

Spring Is Busy at The Chamber!

The last week in March proved to be a good news week for Albion businesses and brought good weather for some ribbon-cuttings. First up was the **Goodwill** store in Albion celebrating 50 years in business and becoming part of **Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan's Heartland**, a new partnership between Battle Creek and the Jackson.

Then we celebrated the arrival of a new digital photo processing machine at **Young's Pharmacy**.

Be sure to stop in both stores and see what's new!

Since the IRS extended the tax deadline by two days this year.....you have two more days to procrastinate or stress out..... But on Saturday, April 21, you'll be able to forget all of that, commiserate with other business people, and take it out on the bowling ball at the annual Chamber Bowlathon. This year's Bowlathon will be combined with a "hard times" party, so bowler or not, come out to Country Lanes (costumed preferably as during the Great Depression) and enjoy the food and fun!

Some of you "old timers" will remember the Hard Times par-

ties we had a number of years ago, right after tax season. Most memorable were bag lady **Fran Costianes**, cardboard mattress and all, camped at **Cascarelli's** door, the gangster/bootlegger/rum-runner outfits, and the Depression food.

So, get up a team now or just plan to come out to eat. Check-in for bowling begins at 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and includes bowling, ball, shoes and food. Cost for the meal only is \$7 and food will be available beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Committee members are: Randy Fisher (**Gordon Martin Builder**), chair; RoseMary Fisher (**Gordon Martin Builder**), Patricia Hickey (**Starr Commonwealth**), Scott Pickens (**Pickens Plating**), Deb Pickens (**CISD**), Gordy Garza, Dawn Morgan, Bernie Konkle I and Bernie Konkle II (**Decker Manufacturing**), Peg and Sue (**The Chamber**), and Lee Schultheiss (**Artisson, LLC**).

The Chamber's 6th annual Virtual Expo will open on Friday, April 27. Sign up now for our pioneer, **award-winning** virtual trade show, **albionbizexpo.biz**, and increase your ability to be found on the Internet!

Since April 28, 2006, the Albion Business Expo has had 7,904 visitors – a startling increase of **39%** over the previous year. Most exhibitors have experienced increases ranging from 10% to an amazing 150%, with the average being 26%. Many of our exhibitor pages are coming up towards the top of the list of results on Google and Yahoo searches, bringing their pages many new visitors and potential customers.

If you don't have your own website, you will receive incredible exposure at only a fraction of what it would cost you to have your own. You can receive our expertise so you, too, can start reaching new customers. Even if you have your own website, participating in the Virtual Expo can do nothing but increase your exposure significantly.

Visit the current Expo online now at www.albionbizexpo.biz and picture YOUR business in there alongside all the others.

To improve our services, we
a) need b) want c) respectfully request **d) all of the above!!!**

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

(If you are receiving the newsletter and other things electronically obviously we already have it!) and **MEMBER HAPPENINGS!**

Member Happenings

The Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce encourages all members to do business with each other. The companies and individuals listed below have recently made an important investment in their business by joining or renewing their membership in the Chamber. We hope that you will consider doing business with them.

New Member

Goodwill Industries of Central Michigan's Heartland

Robert Holderbaum, President/CEO
4820 Wayne Road
Battle Creek MI 49015
Phone: 269-964-9455
Fax: 269-964-9519
www.goodwillcmh.org
Retail

1 year

Fabricating Concepts, LLC Ismon House Reaction Industries LLC

5 years

Pam Blodgett-Bilicke, CFP, RFC Representative Michael L. Nofs

15 years

Worldl Corrugated Container

84 years

SEMCO Energy Gas Co.

Other Renewals

**Albion Community Foundation
Albion Elks Lodge 1798
Culligan Water Conditioning
NAPA of Albion
Oaklawn Hospital
Pickens Plating
Ruff & Kreger Builders
Lane Stumpos, DDS
Jean R. Taylor
Team One Plastics
W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital**

Wolf's Auto Service

Caster Concepts, Inc. announces the launch of RapidType Engineering, and engineering consulting service focused on delivering cost effective, cutting edge, high tech solutions to small to medium sized companies which conventionally would not have the resources or capital to staff a full time engineering team. This engineering group is lead by Elmer Lee, Ph.D. who has three degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Ben Miles who has more that a decade of experience in industrial manufacturing. A full description of the engineering team can be found at www.casterconcepts.com/engineering/team.asp.

Backed by **Caster Concepts'** manufacturing muscle and its 2000 square foot research laboratory, RapidType Engineering will provide engineering services in the areas of product development, physical testing and simulations, manufacturing and automation development. RapidType is focused on providing a cost effective, high tech solution to all of its customers, helping each to to modernize and to be more competitive in this global market place. RapidType projects have included developing fully and partially automated, computerized test machines and manufacturing automation for **Caster Concepts, Inc.**

www.casterconcepts.com/engineering/projects.asp
And carrying out product development projects for CasterShoX. RpidType engineers have extensive experience in mechanical design, developing testing proto-

cols for product evaluation, automation development, and process and quality optimization.

Davan's now has a liquor license!

Albion's **Festival of the Forks** is looking for someone who has provided outstanding leadership and service to the community of Albion to be the Grand Marshall for the 2007 Festival of the Forks. The Forks Advisory Committee will review the nominations and select the person(s) to honor. Do you know a person that always goes that extra length for the community, year after year, a person whom would be hard to replace; yet he or she never gets the recognition they deserve? Nominate them for a 2007 Forks Award. Please send name, address and phone number of nominee; your name and phone number, and the reason for the nomination of that person, including type and length of involvement with the community: Festival of the Forks, P.O. Box 238, Albion, MI 49224 (postmarked by April 10) or email: j41mcguigan@hotmail.com.

*Please pass along
The Greater Albion
Business News to your
colleagues and friends
and encourage them
to participate in
Chamber events such
as Eggs & Issues and
the annual Chamber
Bowlathon on Satur-
day, April 21.*



Eggs & Issues

Date: Friday, April 20, 2007

Time: 7:30 am

Place: Cascarelli's of Albion

(Please use conference room door off back parking lot)

Cost: \$7.00 per person

Please R.S.V.P (if possible)

517-629-5533

April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter	9	10 7:30 a.m.—DDA Board of Directors	11 7:30 a.m.—EDC Board of Directors	12	13 Don't forget to register for the Virtual Expo!	14
15	16	17 11:45 a.m.— Chamber Board of Directors 5:36 p.m.— Ambassadors	18	19	20 7:30 a.m.—Eggs & Issues, Cascarelli's	21 1:15 p.m.— Chamber Bowlathon & Hard Times Party Country Lanes
22	23	24	25	26	27 Kick-Off 2007-08 Virtual Expo Albionbizexpo.biz	28
29	30					

2007 Officers and Board of Directors

Chairman - Bernard Konkle I (Decker Manufacturing)

1st Vice-Chairman—Randy Fisher (Gordon Martin Builder)

Secretary/Treasurer - Missy Hoath (Chemical Bank)

Immediate Past Chairman - Sandi Pfeffer (Bob Frahm Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac)

Retail

Vacant

David Weeks

Sandi Pfeffer

Bob Frahm Chevrolet

Manufacturing

Chuck Reuther

World Corrugated Container

Scott Pickens

Pickens Plating

Bernard Konkle I

Decker Manufacturing

Services

Missy Hoath

Chemical Bank

Jeff Bell

Homestead Savings Bank

Ron Rice

Albion Insurance Agency

Professional

Tom Hunsdorfer

Albion College

Mark Garrison

Tuck, Garrison & Moore

Mike Olma

Tidd-Williams Funeral Chapels

At-Large

Richard Noll

Pamida

Lee Schultheiss

Artisson, LLC

Randy Fisher

Gordon Martin Builder

Greater Albion Business News

Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce
416 S. Superior Street, P.O. Box 238
Albion, MI 49224

"The Voice of Albion Business since 1923"

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALBION, MICHIGAN
PERMIT NO. 353

Don't miss the Bowlathon, Saturday, April 21!