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City Wraps Up Spectacular 200th Birthday Celebration

In August 2008, a group of city and township residents got together to plan a small celebration marking the 200th anniversary of Huron's founding. Instead, the two-dozen members of the Bicentennial Committee put together a spectacular year-long calendar of events which included:

- A logo design contest.
- A community picnic and birthday party on the lawn surrounding the boat basin with a children's carnival and a group photo of all who attended.
- A public art project featuring 25 "ARTirondock" chairs depicting scenes of our area from the Bicentennial slogan, "The Land, The Lake, The River & The People." Sponsored by local businesses and painted by area artists, the chairs were all sold at a hugely successful auction in August 2009. Logo designer, Robb Harst, created a chair depicting the circular design mounted three-dimensionally on one of the ARTirondock chairs that was raffled off, with funds going to Huron area charities.
- A GEO scavenger hunt that used obtuse clues to find artifacts of Huron's past.
- A photo contest.
- A children's tractor-pull.
- Homecoming events for HHS Alumni.

There was a giant parade float which depicted a lake freighter complete with a scale model of Huron's first lighthouse that was designed by Dick and Evie Durkin. A small army of volunteers helped Dick transform a school bus into the 42-ft. long steel-

hulled boat, complete with rivets, a wheel house and a sandy beach on the aft deck. Monies raised from these various events were donated to Huron area charities and funds were set aside to thank the Huron Historical Society, Huron Public Library, River Fest Committee, and the Huron Chamber of Commerce for their assistance throughout the 28 months.

Sharon Barnes had a vision for the observance from day one, with the zest and enthusiasm of a true historian. She achieved her major goal of leaving a memento of the Bicentennial for the people of our time and for future generations. Once again, Robb Harst, stepped forward and volunteered his artistic talents to create a dramatic marker and time capsule commemorating this community milestone.

The capsule was filled with a legacy of memories, which included pieces of beach glass, taconite, (the small pieces of iron ore delivered to Huron docks by lake freighters for many years) Bicentennial poems, 2009 City Directory, and a collection of Hahn's sweet corn seeds and heritage tomato seeds first brought to this country from Italy by the Gebelle family.

On a balmy day in October the five-foot wide black granite marker that sits atop the time capsule and a tinted concrete pad depicting a compass rose was dedicated in a small circular garden just outside the boat basin office. Harst sandblasted the Bicentennial logo on the huge piece of granite.

...cont. inside

Bicentennial cont...

With the help of Aaron Boes, Tom and Doug Elmlinger, Steve Sallee, Marv Ott, Bob Smith, Robb Harst, and Doug Steinwart, the historic marker now sits high above the Huron River. Sharon and the Bicentennial committee created a magnificent celebration of the past 200 years.

The Barnes family and the Chamber co-hosted an "After Hours" at the nursery on Dec. 9th. Nearly 100 people were on hand to celebrate a job well done. Various committee heads were recognized and Mayor Marilyn Shearer read a proclamation expressing the city's appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved.

Sharon was presented a large crystal medallion which read, "Thank you for all you have done for Huron ... In the past, In the present, and In the future".



Reminiscing about Bicentennial memories are Danny and Jenny Martin, (l. to r.) Julie Barnes Foster and Dr. Heather and Scott Demos. Jenny and Julie served on the committee that put together the "ARTironclack" chair community art project.

Huron: A Quaint and Yet Progressive Town...

With completion of the four-lane boat ramps on the Huron River, located adjacent to the former ConAgra property, the city of Huron is on its way to an exciting new era in economic development.

Several small businesses have opened this past year and the AkzoNobel plant, formerly known as ICI/Glidden, has hired new employees to assist in manufacture of a new line of paint that will be marketed by Wal-Mart Super Centers across the country.

The Gym, an exercise center owned by Joe and Cori Dike for several years, is moving to an entirely new facility on Huron's East side, next to Berardi's Restaurant.

N2Y Inc., a locally owned company that produces educational materials for special needs students was started by Dave and Jackie Clark in 1997. The business outgrew its downtown office so they built a sprawling complex in the Huron Corporate Park.

Denton ATD, also located in the Corporate Park, has merged with Humanetics Innovative Solutions, and First Technology Safety Systems. This newly created global company is one of the leading manufacturers of human-like mannequins used in vehicle crash tests.

Kalahari Waterpark Resort officials just announced that work will begin shortly on a \$22 million expansion that will double the size of its convention center and add 141 permanent jobs. They have also entered into a tax abatement accord with Huron City Schools that will generate approximately \$800,000 for the system over 15 years.

Despite the poor condition of the economy, revenues are up a bit from last year, approximately 1.94% for Huron city government. This is due in large part to the astute financial planning of city manager Andy White, City Council's endorsement of a partnership with the Regional Income Tax Authority for the collection of income tax, and the cooperation of city department

heads in working out ingenious ways to keep salary and health insurance costs under control.

According to Andy White the city is conducting an analysis for potential upgrades and financial strategies at Nickel Plate Beach and Fabens Park. A similar exercise is being researched currently for the entire city. The ability to designate a preferred development plan for the city is essential for improvement.

"The city is well poised to develop itself, sustain and improve services in a challenging period," White explained. "However, with challenge comes great opportunity, and decisions made during the recent past have yielded opportunities already." The ongoing redevelopment of the Huron River has brought new visitors to the community and positively impacted local commerce. "Development opportunity of this sort simply is not available elsewhere in the region," he said.

A sense of cooperation and team-work between the cities staff, Council, businesses, school leaders, and Chamber, helped bring this about. For example, a group of businessmen formed a non-profit group known as FishHuronOhio two years ago. They have hosted four walleye tournaments and assisted with several other fishing events, which helped to fill the boat ramp parking lot on most weekends last fall.

Huron Schools are on solid financial footing and have implemented many positive changes in the past two years. Building alignment of grades has proven to be a good move. Many upgrades in the system's four school buildings have put them in great shape. Superintendent Fred Fox anticipates that the many physical and academic improvements will help the district to maintain its "Excellent" rating from the Ohio Department of Education.

Huron is a quaint and yet progressive town that is bent on moving forward in a positive direction.

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Short Takes *...from Sheila*

Development Locations Sought

Peter Zaehring, the new director of the Erie County Economic Development Corp., has started sending out to area Chambers of Commerce and public officials, queries that ECEDC receives from companies interested in possible development locations in the area. As a service to our members, we will post these notices in hope that an area business or entrepreneur may have a location that will work for these companies.

Greener by Design is interested in identifying industrial properties along the right-of-way data network between New York City and Chicago for data infrastructure facilities and interconnection. This 'pod city' uses cargo containers that are custom fitted with data storage equipment and the associated support infrastructure including chillers and reserve power for an easy drop and fit solution.

When completed, a pod city will be able to support thousands of terabytes of information while using only a fraction of the power a normal data server facility would use.

The specifications are as follows:

- 20 acres of land for facility construction
- 80mw of electric capacity either available via grid or on site

Sites may include former industrial land, properties located along railroad right-of-ways, properties located near reserve power plants or former manufacturing sites with on site power plants. A final list of approximately 5 locations will be identified as implementation sites, at least one facility in each of the 5 states between New York and Chicago.

If you have a site that could fit this role, please contact Zaehring at director@eriecountyedc.org.

And You Thought You Knew All the Holidays

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants just published its annual retail promotions calendar. There are holidays actually designated for special dates throughout the year. It's obvious that these are geared to create the opportunity for various ad campaigns, but some of them are really "far out."

The month of January is National Hot Tea Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Health Month, and National Clean-Off-Your-Desk Month.

Some of the other off-beat holidays include: Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, National Caffeine Awareness Month, Pazki Day*, Open an Umbrella Indoors Day, and Totally Chipotle Day.

*Pazki are the delicious Polish stuffed pastries that are generally only made just before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

Counterfeit \$100 Bills Passed

Counterfeit hundred dollar bills were caught being passed at First Federal Savings of Lorain recently. Manager David Malanowski called to let me know that these bills seem to be OK when swiped with the checking pins that many of you have been using.

However, upon looking closer, the watermark doesn't look quite right and the picture of Benjamin Franklin is actually more of a silhouette, looking like an image made by a stamp. Also, there is a security thread running through the bill that looks raised. The 100 mark in the bottom right hand corner should change from green to black, and on these it doesn't. All of our members are asked to be alert to this and to notify the Huron Police Department.

Payment Help Available For Columbia Customers

Residential customers having difficulty paying their Columbia Gas of Ohio bills have received help after eligibility for a fuel fund was expanded.

Responding to a request from the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) ordered fuel funds from an interstate pipeline supplier refund be made available to any household with an income of up to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

Previously, the income eligibility guidelines were limited to consumers who may not have qualified for other assistance programs. For additional information about the TCO fuel funds, as well as, all low-income assistance programs, contact the OCC toll free at 1-877-742-5622 or go to their website at www.pickocc.org.

Street Smarts

Take A Career Step In The Right Direction

EHOVE Career Center has a partnership with 185 advisors representing 800 square miles in creating a curriculum offering 18 career training programs, 36 special interest offerings, and 101 career enhancement courses.

Winter/Spring classes, now getting under way, include subjects such as business careers and computer programs, cosmetology, culinary, health careers, marine technology, public safety, and many trades classes.

For information, go to www.ehove.net or phone 416-627-9665, ext. 280.

Arround A Town

Arctic Ice Festival Hot Winter Fun

The annual Arctic Ice Festival will bring folks out of their warm homes to enjoy some cold weather fun along Sandusky Bay on Sat and Sun., February 5th and 6th. There will be ice carving demonstrations by nationally known ice artist, Aaron Costic, ice boat races, and a soup cook-off. For information on various events, contact the Sandusky Maritime Museum, 419-624-0274 or Battery Park Marina, 419-625-6142.

Sister Estuary For Old Woman Creek

In October, after eight years of legislative delays, a second Great Lakes National Estuarine Reserach Reserve located in Superior, Wisconsin, has been approved. The estuary at Old Woman Creek is the only other research estuarine on all the Great Lakes.

Duct- Cleaning Scam Featured On 'Dateline'

The Better Business Bureau has assisted NBC's "Dateline" in uncovering a national furnace duct-cleaning scam. For more than a decade, thousands of consumers, especially the elderly, were conned out of millions of dollars with promises of a low price for the service. Once these scam artists were in the door, they would say that they found more problems and the price would go up. Investigative reporter Chris Hansen and NBC's hidden cameras documented several examples of this scam.

New Chamber Members:

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'Admiral's Icebreaker' Shows Off New Wing

Admiral's Pointe Nursing & Rehabilitation facility, located at 1920 Cleveland Road W., is hosting the Chamber's February "After Hours" from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24th, "We're very proud of our state-of-the-art rehab facility and would like Chamber members to come and take a look," said Adam Eibling, director of marketing for Admiral's Pointe.

Hans Koschutnik, the new executive chef who is preparing menus for the entire facility, will show off his culinary skills with treats for Chamber members attending the "Admiral's Icebreaker After Hours". This is a great opportunity to network with area business leaders. AP is providing some great gifts for free raffles. Please [RSVP to the Chamber at 419-433-5700 or chamber@huron.net](mailto:RSVP@chamber@huron.net).

Rezoning Hearing Set For Tues., Feb. 8th

Huron City Council will hold a public hearing on the rezoning request of Five S Corporation relating to parcel #4201515000 located at 512 Berlin Road, Huron, Ohio from (R-3) Residential-Multi-Family to B-2 (Downtown Business) PUD. The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 417 Main St. Huron, OH during a regular meeting of Huron City Council.

All interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend to express comments on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk of Council at 419-433-5000 x 102.

LCCC Offers Website For Job Seekers

The Lorain County Community College Career Services office has a special CareerLink site posted to aid job seekers in northern Ohio. The site is <http://www.lorainccc.edu/Employment+and+Career+Services/Online+Job+Search+System.htm>. According to Maxine Kantor of the CS office.

After Hours!

February 24th- Thurs.

**Business After Hours
Tour of New Facility
Admirals Point Rehab.
1920 Cleveland Road W.
Hosted by: Amy, Lisa & Adam
5-7 p.m. RSVP – Sheila 419-433-5700**

New Year: Time for Setting Goals And Self-Examination

The beginning of a new year is a great time for self-examination and setting goals. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for their continued support of our organization for the past 62 years.

We realize that these are difficult economic times, which can create a hardship when small businesses are considering whether or not to continue their Chamber membership. Please be aware that we are all in this together and that your membership provides you with many benefits, some that you may not even be aware of.

First and foremost, Chamber membership is tax deductible as a business expense, not a contribution. Through our membership in the Northern Ohio Area Chambers of Commerce, all of you can receive a discount on health insurance, credit card processing, workman's comp insurance and package shipping. We also offer our members complimentary use of our bulk mailing permit. It has proven very popular and cost-saving with members.

We strongly promote tourism for the Huron area, answering hundreds of inquiries annually and sending out information on member businesses to prospective visitors from all over the country. Relocation packets also go out to those considering a move to the Huron area.

The monthly Business After Hours provide members with the opportunity to network with other business owners and increase their customer base. There are terrific advertising opportunities available on our website; www.huron.net, as well as, in this publication, **The Wave**.

The Chamber is a charter member of the Business Resource Network, a group of area professionals who have created a website offering assistance to business owners and various educational programs. As part of this program, a series of Ambassador visits to local businesses was conducted during the past year. Results of the program will be announced in the next few months.



Get those cut-offs and your wildest Jimmy Buffet shirt out of the closet 'cause we're having a luau!

By mid-March, we will all be ready to be rid of winter. Instead of the traditional suit-and-tie and speaker dinner, we're putting together an evening of sun, fun, a concert by a spectacular steel drum show band River City Colodas, and a wide array of island food specialties. Plans are still being finalized. Mark March 15th on your calendar and don't accept any other "invites" for that Tuesday until we get back with you.

All of our members are invited to promote their businesses in a Vendor's Showcase that evening, prior to dinner. We'll share all the details with you as soon as we firm them up!

THE POLAR!



Chamber member Todd Anderson, dared his daughter, Natalie and a group of her friends to take part in the Polar Plunge, and they took it one further, each wearing their skimpiest bikinis. I can attest that each of them jumped into the 33 degree water.

PLUNGE!



More than 30 brave-hearted folks of all ages ventured out onto the ice offshore from Firefly Beach Resort at high noon on New Year's Day. There was no sun, however, just a steady, freezing rain. At least 100 onlookers turned out to cheer them on.



Maddie and Jack Kilbury, (l.) and Danny and Stephen Demos, wait for the next model train comin' 'round the bend at Barnes Garden Center during the Chamber's December "After Hours".



Ralph Boyer explains the history of the Northern Ohio Garden Railroad Society as several colorful model trains race in and around the nursery. Enjoying the floor-to-ceiling holiday flowers are Chamber board member John Clark and his wife, Cindy.



Just Like Home Learning Center provided craft projects at "Santa's House" and the Chamber furnished coloring books for the children. Stringing beads to make bracelets for their mothers are Mikey Bogart, 6, (l.) and Dylan Bork, 5.



Salvation

Generated by Huron Chamber Members!



These zany red nosed elves rang the bell to raise funds for the Salvation Army Kettle drive last month. They were none other than Chamber board members and upstanding entrepreneurs Christine Crawford, (l.) and Ellen Meyers.

Chamber members came through big time to help with the local Salvation Army unit's annual Christmas Kettle Drive at Cornell's. With so many volunteers, we were able to cut the shifts down to only one hour which was a blessing with the cold weather on Dec. 20th.

Bell ringers included: Doug Studer, Don Ritzenhaller, Matt Cummings, Grant Cornell, Judy Poorman, Wayne Foster, Tammy English, John Clark, Christine Crawford, Ellen Meyers, Jill Salgado, Jacob Kinsley, Ron Michel, Fred Fox, Dr. Heather Demos, Jackie Gebelle, Andrea Lenyo, Monica James, Chris Baker, and yours truly.



Santa and Mrs. Claus came to the boat basin office and became fast friends with Tyler Milchen, 2. Children were treated to rides in a wagon pulled by three miniature Clydesdale horses and they were able to see a reindeer close up.



Photos by: Sheila Eccles & Sheila Ehrhardt