



Chamber Letter

June, 2006
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The Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce:
• Business advocate
• Leader for positive economic development
• Provider of cutting edge membership services
www.hamilton-ohio.com

A Monthly Publication of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Forum

Greater Hamilton Chamber Celebrates June as Small Business Month

To recognize the importance of small business to the community's economic growth and prosperity and to call attention

to the important role small businesses play in retaining and creating jobs for the area, the Chamber's Small Business Council is celebrating June as Small Business Month. The Council will recognize the 2006 Small Business Person of the Year, the recipient of the Hamilton Heritage Award for Outstanding Community Involvement, and the winner of the 2006 Business Spirit Scholarship at a luncheon on Tuesday, June 27 at 11:45 a.m. at The Hamiltonian Hotel.

Guest speaker at the event will be



Wayne Krivsky

Wayne Krivsky, Cincinnati Reds General Manager. Krivsky was named Reds General Manager on February 8, 2006. He is in his first season in the

organization and in his 30th season in a Major League Baseball front office. He has spent the last 27 years in baseball administration, including the last 25 as assistant or special assistant to general managers for the Texas Rangers and Minnesota Twins. Krivsky brings to the organization 27 years of scouting and player evaluation experience at all levels of development. Since 1985 his duties have included extensive professional scouting. In addition to his scouting experience, since 1981 Krivsky has been involved in the contract negotiations of

Major League players and the preparation and resolution of salary arbitration cases. He has a 25-year working knowledge of Major League Baseball's rules and provisions of the Basic Agreement. Krivsky is a 1976 graduate of Duke University, where he played baseball for 3 seasons and earned a degree in management science.

This event is sponsored by **Certified Development Company of Butler County, Inc.** and **Cincinnati Bell Yellow Pages**. The cost to attend is \$15 for Chamber members and \$25 for non-members.



Sherry Webb, Chair, Accent Hamilton presents David Mancuso, Administrator, Westover Retirement Community with the committee's Community Appearance Business Award. If you would like to nominate a business for a Community Appearance Award please call the Chamber at 844-1500.

16th Annual Business EXPO 2006



This is your chance to be a part of the excitement! Showcase your products or services to businesses and general public at Expo 2006 on Thursday, August 10th from Noon – 5:00pm at Vora Technology Park, 101 Knightsbridge Drive, Hamilton. Enjoy delicious food as area restaurants and caterers showcase their products during the Expo.

Expo 2005 was sold out with over 80 businesses participating and an estimated 1,000+ attending the Expo. This is a great opportunity for your business to meet new clients.

Booths are filling up quickly. Send in your Expo Booth reservations and Sponsorships with payment to be included in the Business Expo!

Chamber Members are invited to join exhibitors for Party on the River from 5:00pm – 7:00pm where you can network, enjoy more food and live entertainment.

Need more information? Contact Laura at the Chamber 513-844-1500.

Business After Hours

Senior Citizens to Host June

Please join us on Thursday, June 15th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

for Business After Hours hosted by Senior Citizens, Inc. Learn more about Senior Citizens, Inc. while

enjoying refreshments and networking with Chamber members at this complimentary event. Please make reservations by calling the Chamber at 844-1500.



Mark Your Calendar:

- August 10 – Business Expo
- August 17 – Red Carpet Luncheon featuring Mark Laport, President & CEO, Concord Hospitality Enterprises Company (Management of Hamiltonian Hotel)
- September 21 – Steak Fry

PLATINUM SPONSOR:





Kenny's Comments

GOVERNMENT SPENDING LIMITATIONS

In keeping with our mission to be your business advocate, I would like provide information on an issue scheduled to be on the ballot this November. I'm referring to the Ohio Tax and Expenditure Limitation Amendment (TEL Amendment). In a move to get this issue pulled from the ballot, the Ohio Legislature acted in late May to pass state-spending limits fashioned as a substitute to this constitutional amendment. The legislature also is attempting to change state statutes to assure the TEL could be withdrawn. Although we are unaware of the details concerning the spending limits being proposed by the legislature, we are familiar with the components of the TEL. The purpose of this article is to inform you of some of the details of the TEL Amendment and the purpose behind it. I urge you to read any additional information you can acquire concerning this important issue, which if in fact it appears on the November ballot, will have an impact on state and local governments. We'll continue to

track the legislative alternatives currently being proposed. Feel free to share your findings and opinions with me!

The Ohio Tax and Expenditure Limitation constitutional amendment would limit the annual increase of aggregate expenditures (spending), not only for the state but for each Ohio political subdivision. This spending would be limited to the greater of: (a) 3.5% of its aggregate expenditures for the previous fiscal year or (b) the sum of the rate of inflation plus its population growth. This spending limitation could be exceeded only by the affirmative vote of a majority of electors at the next statewide special, primary or general election.

All political subdivisions are subject to the expenditure limitation. In addition, political subdivisions may not increase expenditures, levy a new tax or increase the rate of an existing tax, without first obtaining the approval of a majority of electors in that political subdivision.

There is significant disagreement among proponents and opponents of the TEL amendment. Opponents argue that a "majority of electors" means a majority of registered voters in a political subdivision, not just a majority of registered voters who actually vote in an election. This interpretation would make it difficult to pass a levy or increase spending beyond the allowable rate because passage would require an affirmative vote of over 50% of all registered voters in a political subdivision. Proponents of the TEL amendment argue that a "majority of electors" means a majority of electors who vote in an election.

In general the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce stands for public sector spending restraint as a critical factor in our area and Ohio regaining its economic strength. With this said, we are concerned with some of the ambiguity in the language contained in the TEL amendment. I urge you to also investigate the TEL amendment language as each of us may have an opportunity to vote on this in November. As the details of new legislation being proposed by the Ohio Legislature unfold, we will share them with you. For information explaining both sides of this issue, I suggest going to the following websites:

www.buckeyeinstitute.org/article/74,
www.ohiosfuture.org, and
www.bricker.com/legalservices/industry/polsubdiv/tel.asp.

Please contact us to express your opinion concerning the TEL amendment. You can call me at 844-1500 or e-mail me at Kenny@hamilton-ohio.com!

I look forward to seeing you this summer at our golf outing and our many other events! Thanks for your participation in the Chamber!



Have you visited the Chamber's Website?

Please take a few minutes to visit www.hamilton-ohio.com to see our web site designed by Chamber member, Turnstyle Creative.

There are many new features to the web site. A few of these include:

- A new feature on the front page is the Membership Highlight section featuring Platinum and Gold Sustaining Members of the Chamber and News Articles. This is the area to visit to for updates about upcoming events or important issues.

- Our Chamber Membership Directory is on-line. Search by business name or business category. This is updated frequently as new members join. Use the Directory to patronize fellow Chamber Member businesses.
- The *ChamberLetter* is archived on the website.
- The Media Room's Video Center has videos about Hamilton for viewing.

These are just a few of the new features on our site. Visit frequently to stay updated!

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Kudos to Members

Congratulations to **Gorman's Specialty Group** which is celebrating its **35th Anniversary** this year!

New Members & Renewals

(As of May 13, 2006)

Welcome New members!

Butler-Hamilton Chemdry

Michael Tetzner, Owner
9611 Semaphore Ct.
West Chester, OH 45069
755-0510
mtt@cinci.rr.com
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Lucky's Woodsdale Drive-Thru

Michele Allen, President
1728 Wayne-Madison Rd.
Trenton, OH 45067
893-2337 fax 777-9101
Michele.allen69@yahoo.com
DRIVE THRU BEVERAGE STOPS
Sponsor: April Adams, First Financial Bank

The Salvation Army

Major Ted Slye, Pastor/ Administrator
235 Ludlow St.
Hamilton, OH 45011
863-1445 fax 863-7521
Ted_slye@use.salvationarmy.org
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Renewals

Accurate Appraising
American Heart Association
At Your Service Limousine
Bob Evans – Fairfield Township
Boyd Chiropractic Health Center
Butler County Treasurer, Carole Moschetti
Chemcentral Cincinnati
Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
John Clements, DMD Family & Cosmetic

Dentistry
Don Speed Accounting
Hamilton Equipment
Lindenwald Medical Associates
Dan Millikin
Pediatric Associates of Fairfield
Bill Rentschler
Shared Harvest Food Bank
Hal Shepherd
Ken Snyder
Somerville National Bank
Thompson Hine LLP
T-Mobile
Tumbleweed Restaurant
VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
Yellow Book USA

Ambassador of the Month

Congratulations to **Sheila Oeters** with KeyBank, she is our Ambassador of the month! Sheila was recently awarded "Rookie of the Year" & the President's Award for KeyBank. Sheila has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and is an avid Bearcat fan. Sheila has been on the Ambassador Committee since July of 2005. Thanks Sheila for being a part of our team!



Spotlight on Business

Premier Mechanical Services, Inc. Expands in Hamilton



BizTech Center's First Tenant Grows, Succeeds and Graduates!

Premier Mechanical Services, Inc. has expanded its business and has purchased a 3000 square foot building in Hamilton to house company operations that provide 24 hour service in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, controls, energy management and back flow testing. Using company capital, an SBA 504 loan coordinated by the Certified Development Company of Butler County, Inc. and financial partner Fifth Third Bank, Premier Mechanical was able to purchase the building, additional equipment and continue expanding customer services. Owner Kevin Bracher began as a home based business in 2002, relocated to BizTech Center, and with the assistance of BizTech's resources, technical assistance and affordable space for lease, has grown the company which now employs six licensed HVAC technicians. Customers are based in Hamilton, Butler County, southwest Ohio, and northern Kentucky and include municipalities, businesses and corporations. To contact Premiere Mechanical for services, please call 737-9220. The company was headquartered at Butler County's business incubator BizTech Center since spring, 2003 and was the business incubator's first tenant. Currently, 22 companies representing 105 jobs are located at BizTech. For more information about the BizTech Center please visit their website at www.biztechcenter.com, or contact Marilyn Collmer at 737-6543.

MEMBER BENEFIT

Office DEPOT Business Solutions Division Chamber Member Supply Program

Contact Office Depot to REGISTER for the Office DEPOT Business Solutions Division account and SAVE like never before on your total office supplies, technology, furniture, custom promotional merchandise and apparel as well as custom stationary and printed products as a member of the Greater Hamilton Chamber.

As a member, you'll have tremendous buying power, more flexible billing options and we'll customize our program to satisfy the unique product and service needs of your organization.

Office Depot's Business Solutions website at <https://bsd.officedepot.com> connects you to all channels of their business 24/7. Need login information? Email susan.frey@officedepot.com.

Need supplies Same Day or just prefer to shop In-Store? Visit any Office Depot stores and receive the Lowest Pricing guaranteed when using either your registered Business Credit Card, an Office DEPOT Credit Card or an Office DEPOT Store Purchase Card. You'll receive your contract Chamber price or the current store's sale price, whichever is lower at the time. (Coupons will void any recalculation.)

For further details, EMAIL susan.frey@officedepot.com, CALL (513)881-7226 x7331 or FAX (513)868.0349.



**Greater Hamilton
Chamber of Commerce
SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

PLATINUM
PNC BANK

GOLD

Butler County Medical Center
Butler Tech
Cincinnati Bell
Fifth Third Bank
First Financial Bank
Fort Hamilton Healthcare Corp.
JournalNews
Lebanon Citizens National Bank
Lorenz+Williams
Meijer
Mercy Hospital Fairfield
Miller Brewing Company
Mohawk Paper Mills, Inc.
Porter Advertising
Seasongood & Mayer

SILVER

Hamiltonian Hotel
Integrated Network Systems
KeyBank
National City Bank
Ohio Casualty Group
PCC Internet Group

For more information on how you can become a Sustaining Member, contact your Chamber at 844-1500.

**Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Hamilton Economic Development Corporation is to be the business advocate, a leader for positive economic development, and the provider of cutting edge membership services.



Chamber Clicks

Leadership Hamilton Class 15

Leadership Hamilton Class 15 enjoys their last day of class at Camp Campbell Gard. The class participated in a number of team building exercises and the high ropes course. Applications are now being accepted for Leadership Hamilton Class 16 which starts in September 2006. Please call Nancy O'Neill at the Chamber (844-1500) for more information.



Ribbon Cutting

Mayor Don Ryan was on hand to cut the ribbon at the grand re-opening of the Fifth Third Bank branch located in the Kroger at Hamilton Meadows Shopping Center.



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