fest, or 20 degrees during the Festival of Lights at Sawmill, Matt is always there to lend a hand. He chaired the Personalized Street Banner Program and has been my guy-to-go-to on numerous Chamber projects through the years. **Congratulations**, Matt.

Board of Directors

- Bruce Miller* President
State Farm Ins.
- Matt Cummings* VP
Huron Pizza House
- Dr. Andrew Berjarano*
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- Jacquelyn Clark*
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- John Clark*
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- Christine Crawford*
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- Ellen Meyers*
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- Don Ritzenhaller*
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- Andy White*
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Enchanted Cottage...

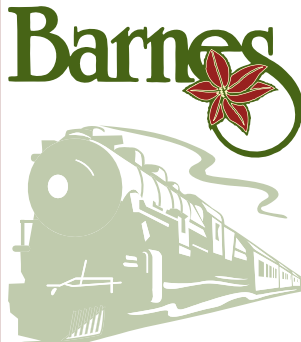
One of Erie MetroPark's latest projects involved the restoration of the stone cottage located at the Stockdale Arboretum at East Sandusky Bay MetroPark. In 2003, Bob Stockdale transferred ownership of this property to Erie MetroParks, located at 4011 Cleveland Road/U.S. Route 6 in Huron Township. With grant monies provided by Ohio DNR Nature Works, this quaint cottage was renovated to hold children's educational programs that focus on nature, story-telling, and theatre. Once inside, visitors enjoy Bob Waldron's colorful mural representing the change in seasons. The Enchanted Cottage also features a library of children's literature for reading or story-telling, and an observation deck overlooking Plum Creek! During times that The Enchanted Cottage is not being used for programming, this facility will be reservable to the public for children's birthdays and themed parties. For more information or questions, call our staff at 419-625-7783 ext. 221 or visit eriemetroparks.com.

Melissa Loera, Manager of Marketing & Visitor Services Erie MetroParks



The Urban Gardener

Sam Martello is Huron's Urban Gardener. Along the back of Marconi's Restaurant, owned by his son, Carlo, he's created lush green pepper and zucchini lungo plants that seem to rise to the sky from a tiny patch of dirt and lots of pots. Along a back fence Sam, now 80, raises hundreds of tomatoes that he and Carlo use to make the trattoria's signature marinara sauce.



Barnes Celebrate the holiday in style with Barnes Nursery.

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City Manager...

Responds to City Appropriations Story

This letter is written as a clarification of fact regarding a recent news story entitled "Huron Overspent, State Audit Reveals." The city did not overspend and cannot overspend. A municipality's annual appropriations and estimated resources, also known as the annual budget, is a legally binding document which sets forth annual financial priorities that are adopted by the City Council. Once adopted, this document can only be modified with additional legislative action and the creation of new law.

What the city did do is utilize savings from Fiscal Year 2008 for use in Fiscal Year 2009. The exact amount of these resources is generally not completely understood until the end of the annual operating cycle, which is a chaotic time. In one specific instance, the City Council encumbered \$128,661.00 from the 2008 health care program's savings for use in 2009. In essence, this action reduced the cost of the next year's program and permitted the city to accommodate other needs, most notably capital improvements and long term planning.

In effect, a citation for the timing of this transfer of savings was noted on the audit because it took place during the first week in January 2009 as opposed to the last week in December 2008. Had the order been reversed, the available funds would have correctly demonstrated the existing, and compliant, balance between expense and revenue in 2009. This type of citation is vital to ensure public bodies do not spend

unavailable resources to the detriment of the community. This certainly did not occur in the city last year.

The overall fiscal health of the city was omitted from the story. It is important to point out, that in 2009, during the worst economic period since the Great Depression, the city's Net Assets increased 52% from \$9,418,129.00 in 2008 to \$17,132,428.00. In addition, the General Fund balance increased for a fifth consecutive year and the city's bond rating was upgraded. This represents a positive financial trajectory for the city and an opportunity for future progress in the region that would not have been possible without the careful planning, establishment, and implementation of well thought policy.

In conclusion, the city deeply respects its relationship with the press. They acknowledge that without it the same level of public service would not be possible. However, no member of the Council or the Finance Department was interviewed for this story. The Auditor who provided the city's report was not contacted, and no member of the press was in attendance on Tuesday, October 12th, 2010 when the audit was discussed in open public session. Unfortunately, an incomplete story was established, and as a result the general public was not completely informed.

A copy of the entire audit is available on the city's website and has been since its receipt. In addition, the specific legislation segregating savings from 2008 for use in 2009 is also available for review on the website. Thank you for your time and consideration of this clarification.

Andy White, Huron City Manager

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New Businesses Offer Exciting Food & Drink Options

Three new food and beverage businesses have opened up in the area recently and they bring exciting new menu and drink options to Huronites. Scott and Sherrie Ebert, who have operated the Brass Pelican in Sandusky for 11 years, opened a second "Brass Pelican on the River" in September. The couple has totally renovated the riverfront complex that once housed the Twine House, using an Ohio State color theme and offers a "gazillion" big screen TVs for avid sports fans to catch every single game.

They feature a humorous extensive menu which boasts unusual fare with far-out names. Starters include fried Twinkies, along with bocce, and brass balls. (breaded Italian meatballs and battered chicken chunks). There are the Big Nasty, Grand Slam, and a Trash Can burger, which is actually four Garbage Burgers. They're rather pricy at \$20, but anyone who can down all four in 30 minutes gets their money back. The Pelicans' chicken wings are drenched with your choice of an amazing 57 flavors.

Bruce Palmer, developer of the Thunderbird golf courses and pro shop/driving range, has renovated the clubhouse at the north course and converted it to Bar North, a restaurant and specialty beer bar, featuring 45 varieties of brew.

Lustrous, dark wood paneling gives Bar North the feeling of an English pub with a spectacular view of the woods surrounding the 18th hole. Lots of TVs give golfers a chance to catch up on other sporting events. The menu includes many premium hot sandwiches, unique salads, a full-range of appetizers and their signature wings,



with a choice of 9 dipping sauces. During the winter, Bar North is closed on Tues. and Wed.; open 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Mon. & Thurs., 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday & Sat., and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Mac McLelland's new Quarry Hill Winery and tasting room, located in Berlin Heights adjacent to the Gammie Orchards & Country Store on Mason Road, has been drawing large crowds of wine lovers all summer long. Nestled on the side of one of the highest hills in the area, the view from the wrap-around deck is spectacular, offering a glimpse of the lake on a clear day. To cap off this great accomplishment for Mac and his partner, Bill Gammie, "it has been the best year in my career for wine grapes," Mac explained. The warm season allowed the hard-to-grow European grapes a chance to fully ripen, allowing a nice vintage to be born. "This has been the warmest growing season in probably 20 years, and the wines will be sure to show it," he added, with a touch of pride.



Special holiday events are planned around the huge stone fireplace in the tasting room. To check on events and tasting room hours, phone 419-588-3179

HURON'S NEW HOT SPOTS

Around Town

Jones Family Hosts Thanksgiving for GIs & Families

The Chef's Garden and the Jones Family are hosting their 4th annual "free" traditional Thanksgiving dinner for active members of the military and their families.

The bountiful feast, to be served at the Culinary Vegetable Institute, will be prepared by Chef Carl Swanbeck and served at noon on Thanksgiving Day. CVI is located at 12304 St. Route 13 in Milan. Reservations required. Phone 419-499-7500.

Three local favorites provide Thanksgiving Feasts

If an all-day shift in the kitchen on Thanksgiving doesn't sound too appetizing, doff that apron and head out to one of the three sumptuous buffets being offered by area favorites.

Kalahari - Phone 419-433-7200 for reservations
Seating will be every 45 minutes from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mesenburg's - Phone 419-433-2954 for reservations
Seatings at noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sawmill - Phone 419-433-3800 for reservations
Seating from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Holiday Shows at State Theatre Temptations, Bare Bones Tour...

The Temptations, a classic group from the golden age of rock & roll, will appear in concert at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 11th at the restored theater. Then on Friday, Nov. 29th, at 8 p.m. Bryan Adams and the Bare Bones Tour will make a stop at the theater.

"Holiday Madcap," a showcase for local talent, is set for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16th and on Friday, Nov. 19th, the Festival of Trees Gala will get under way at 6:30 p.m., with many holiday activities. Tickets are \$30.

"Away in a Basement," a program of good tidings, great humor, and joy from the Church Basement Ladies, will be presented at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 20th. "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," a hilarious account of a very rambunctious family, is set for 7:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3rd and at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4th. Tickets for all events are on sale online at www.sanduskystate.com or by phone, 1-877-626-1950.

Montague's 10th Anniversary Holiday Tea Luncheon

This year's last tea luncheon will be held at Captain Montague's B&B at noon, on Wed., Dec. 15th. This will mark the tenth year that Judy Tann (proprietor) and Johnna Dail have provided the community with a variety of programs, exquisite teas, and creative menus. The Christmas luncheon is always a favorite at the beautifully decorated B&B!

This year the HHS Troubadours, under the direction of Jeff Skaggs, will sing songs of the season delighting those in attendance. This talented a cappella group of sixteen high school students is truly extraordinary. The menu will be a traditional tea luncheon with delectable tea sandwiches, scones, soup, and an array of delicious desserts. Reservations are required as seating is limited. **Price per person is \$25.** Reservations can be made by calling Judy at 419-433-4756 or by email: captainmontagues@bex.net

Santa & Mrs. Claus Coming to Town...

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making an early visit to the Huron Boat Basin building on **Saturday, Dec. 11th, from 3 - 8 p.m.**

They'll be bringing with them some of the reindeer from the North Pole and even a horse and carriage to give rides to the children. There will be craft projects for the children and refreshments. Then on **Saturday, Dec. 17th, just Santa will make a return appearance from 5-7 p.m. at "Santa's House on the River."**

After Hours!

November 18th- Thurs.

Business After Hours
Appetizers, Wine, Door prizes
Cellular Central Inc.
(Verizon Wireless Store)
Commerce Plaza
406 Cleveland Road E.
Hosted by: David Vargas, District Mgr.
5-7 p.m. RSVP - Sheila 419-433-5700

December 9th - Thurs.

Business After Hours
Appetizers, Wine, Door prizes
Barnes Nursery
3511 Cleveland Road W.
Tour of Christmas Gardens
Miniature Train Display
Hosted by: The Barnes Family
5-7 p.m. RSVP - Sheila 419-433-5700

Meet a member!



Bruce Rookstool and his foreman, Gary Onslager, replace a roof this summer at RP Auto in Huron.

Bruce Rookstool was just a lad of 12 when he began working with his father in the family's lawn-care business. During high school he got tired of working in the hot Florida sun and took a factory job.

"A few years of being inside a factory made me realize that I was just someone who really enjoyed working outside," he explained. After getting married and starting a family, Bruce worked for 12 years with a roofing company in Fort Myers, Fl. The family headed north in 1990 when Bruce was offered a job as superintendent for Phinney

Roofing in Huron, a position he held for 11 years. After the company closed, he moved on to a construction company in Port Clinton that specialized in homebuilding.

"I finally got the courage to venture out on my own in 2003, and I've never regretted the decision," he recalled. Rookstool Construction, LLC, based at 1410 Jeffries Road, specializes in residential and commercial construction and renovations. The company now has four full-time employees, and in the summer, the crew swells to nearly a dozen.

Despite the sluggish economy which caused a slowdown in new jobs last spring, Bruce has been able to keep his men on the payroll. "We've been really, really busy this fall," he said. Asked to explain his consistent success, he said simply, "We try to do our very best on each job and let word of mouth do our advertising. We're fortunate to have lots of return customers."

Short Takes *...from Sheila*

Huron Loses Two Special People With Links to Chamber

Bob Hilty was for many years a man of God, serving as pastor of Lutheran churches in Massillon, Lyndhurst, and Elyria, prior to relocating to Huron.

After retiring from the active ministry in 1979, he became a “man of the brush,” pursuing his love of painting. He soon became a very talented artist, following in the footsteps of his wife, Joan, an award-winning watercolorist in her own right. In 1983, he was named “Artist of the Year” by Ducks Unlimited.

For many years he has created the tiny, detailed sketches of various Huron landmarks featured on the annual Chamber commemorative Christmas ornaments. One of his most challenging jobs was bringing the image of Kalahari Field at Huron Memorial Stadium down to a little more than an inch square, while retaining the details. However, he did it, and very well.

Myrtle Claxton excelled in her job, as well, creating a colorful palette of old-fashioned goodies, eye candy that was really candy. For many years in the early 1970’s, she was general manager of the Wileswood Country Store, now home to the Chamber.

Dressed in her turn-of-the century long skirts and lace dust caps she helped the Wiles and Cloak families create a historic landmark that is missed sorely by Huron visitors to this day. “When I think of Myrtle Claxton, the word “meticulous” comes to mind,” recalled Sue Wiles Cloak. “It fit her appearance, her demeanor, and her style of doing whatever was at hand.” Mrs. Claxton expressed interest in the manager’s position at Wileswood Country Store in anticipation of the “empty nest” time in a mother’s life. “Applying her skills and experience, she managed the store and staff in her firm and caring way as a second home and family, explained Sue Cloak.

Email Blast New Format For Short Takes

In case you haven’t noticed, my weekly Short Takes e-mail blast has a great new look with lots of color and style. Deb Schisler and her talented crew at Pabodie Design Studios can help your business create a stylish, professional, and easy-to-use template for you to keep in touch with clients and customers via e-mail. One custom template is free with each new account registration at www.pdsemarketer.com until 12/31/2010. (This Holiday eMarketer Special is a \$225.00 Value)

They will help you design and get out coupons, newsletters, announcements, surveys, and any type of communication. E-mail marketing is cost effective, saves the cost of postage, paper, printing, and it is good for the earth. For information and e-mail marketing pricing, visit www.pdsemarketer.com or call Pabodie Design Studios at 419-433-4772.

Payne Nickles & Co. Among ‘Best Firms to Work For’

Payne Nickles & Company has earned honors for the second year in a row from Accounting Today and Best Companies Group. The firm, longtime Chamber members, was named one of the best accounting firms to work for. The list is made up of a total of 100 companies from around the country.

With more than 30 employees in its Sandusky and Norwalk offices, Payne Nickles is the largest certified public accounting and business consulting firm based in Erie and Huron counties.

Jim West Opens Full-Service Insurance Office

Jim West, a third-generation member of a well-known Huron family, has opened a comprehensive independent insurance agency, West Insurance. The son of Jimmy West and Nancy Willard, he has worked since just a lad in the family’s “Pizza Boxes” in Huron and Milan. After earning a degree from Ohio University, Jim decided he wanted to work in insurance and financial planning. His new offices are located at 1522 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky, Suite B.

Joining Jim in offering auto, fire, life, and health insurance, as well as, retirement planning, are native Huronites, Brian West, Rory T. Scherer, and Craig Saunders.

Chamber Conference Room Available for Meetings

The Chamber of Commerce Conference Room is available for our members to conduct meetings. The room seats 25 comfortably. A small galley kitchen is available. There is no charge for use of the conference room for members, but it must be reserved in advance. Please call the Chamber office for information, 419-433-5700.



Street Smarts

Official Government Tax Notice “A Scam”

The Better Business Bureau is warning of a scheme that involves official-looking e-mails notifying businesses that “your payroll tax submission has been rejected.” Several area companies, including your Chamber office, received this notice saying that the business owner can make their tax payment by contacting EFTPS direct. The government never sends notices like this by E-mail, according to the BBB. Luckily, our treasurer Dee Hartley, spotted that this was a hoax as soon as I showed it to her

SHS Career Center Spotlights New Career Paths

The Sandusky Career Center, 2130 Hayes Ave., helps people of all ages fit into the ever-changing job market. Classes are offered in office skills, and computer and systems support skills. Classes in many health-related occupations include: medical office administration, medical insurance and coding certification, EKG monitor technician, and pharmacy technician.

For those seeking employment in the law enforcement or fire and rescue fields, there are classes leading to certification. Industrial training is offered in many different areas. Classes in many health-related occupations are also offered. For information, phone 419-625-9294 or go to www.sanduskycareercenter.org.

EHOVE Truly Offers Life- Long Learning

Whether you’re a serious student pursuing education leading to a new career or just looking to master a new computer program or culinary skill , EHOVE Adult Career Center offers a class for everyone. They also offer customized training services for many different industries. There are programs in using computers which will include Lifelong Learners. New programs include: green industries, retail marketing, and manufacturing technology. For information, phone 866-256-9707, ext. 280.

A Lifelong Adventure with ElderCollege

Classes in all kinds of learning disciplines are offered through BGSU Firelands ElderCollege. The program offers exciting educational programs for adults from all education and socioeconomic backgrounds. Upcoming classes include “Tackling County Challenges Together”, and Cooperative Regionalization by Local Governments which will be presented by Mike Adelman and Bill Monaghan on Wed., Nov. 10th. Dr. Timothy Jurkovic will speak on “Analyzing the 2010 Mid-Term Elections” on Monday, Nov. 15th.

For information on upcoming programs, phone 419-433-5560, ext. 20617 or go to www.firelands.bgsu.edu/offices/oeo.

Keys to Starting Successful Business

Whether you’re starting a new business or expanding an existing one, you can chart a course to success with a class in Small Business Basics, being offered by Dr. Bill Auxter on Wed., Nov. 17th at the Erie County Chamber of Commerce offices, 225 W. Washington Row, Sandusky, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. To register, phone 1-800-826-2431.

New Chamber Members:

ZMedia (Photography)

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www.ehcac.com

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Ronda Soper

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Rye Beach Association

Margo Kostecka, Board Member
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