



BUSINESS BROADCAST

400 South Gay Street
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050
740-393-1111
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chamber@knoxchamber.com
www.knoxchamber.com

MOUNT VERNON-KNOX COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



OUR MISSION:

To develop, enhance and represent business; to serve as a source of community leadership; and to promote trade among the members.



Annual Business Awards Dinner - Friday, January 15, 2010

That's right! This year's annual dinner will be held on a Friday evening.
RSVP no later than January 11th. Seating is limited.

Join us at Peirce Hall at Kenyon College as we honor this year's nominees.

Thank you Corporate Sponsor, The Energy Cooperative.



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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**Eaton Center
at Kenyon
College**



Have you ever seen a purple poinsettia? A fitting color for Kenyon! The Eaton Center was beautifully decorated for the holidays with purple poinsettias, beautiful trees, and garland. The Eaton Center is a handsome structure and home to the president's office, accounting, human resources, purchasing, and the Philander Chase Corporation. This is the financial hub of the college.

We appreciate the warm hospitality of Dr. Georgia Nugent and her staff.

Remember, the Business After Hours events are *open to the public* so please mark your calendar each month to attend this event and bring a co-worker or friend. The more the merrier! Bring your business cards to distribute as you meet with people and don't forget to throw one in the door prize drawing container.

Join us January 26th at Aunt Bee's Quilts & More for the next Business After Hours event. See page 4 for details.



Looking for business space?
Have available business space?
Go to www.knoxchamber.com and click on Available Business Space for current listings and instructions on how to list your available space.

	Dennis & Schisler, Inc. Certified Public Accountants 206 South Mulberry Street Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050 Phone (740) 397-1721 www.dennisandschisler.com
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**State Representative,
90th District**

Margaret Ann Ruhl
77 South High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-1431
district90@ohr.state.oh.us

State Senator, 19th District

Bill Harris
State House
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-8086
SD19@senate.state.oh.us

U.S. Senators

George Voinovich
37 West Broad Street, Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-469-6697
khisha_fallon@voinovich.senate.gov

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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Congratulations 2009 Nominees and Thank You To Our Award Sponsor's



The Annual Awards Dinner is the Chamber's largest fund-raising event for our non-profit organization. Our sponsor's support is needed not only to recognize businesses and individuals for their achievements at this dinner, but to continue to bring our members benefits and quality programs.

Heart Award

Sponsored by:

Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnson

Buchwald Center, MVNU
Centerburg Pointe
Peirce Hall at Kenyon College

Quality of Life Award

Sponsored by:

Knox Community Hospital

Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County
Peirce Hall at Kenyon College
Station Break Senior Center

Paul Slaughter Volunteer of the Year Award

Sponsored by:

CenturyLink

Gene Jackson
Jennifer Odenweller
Susan Sukys

Investor in the Future Award

Sponsored by:

Ariel Corporation

Central Ohio Technical College
Rolls-Royce Energy Systems
The Village Network-Knox County

Women in Business Leadership Award

Sponsored by:

Fredericktown Chevrolet

Cheri Butcher
Margie Bennett
Susan Sukys

Small Business of the Year Award

Sponsored by:

Zelkowitz, Barry & Cullers

ECR
G.R. Smith Hardware
Herald's Appliance & Electronics

Business of the Year Award

Sponsored by:

First-Knox National Bank

Lanning's Foods
Mount Vernon Developmental Center
Rolls-Royce Energy Systems

Ambassador of the Year Award

Sponsored by:

ECR Computers, Networking & Web Design and Ver-Mac Industries, Inc

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by:

Central Ohio Technical College

Both the Ambassador and the Lifetime Achievement winners will be announced at the dinner.

*Sponsorship Opportunities for the
Mount Vernon-Knox County Chamber of Commerce
94th Annual Awards Dinner*

_____ \$500 *Platinum Sponsorship*
This includes 2 Dinner Tickets

_____ \$250 *Executive Sponsorship*

_____ \$100 *Black-tie Sponsor*

Help us reach our goal with your generous contribution. This is our largest fund-raising event and assist us in continuing to provide quality programs and benefits to our members. Your support is appreciated!

Name: _____

Company: _____

Please review this consideration at your convenience. Be sure to have it back to us by **January 11** so you can be included in the dinner program. If you have any questions please give us a call. I hope you will join us for this wonder-

Fax 740-393-1590, E-mail chamber@knoxchamber.com, Telephone 740-393-1111



Thank you for your sponsorship.

Upon your return of this page an invoice will follow. You can be invoiced now or after the dinner, which ever would better fit your Marketing Budget.



Business After Hours

Its all about the Networking...

*Who do you know? Who knows you?
Everyone is welcome!*

Aunt Bee's Quilts & More
229 South Main, Mount Vernon

Tuesday, Jan. 26th
5:00 to 6:00 pm

RSVP: chamber@knoxchamber.com
or call the chamber office: 740-393-1111.

Ambassadors, please wear your red jacket.
Thank you for supporting fellow members!

Midday Matters

A monthly program of the
Chamber of Commerce
Presents

Local Business Panel: 2009 Trends and 2010 Expectations

Bob Cohen
CEO Braintree Business Development Center,
Gordy Yance
President, First-Knox National Bank
Ron Bolender
Business Professor, MVNU
Susan Sukys
President, Money Concepts Financial Planning

Thursday, Jan. 28th
noon to 1pm

Alcove Restaurant
116 South Main Street, Mount Vernon

Cost includes lunch.
Check in begins at 11:45
Chamber Members: \$15 Non-Chamber \$20

RSVP online, or 740-393-1111, or
e-mail chamber@knoxchamber.com

Safety Council

*Forklift Safety
Getting Beyond Compliance*

David Hoover
President, Forklift Training Systems

When: January 20th
Where: Dan Emmett Conference Center
Time: 7:30 until 8:30 am.
RSVP: Reservations required. Contact the
chamber office at 740-393-1111 or e-mail
chamber@knoxchamber.com.
Cost: \$10, breakfast provided.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR YOUR LOCAL
BWC REPRESENTATIVE?
Call: 419-529-4528

Committee Meetings

**You are invited to join a chamber
steering committee.**

Business Education Workforce Dev.
Jan. 6th, 8:30am at chamber

Leadership Knox Steering Committee
Jan. 13th, 8:00am at chamber

Legislative Steering Committee
Feb. 11th, Noon at Sip's

Safety Council Steering Committee
Jan. 5th 8:00am at Sip's

You Make A Difference!

Contact the Chamber office for details.

2010 Passion for Fashion

Sponsored by The Secret Closet for
The Knox County Arthritis Foundation



An Affair to Remember

January 23, 2010

The Dan Emmett Conference Center
150 Howard Street • Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Doors Open to Shop & Bid at 4:00 pm
Music • Hors D'oeuvres • Open Bar
Dinner & Fashion Show at 6:00 pm
Raffle & Silent Auction Winners announced at 8:00 pm
Music & Dancing until 10:00 pm

Merchant Displays ~ Silent Auction
Raffle ~ Cash Bar

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at The Secret Closet, The Alcove Restaurant & The Arthritis Foundation. All proceeds to benefit The Knox County Arthritis Foundation.

For more information, please call Vikki at 740-393-5065 or Terrie at 740-397-0499.

Legislative News



“Obama Touts Tax Breaks for Small Business Hiring”

By [Catherine Clifford](#), CNNMoney.com staff reporter

Tax breaks for new jobs: President Obama threw his support behind a controversial proposal to provide tax incentives for small businesses to hire, but he didn't offer any details as to how he would implement the program.

"I believe it's worthwhile to create a tax incentive to encourage small businesses to add and keep employees, and I'm going to work with Congress to pass one," Obama said.

On a conference call with reporters prior to Obama's speech, senior administration officials said that they are still tossing around a slew of options, including tax credits for creating jobs or a temporary payroll tax holiday.

The plan is [controversial](#) because it's rife with potential for scams and for spending taxpayer dollars to "create" jobs that would have been filled even without the government incentives.

Another option under consideration is a payroll tax holiday, which would temporarily waive the 12.4% tax levied on workers' first \$106,800 of wages. Typically, employers pay half of that tax and their workers pay the other half.

A tax holiday would especially benefit business owners and sole proprietors, because they foot the full 12.4% tax bill. It would also put more cash in the hands of business owners, which lawmakers hope would be used to hire additional workers. However, a payroll tax would be very expensive, and the current political environment is unfriendly to the idea of expanding the already record and growing deficit.

The National Federation of Independent Business, an influential trade group, has been advocating for months for a payroll tax holiday. It would offer businesses an immediate and much-needed cash infusion, said Bill Rys, the NFIB's tax council. In his view, a tax credit would be of more limited use.

"You have to have an economic reason to bring a worker onto your payroll," said Rys. "Just giving you a \$3,000 tax credit isn't going to be a whole lot of incentive to hire someone if you don't have \$30,000 worth of business coming through the door."



Websites & Legislative News:

www.OhioChamber.com

www.OhioBusinessVotes.org

<http://brown.senate.gov/>

<http://voinovich.senate.gov/>



Senator Sherrod
Brown's Newsletter

George V. Voinovich
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Government Day - Leadership Knox - December 17, 2009

Submitted by: **Kathy Coon, Knox Community Hospital**

Do you remember what you learned about local government when you were in high school? Me either! Recently, the Leadership Knox class was able to spend a beautiful and fun day learning about township, municipal, county, and state government. Throughout the day we listened to local government leaders with rapt interest and toured several "old and new" local government buildings. Who would have guessed that the topic of government could be so interesting?

We began at the Mount Vernon Fire Department where Mayor Richard Mavis welcomed us. Mayor Mavis is in his 14th year of serving Mount Vernon as mayor; he shared a few of his favorite personal pearls of wisdom for his long success in government. The Mayor also gave an interesting overview of the organization and responsibilities of our city government.

Our State Representative, Margaret Ann Ruhl spoke about the process of how a bill becomes a law (this time around the topic was appealing, and actually made sense!). One of Ms. Ruhl's many strengths is that she has many years of local government experience, which helps her to know the affects of proposed bills on our community, at the local level.

Patti Frazee, Liberty Township Trustee, shared an overview of her varied responsibilities that range from road to cemetery maintenance; serving on the local fire district board; and setting the annual township budget. When asked what skills or experience were helpful to her success, she good-naturedly answered, "Well, a financial background, knowledge of the community, and a willingness to learn, but if you can drive a snow plow, it's a plus!"

The city's Safety Service Director Dave Glass gave an enlightening presentation about Mount Vernon. Mr. Glass also included photos of multiple capital projects that are either currently under way, or will be in the not so distant future. Ask your family if they know some of these fun city facts!

- The area of Mount Vernon is 6,313 acres although the original plat was only 77 acres
- There are 63 miles of water lines with 2.6 million gallons of water pumped each day
- There are 82 miles of streets and 14 miles of storm sewer alleys
- We have over 186 acres of parks with 100 acres that require weekly mowing and trimming

Shawn Christy has served as Chief of the Mount Vernon Fire Department for the past four years. In 2009, the department responded to over 4,400-fire suppression and EMS calls. Chief Christy discussed fire prevention and education as the keys to community safety. Chief Christy and Assistant Chief Chris Menapace also treated the class to a tour of the fire department. Needless to say, the kid came out in all of us when we used the employee slide to get to the first floor from the second floor living quarters!

After a wonderful lunch prepared by Flappers and served in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Knox County Service Center, three of the Knox County Commissioners (Teresa Bemiller, Alan Stockberger, and Bob Wise) gave an overview of county government including how commissioners are elected, their many responsibilities, and how they work cooperatively with many other local government subdivisions to represent the county. The afternoon continued with a brief walk to the stately Knox County Courthouse and a visit to the Common Pleas Court Room. The Honorable Judges Otho Eyster and James Ronk spoke passionately about the types, complexities and challenges of presiding over nearly 3000 general/ domestic and criminal cases in Knox County each year. Both Judges felt that approximately 60-70% of the criminal cases in Knox County are currently related to drugs and substance abuse. Afterwards, the class could not help but take a moment to feel the history of the 150-year-old courthouse looking at its beautiful woodwork, intricate carvings and other architectural marvels. Imagine standing on the steps of our own Knox County Courthouse in 1865 awaiting news about the end of the Civil War!

The sun shone brightly as the class traveled to the Knox County Jail Complex, one of the newest county government buildings, where Sheriff David Barber discussed goals and accomplishments of the County Law Enforcement. The new jail complex, a strategic response team and recently achieved international accreditation, serve as a testament to the Knox County Sheriff's Department's hard work and commitment to the people of Knox County. The day ended with dessert and coffee at Allison's Finer Diner where module leader Carrie Tenschert led the agenda and the class began planning the annual Leadership Knox project and assigning tasks to members to be accomplished before the January meeting. All agreed that Government Day was a huge success! We would like to sincerely thank all of those people involved in coordinating and or speaking at today's event.



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Kahrl & Company 397-1066

W.S. Hogg Insurance 397-7676

FREE HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESS

The Chamber plays host to two free counseling services for small businesses. **Service Corps Of Retired Executives (SCORE)** is a mentoring program that uses local volunteer retired executives to counsel business owners. A division of the Small Business Association, trained SCORE counselors give face-to-face advice and draw on years of experience.

The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** also provides counseling and training programs to improve skills and knowledge of business owners. The SBDC can prepare small business to meet the specialized and complex needs vital to success.

Between these two services are help with business plan development and analysis, financial projections, cash flow analysis, marketing, management and much more.

To set up an appointment with a SCORE advisor, call Bob Lantz at 740-393-1111. To meet with Kathy Goon from the SBDC, call 419-525-1614.



ANTHEM BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD CHAMBER PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- 20 plan choices from 100% hospitalization to low cost \$2500 deductible options
- Chamber prices approximately 3% less than non-chamber group prices
- Dental, disability, vision and life coverage is available

REQUIREMENTS

- At least 2 enrolled employees/owners required
- 50% or more full-time employees must enroll
- Husband and wife companies can qualify if both are compensated thru the business
- Groups with health problems can enroll, but may receive higher premiums