

Board Member Blog

The chamber is doing some amazing things this year. We have over 140 members. We had standing room only at our General Membership Meeting two weeks ago at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites. Brian Diemer and the Special Olympics gave a great presentation on why our community focus is so important. There is a new Leads Group that has about 10 members meeting every other week. Our first annual scavenger hunt is being planned, and will be a great business growth opportunity for chamber members. Planning for Cutlerville Days, the Golf Outing, and the annual auction already in full force. Oh, and did you notice, it is only the middle of February. We have accomplished much, and helped countless members of our communities and business start and grow. We are expanding, even exploding with great material. 2006 will be the year the C³ (Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce) becomes a consortium in South Kent County.

Andy Cove, Vice-President

Brand New Chamber Event: 1st Annual Community Scavenger Hunt

In a brainstorming session last fall, the first mention of a scavenger hunt hit the table. Since then, it has been under development in the Membership/Meetings Committee. We are excited to bring the Cutlerville and greater Grand Rapids area the First Annual Community Scavenger Hunt. During the week of May 13 – 19, people from all over the community will be able to pick up a clue sheet either on our website or at the Holiday Inn Express (the events main sponsor) on which twenty clues to lead people to local chamber businesses will be listed. We need 20 businesses to develop clues for their business and are willing to provide a \$25 prize for the celebration event or \$25 check towards the celebration event. In addition, these 20 businesses will have a verification item (promotional gift or item, coupon, etc.) for each person/team/family when they solve the clue and come into said business. There will be advertisements on our website, in the South Advance, and in the GR Press, but the clue list will not be available until midnight on May 13! This should be a great new fun event aimed at getting people into your business and you can follow up with them from there.

In addition, on the last evening, Friday, May 19, Holiday Inn Express and Suites is hosting the Celebration Party. There will be door prizes, food, music, and a drawing for the Grand Prize from HIE. All of this to highlight the CCC businesses and network with our community. If you want to be involved, let Dawn Baker know at your earliest convenience. Flyers and more information will be available soon

“Person of the Year” Nominations

Each year the Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce honors someone who lives or works in the Cutlerville community and has made a significant impact to better Cutlerville. Nominations are open through March 1 and may be submitted to the CCC, 6670 Kalamazoo Ave., Suite E-234, Grand Rapids, MI 49508 or info@cutlervillechamber.org. The Board of Directors will review nominations and the nominations and winner will be listed in the March Newsletter.

March Joint Meeting with The Byron Center Chamber

On Wednesday, March 22 at noon, join us at the Country Kitchen (84th St & 131) for lunch and a presentation by “3D Strategies – Partners for Improved Organizational Performance”. Mary Jo DeJonge and Stephen Elkins will be speaking on “Positioning Your Privately-Owned Business for the Future”. 3D Strategies works with businesses for organizational development and improved organizational performance. They are part of the Family Firm Institute, which in part raises public awareness about trends and developments in the family business field.

News and Notes

Macatawa Bank is helping sponsoring an event with over 40 partnering churches to bring GR – “**7 Secrets of Effective Fathers**” with Ken Canfield on **this weekend**, February 17 & 18, 2006. Admission is free! Call 1-800-593-DADS or www.fathers.com/seminar for more info.

Sheriff Dave Kok with the Kent County Sheriff Department has been working hard to develop a Business Watch both on the Kalamazoo Avenue and Division Avenue corridors. The Business Watch is a partnership between the business community, local authorities, the police, and other organizations that represent business interests. It enables individual businesses to take an active part in preventing and reducing crime through sharing information, raising awareness, and improving communications through meetings and a functional “calling/fax tree”. The mission of the KCSD Business Watch is to help promote a safe environment for people to work, shop and live in. This is accomplished by businesses and law enforcement working together to reduce crime in the work place and area. The primary objective is to educate business owners and their employees to recognize crime and risks. The secondary objective is to train business owners and employees to take steps in reporting and preventing crime accurately.

If you have not yet signed up, make sure to contact him at your earliest convenience at 616-632-6365.

Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce Giving Project 2006 correction... Avis Rent-A-Car also donated to the project and was missed in the listing. Thanks again to all of you who helped make this Holiday project a great success!

Streetscape Update

As of January 13, all the drawings for the KCRC and the “Vision for Division” work by RJM were finished and submitted for approval.

As CCC members we would invite you to bid on the work being done on Division Avenue. All contractors and sub-contractors are required to be MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation) pre-qualified for the work that they bid. Bid packets can be ordered through MDOT in Lansing.

Log onto our website for detailed updates:

www.cutlervillechamber.org

Welcome New Members

Kava House
George Finch
6333 Kalamazoo Ave, S 100
Kentwood, MI 49508
616-971-4560

Z & Z Tire, LLC
Gary Zandstra
45 – 76th Street
Grand Rapids
893-8650

Edward Jones
Justin Gritter
1944 Rondo St
Kentwood
455-4166

Village Dollar
John and Diane Wiltjer
6713 S. Division Ave.
Grand Rapids
301-7820

Express Family Hair Salon
Jenny DeJong & Beth Johnson
6985 S. Division Ave.
Grand Rapids
616-301-8686

**Illusions Salon &
Day Spa**
Rachel Buitter/Lori Visser
6217 S. Division Ave.
Grand Rapids, MI 49548
616-530-2033

Welcome to the Cutlerville
Chamber of Commerce!

Did you know...

As a member of the Cutlerville Chamber, you are part of the **Avis Corporate Awards** Program. You can get discounted rental rates, extra days, and even upgrades just because you belong. Call Deb at Avis today and find out how to save some money... **616-532-8156!**

