



My Business Advocate

Building Better Communities by Building Better Businesses

October Chamber After Hours is Family Affair



keep the kids entertained while you network to expand your referral base.

There is no cost to attend this evening networking event and **you don't have to be a member**. Use this opportunity to introduce the Chamber to other business owners that could benefit from Membership. If they sign on as your referral, you will earn \$25 in Chamber Bucks to use toward a future Chamber event.

There will be drawings for some really nice prizes at the end of the evening but you must be present to win. And don't forget the 50/50

raffle. You could take home the cash! A limited number of Showcase Tables are still available but hurry, they are filling fast. Contact sue@southkent.org for details. Register at www.southkent.org.



Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 13 from 5 pm to 7 pm and plan to bring the family to Craig's Cruisers for some great networking opportunities in a laid back, family-oriented atmosphere.

The pizza, pasta and salad bar will ensure everyone is well fed. Tokens for the games and attractions will be available for purchase to

2012 WKACC Board of Directors Opportunity

Nominations to the Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce (WKACC) 2012 Board of Directors are now being accepted.

The nominations must be received in the Chamber office by the close of business at 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 15, 2011.

Nominees will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee. Nominated members in good standing will be on ballots mailed to all members by the end of September.

Being a board member is a privilege of leadership that grows great leaders in our communities.

The purpose of the WKACC Board is to help local businesses generate profitable growth. Board Members network and grow their own businesses while serving the Wyoming and Kentwood communities.

Nominations must be submitted by email to ken@southkent.org or by fax at 616-531-0252.

Highlights of Coming Events

- 09/08 Higher Health Chiropractic - Ribbon Cutting /Back to School Festival
- 09/09 Speed Networking - 7:30 am - 9 am @ Grandville Banquet Center
- 09/13 Santa Parade Planning - Noon - Chamber Office
- 09/16 3rd Fridays! - 11:30 am @ La Hacienda, 1548 28th St SW
- 10/13 Chamber After Hours - 5 pm - 7 pm @ Craig's Cruisers
- 10/21 3rd Fridays! - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm @ La Hacienda, 1548 28th St SW
- 10/24 Legislative Luncheon - 11:30 am @ Hilton Grand Rapids Airport
- 11/03 South Kent Business Expo - @Celebration! South
- 11/10 Chamber After Hours - 5-7 pm @ Williams Furniture, 60 28th St SW
- 11/15 New Member Breakfast - Location TBA
- 11/18 3rd Fridays! - 11:30 am @ Hilton GR Airport, 4747 28th St SE

Calendars on Pages 6 & 7

Log on to www.southkent.org for details

Pay Event Fees On-line with Visa or MasterCard!

Save The Date Lunch w/Legislators

Monday, Oct 24, 2011



At the Hilton GR Airport
4747 28th Street @ Patterson

YOUR CHAMBER MANAGEMENT

2011 Board of Directors

*indicates Executive Committee Member

***Kathey Batey** - Priority Health/Spirited Presentations LLC, Board Chair
* **Rob Wells** - VantagePointe Financial, Sr. Vice Chair
***Ken Malik** - President/CEO
***Norine Mulvihill** - Past Chair
***Betsy Artz** - Loeks Theaters (Celebration Cinema)
* **Brent Holland** - Chameleon Ltd
***Brent Vander Kolk** - Vander Kolk & Vander Kolk PLC, Legal Counsel
***Richard Chrisman** - Hungerford, Aldrin Nichols & Carter, Chair, Fin. & Budget
***Bob O'Callaghan** - Citadel Broadcasting

Community Relations Division

***Rob Wells** - Sr. Vice Chair
Vic Krause - Metro Health
Jerry DeGood - Auto Finance

Member Relations Division

***Bob O'Callaghan** - Vice Chair
Richard Chrisman - Hungerford, Aldrin, Nichols & Carter
Anna Kruse - workpaths.com

Membership Development Division

***Brent Holland** - Vice Chair
Tommy Brann - Brann's Steakhouse & Grille
Amanda Lewis - gNetworks

Financial Development Division

***Betsy Artz** - Vice Chair
Lillian VanderVeen - Lenger Travel Services
Jessica Ann Tyson - Celebration Cinema
Ruth Gaudard - AT&T

Ex-Officio

Jack Poll - City of Wyoming, Mayor
Richard Root - City of Kentwood, Mayor
Curtis Holt - City of Wyoming, Manager
Bill Doren - Chamber Foundation Chair

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Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce
921 47th St SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

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Newsletter/Advert. Information: sue@southkent.org

*Building Better Communities by
Building Better Businesses*

2011 Foremost Insurance 28th Street Metro Cruise ®

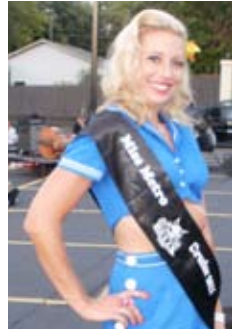


Crane Shot - Thank you Event Volunteer Karen Kacynski for this photo facing East looking up 28th Street. Talk about a nose-bleed seat!



The first annual Pin-up Girl Contest sponsored by Humana attracted more than a dozen contestants looking for the title of Miss Metro Cruise - 2011.

*And the winner is:
Becky Biesiada
(right)*



Show cars line up for review and Rogers Plaza draws thousands of people to the Downtown Wyoming Business District. Similar crowds formed at Sears Auto Center in Kentwood. Estimates are more than 200,000 visitors attended the two day event.

Volunteers Drive Metro Cruise

After many months of hard work, the 2011 Foremost Insurance 28th Street Metro Cruise is history. Judging from the feedback we are getting from visitors and car owners, it was another huge success for the community and for the volunteers that so diligently worked to make it happen.

The entire event was planned, organized and driven by a very special group of volunteers. Led by David Szidik, the committee made up of Rick Sturim, Steve Sturim, Gregg Howard, Janna Falicki, Sean Ellis, Todd Duncan, Anna Kruse, Rich Wadsworth, Karen Kacynski, Lillian VanderVeen and Betsy Artz began planning the 7th annual event last November.

The event was supported by dozens of community volunteers that came out on the days of the event to interact with visitors, vendors and exhibitors.

A great big thank you goes out to all of these generous people who volunteered their time to make the event a success:

A special thanks to the Falicki Family: Janna, Jennifer, Andrew, Andria, John, Amanda, Anna and Madison for all your hard work during the days of the event.

Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce is also very grateful to the public safety officials that helped with crowd and traffic control. The Cities of Wyoming, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Cascade, and Grandville, deputies from the Kent County Sheriff's Office and officers from the Michigan State Police all had a presence along 28th Street. (No major problems were reported over the two day event.)

We also appreciate the support of the Wyoming Downtown Development Authority and

Mayor Jack Polls from Wyoming and Mayor Richard Root from Kentwood.

We want to send a great big thank you out to Tom Norton and all of the great volunteers out at **WKTV**. Their video coverage of the event was awesome!

And of course, we have to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by all of the sponsors and businesses that got out and supported this event with their marketing dollars. Congratulations on taking the opportunity to be a part of the largest car show in West Michigan.

Planning is already underway to form the 2012 Executive Committee. If you'd be interested in being part of this premier community event in 2012, contact ken@southkent.org.



Cartoon Car was a popular display at the 2011 Metro Cruise.

The new Hybrids and mini vehicles drew the curious and energy conscious all weekend.



On the Move Again in Sept. - 3rd Fridays! at la Hacienda



Showcase Your Business!
Reserve your table today for only \$35.00 + the cost for lunch. A great way to promote your business and increase your visibility. Members only. Ask us 616-531-5990.

You don't have to do a thing to enter the drawing for the \$25.00 **Rolling Jackpot** except be there. Every WKACC Member Business is already entered. The Committee will draw up to ten names per month to give the money away!

Showcase tables are available for a small fee of only \$35 and are reservable only by members. Contact Sue Bynum at 616-531-5990 with questions.

Anyone can put informational brochures on the chairs for only \$15. Log on to www.southkent.org

and click on the calendar listing to register on-line. You may pay with Visa or MasterCard at the same time. Or, you can contact sue@southkent.org with questions or concerns about the reservation process.

Consistent and frequent networking has proven to be a great business building tool. Don't miss your opportunity to expand your referral base and save money with an *Annual 3rd Fridays! Pass*. Save up to 25% of the cost of 12 consecutive lunches. Or consider a Chamber Passport in 2012. Ask us for details!

Markets React Sharply to Headlines

Reasons to Stay Calm, Stay Invested, Look for Opportunities

Stocks declined sharply in response to the U.S. debt downgrade, continuing European sovereign debt troubles and concerns about a general slowdown in the global economy. At the same time these issues are occurring, the market is also growing increasingly concerned about slowing economic growth at home based on recent economic reports.

As we know, uncertainty often creates volatility. We're seeing a shift in how much risk investors are willing to take amid these near-term distractions, causing stocks to decline in the short run. We understand that big declines can make investors nervous, but even with the most recent pullback, the stock market is up more than 60% from its March 2009 lows.

What we're going through today may evoke memories of 2008. We don't believe this is a repeat of 2008, however, because there are fundamental differences in economic and market conditions, which we believe is good news for long-term investors. Specifically:

Economic growth remains sluggish but positive. While the economy grew just 0.8% in the first half of the year, most economists expect it to pick up in the second half. Recent economic reports are consistent with slow, but positive,

growth. While slower than many had hoped, economic growth is expected to be positive in 2011. It shrank in 2008.

Job growth has nearly doubled this year. Almost 1 million jobs were added in the first seven months of 2011, about the same as in all of 2010. The economy was shedding jobs in 2008, not adding them.

Corporate earnings are on a record pace. Corporate earnings are expected to reach a record high this quarter, while they were declining in 2008. S&P 500 earnings are up about 12% over the past year. Since stock prices haven't kept pace, the S&P 500 is trading at about 10 times forward operating earnings. This is well below its historical average of 15 times earnings. While past performance does not guarantee future results, we believe this represents an attractive value for investors.

Oil prices are lower. Oil prices have fallen below \$90, giving consumers some help. They soared to nearly \$150 in 2008.

U.S. financial companies in general are in better shape. Many companies are much better capitalized and have reduced risks in their businesses, and regulations have increased. While challenges remain, we don't believe risks

within the financial system are nearly as high as in 2008.

What Should Long-term Investors Do? This is one of the hardest parts of being a long-term investor. It's easy to stay the course when markets are rising. It's harder to stay the course during declines and view them as potential investing opportunities. But that's what being a long-term investor is all about. Here's what you should remember:

This is what it feels like to buy low. A stock market decline of 10% has occurred about once a year since 1900. They're typically opportunities for adding quality stocks, especially if you may not own enough equities.

Reposition equities and rebalance if needed. Consider adding quality stocks, especially those that have a track record of increasing their dividends.

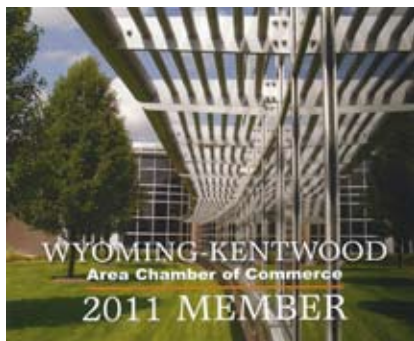
Stay invested. A diversified portfolio of quality investments is a sensible strategy during volatile markets.

I hope you found this information helpful. If you have questions, please let me know.

S A (Skip) Knapp III
Financial Advisor
EdwardJones Investments
616-942-5770

SASkip.Knapp@EdwardJones.com

Display Your 2011 Membership Sign With Pride



Be sure your 2011 Membership Sign is prominently displayed at your business and you could receive a free business card sized ad in **My Business Advocate** if an Ambassador, Board Member or Staff person sees it.

Surveys have proven that people have more confidence in a business that belongs to the local Chamber

of Commerce. Let your customers know you're a member.

Contact your Chamber Ambassador or ken@southkent.org if you need a membership sign and/or acrylic holder. There is no cost. Call Sue at 616-531-5990 between noon and 5 pm for Ambassador Information for your business.

East Kentwood H. S. Homecoming Offers Marketing Opportunity

Mark your calendar for October 7th, 2011 from 4:30pm-6:30pm. East Kentwood Student Council will be sponsoring East Kentwood High School's Homecoming Festival.

The Festival will be located on campus and will showcase sports teams, clubs and organizations, elementary school PTC's, and **members of the Kentwood community**. We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful event.

The event will feature booths and activities set up throughout the campus. Your business can play a part by setting up a booth highlighting your product or services.

Participants are encouraged to include a game or activity with

prizes. Your business would be responsible for any needs i.e. water, extension cords, electricity, tables and chairs.

The Festival is held immediately before the homecoming game. A large number of people are expected to attend giving your business the opportunity to advertise and interact with your community.

There will be a nominal fee of \$25 to reserve your space and cover any residual costs the Student Council may incur, all remaining profits will be for your business to keep.

Contact East Kentwood Student Council no later than **September 23, 2011**. RSVPs will be accepted by e-mail, at Sheri.Hoving@kentwoodps.org.

T.E.A.M. 21 MAKING A SAFE SPLASH

During the course of the summer program this year, approximately 145 **T.E.A.M. 21** students learned basic water safety and drown-proofing techniques to prepare them for summer fun, both this year and in years to come.

Students at the five T.E.A.M. 21 sites in Wyoming Public Schools gained this opportunity through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funding awarded by the MI. Dept of Education as part of a summer expansion grant opportunity.

The T.E.A.M. 21 program and Wyoming Public Schools enlisted the help of Novi Sad Aquatics, operating out of the pool at Godwin Heights High School, to teach

students a variety of skills depending upon their skill level at the beginning of the course.

Beginning swimmers learned basic skills – feeling comfortable entering the water, the ability to float, and swimming with help, while intermediate and advanced swimmers learned new strokes and worked on endurance. Of the Novi Sad instructors, one of the students said, “They were so helpful and encouraging!”

For more information on T.E.A.M. 21, contact the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department at parks_info@wyomingmi.gov or 616-530-3164.

Davenport University Working on WKACC Fall Member Research Projects

Five Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce (WKACC) member marketing issues have been selected as the topics of some Davenport University senior level marketing class' final research paper.

Since we started the program in January this year, there have been seven members' projects researched, documented and presented by a DU class to the selected members. There are many actionable recommendations to improve each business' bottom line via enhanced marketing initiatives.

If you are interested in submitting a project for the Winter 2012 semester, please contact Ken at ken@southkent.org or 616.531.5990.

Metro Guide On-line Chamber Website Offers One-click Access


The 2011 Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce publishes the **Wyoming-Kentwood Area Community Profile and Metro Guide**. A direct link to the electronic version is available at www.southkent.org by clicking on the magazine cover on the homepage.

Printed copies are available to Members at the Chamber office, while supplies last.

We encourage you to share this information with your vendors, customers and clients. Instant 24/7 access is available at www.southkent.org. Call us at 616-531-5990 or email sue@southkent.org to update your records.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<p>Chamber Office Hours Monday -Thursday 9am - 5pm Closed Friday</p>						
4	<p>5</p> <p>Labor Day</p>  <p>Chamber Office Closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Noon Gov Matters</p> <p>4 pm Ambassadors Mtg</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>5 pm Higher Health Chiropractic Ribbon Cutting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 to 9 am Multi Chamber Speed Networking @ Grandville Bqt Ctr</p>	10
11	<p>12</p> <p>8 am Gov Matters at Wyoming City Hall w/elected officials</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Noon Santa Parade Committee Mtg</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4 pm Finance 5 pm Executive Committee</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>11:30 am 3rd Fridays! @ la Hacienda OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	17
18	19	20	<p>21</p> <p>10 am 3rd Fri! Planning @ The Hinman Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Board Mtg 11:30 am @ Brann's</p>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Social
Networking
is
Good
Business!

Chamber BUCKS

REFER a
NEW MEMBER,
EARN \$25!

Chamber Members earn credit toward Chamber Programs, Workshops, Events, Advertising or Dues!



Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce

sue@southkent.org
for more info

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Chamber Office Hours Monday -Thursday 9am - 5pm Closed Friday					1
2	3 Noon Gov Matters	4 4 pm Ambassadors Mtg	5	6	7	8
9	10 8 am Gov Matters at Kentwood City Hall	11	12	13 5- 7 pm Chamber After Hours @ Craig's Cruisers!	14	15
16	17	18	19 4 pm Finance 5 pm Executive Committee	20	21 11:30 am 3rd Fridays! @la Hacienda NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22
23	24 11:30 am Legislative Luncheon @ Hilton	25	26 10 am 3rd Fri! Planning Committee @ The Hinman Group, 2851 Charlevoix Dr SE, Ste 208	27 Board Mtg 11:30 am @ Brann's	28	29
30	31					



Member Receives County Recognition

At the July 28th Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce (WKACC) Board Meeting, **Kent County Commissioners Jack Bolema** (left) and **Harold Mast** (right) presented Tommy Brann, owner of **Brann's Sizzlin' Steaks & Sports Grille** on S. Division in Wyoming (center) a Proclamation on behalf of the **Kent County Board of Commissioners** recognizing Tommy's 40 years of delighting customers at his restaurant and for Tommy's years of service to the community, including his valuable contributions to the WKACC.

Tommy Brann has been a member since 1991. He has been elected to the WKACC Board for several terms by the Membership.

Make Time for FREE Multi-Chamber Speed Networking!



**Mark your calendars for Friday,
September 9 at 7:30 am at
Grandville Banquet Center
2900 Wilson,
Grandville, MI 49418**

If you haven't tried this event to expand your referral base, consider doing so this Fall.

Back by popular demand, we will once again be offering the opportunity for members of the *Metro South Chambers of Commerce* to network together.

Made up of the membership from the Byron Center, Cutlerville-Gaines, Hudsonville, Grandville-Jenison and the Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chambers of Commerce, this collaborative effort offers

the opportunity to expand your business service area and to meet referral sources from that expanded territory.

Speed Networking is an efficient and economical way to meet as many referrals as possible in a short amount of time.

Get that 1.5 minute elevator speech ready and bring lots of business cards. The only requirement is that you are a member and you must preregister at www.southkent.org prior to Thursday, September 8, 2011. Don't forget, register today.

Former Holy Name of Jesus School Dedicates New Facility

Congratulations to Chamber Member **San Juan Diego Academy**. The region's only Catholic K-8 school developed to educate and acclimate the children of Latino immigrants was dedicated Wednesday, August 31, at 9:30 a.m.

San Juan Diego Academy, located in the former **Holy Name of Jesus School**, 1650 Godfrey, has enrolled 20 new Kindergartners. The school hopes to accommodate up to 140 students this year. The Grand Rapids and Wyoming neighborhood surrounding the school is home to 23% of Kent County's Hispanic population, according to the most recent Census.

A school has operated on the grounds for 103 years, first serving immigrant Dutch, German, and Polish children.

It was reconfigured as a six-parish inter-parochial school this year, with an eye on developing students within new Latino population.

The school piloted Latino-specific programming for several years, including an English language immersion program and dual-language homework assignments to encourage parental involvement. Five early graduates of the pilot program were admitted to college this year.

"Fostering academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment is what we are all about," says Principal Rosa Fraga. "Doing this for children of immigrants, helping them acclimate, acculturate and succeed is a special blessing and our historical foundation."

The dedication included the installation of an unique etching created by a Guatemalan artist who immigrated to the United States in 1983. The translucent image, measuring nearly 4'x 5', depicts San Juan Diego as he opens his cloak, exposing roses and a glowing figure of the Virgin Mary. The inspirational work

was created by Carmelo Lopez, a professional etcher who learned the sandblasting technique while apprenticing with a German artist. Lopez is employed by Grand Rapids-based Echo Etching. The company allowed him to utilize their studio equipment to create the prized 4x5 work.

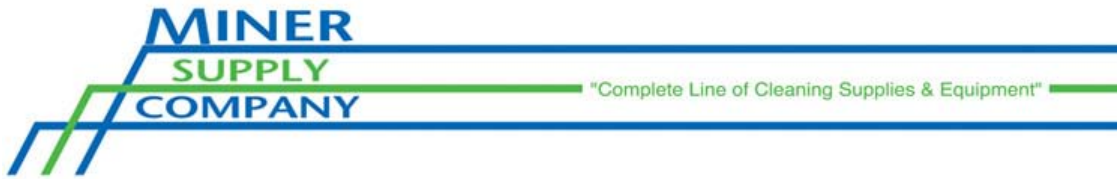
For more information please contact Elizabeth Heys (616) 243-4410 or eheys.sjda@gmail.com San Juan Diego

San Juan Diego

- *Who he was:* A 16th-century Mexican Indian who in 2002 was canonized by the Catholic church

- *What he did:* On his way to Mass he saw a vision of the Virgin Mary, who instructed him to tell the Catholic bishop to build a church on the hill where she appeared. In his efforts to convince the bishop, a glowing image of Mary appeared on his cloak.

- *His impact:* The story led millions of native Mexicans to become Catholic.



Members of Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce since 1994.

As part of our continuing effort to get to know our neighbors, we would like to introduce a local supplier of cleaning supplies and services, Miner Supply Company to the rest of our membership. Miner Supply Company has been a supplier to the West Michigan area since 1975, servicing schools, industrial facilities, office buildings, cleaning services and churches.

Members of Wyoming-Kentwood Area Chamber of Commerce since 1994.

Looking for cleaning carts or baby changing tables? Miner Supply has the goods and much much more.

With their no obligation demonstration and in-service training seminars, Miner Supply is your solution to cleaning and maintenance problems. Contact them to find out more about products and services.

Miner Supply Company has a fully stocked warehouse

- National Brands
- Prompt Delivery

- Major Brands Cleaning Equipment
- Machine Service & Repair Center
- No Obligation Demonstrations
- Consultant Services
- In-Service Training Seminars

Give Miner Supply Company a call at 616-531-5002 or 800-343-9634.

See their on-line catalog at: <http://www.minersupply.com/>

Our recent move has put WKACC in close contact with some new neighbors. Once per month we will be featuring a business that shares our cul-de-sac. Part of *Building Better Communities by Building Better Businesses.*

We understand your business is not just about *numbers...*



It's about *people.*

IOI is committed to the people we serve and making a difference. Our expertise in payroll and HR administration helps our clients achieve greater efficiencies and reduce bottom-line costs. At IOI, we strive to exceed our client's expectations by providing the best possible products and services available. Simplify your payroll through IOI's user-friendly web-based platform and award-winning customer service. Call 888.697.0021 or visit us at www.ioipay.com to experience the difference a partnership with IOI can make for *your business* today!

After all, it's about people.

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Legislation Passed Capping Public Employee Health Care

The Michigan State House and Senate approved legislation to save taxpayer dollars by capping government spending on public employee health care benefits.

Senate Bill 7 will require all public employees, including Legislators, to pay more towards their health insurance premiums. The measure allows public employers, such as counties, cities, townships and schools districts, to choose between a cap on what can be spent per

employee or pay up to 80 percent of the costs.

The remaining amount would be paid by the public employees. The measure now goes to Governor Snyder where he is expected to sign the legislation into law.

When many Michigan taxpayers are struggling to pay for their own health insurance, they should not be forced to bear the burden of maintaining expensive government

employee healthcare.

This legislation is projected to save our schools \$452 million and the state \$100 million.

Reforms like these are essential to save taxpayer dollars, control skyrocketing health care costs and bring public employee benefits more in line with those working in the private sector.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2011-SB-0007> for details.

Help UCOM and Mercantile Bank Strike Out Hunger!



The United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM)/Mercantile Bank Strike Out Hunger Bowling Party happens this year on Saturday, November 12.

YOU can have a major role in fighting poverty, hunger and their effect on your neighbors with an afternoon of FREE bowling, major snacks, prizes, novelty and regular bowling and fun galore.

Just to make sure you have a great time we have invited Super Flounder from Thunder 94.5 to be our celebrity MC. Flounder is seriously funny and downright passionate about people. You're going to love him. Here's a clip of him on Take Five and Company: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6CPMRX0aaY>.

Follow these steps to enroll as a bowler/pledge-collector, team captain (you recruit four other people to bowl with you), sponsor or pledger.

* Reply today to this email with your name, contact information and what role you can play in this annual fund-raising event.

*Check our website for all the

details, forms and information you need. <http://ucomgr.org/specialevents>

*Ask for donations for this important cause from all your friends, family, other church or social club members, or businesses you patronize.

*Then come and bowl with us - bring the kids. This is a family friendly event. Please set the example for others around you by participating in this fun event to help address a very serious problem for thousands of your neighbors. I know our community's most vulnerable people can count on you. For more information contact: bruce.roller@UCOMgr.org, www.UCOMgr.org, 616.241.4006

Did You Know...



Your Chamber Membership includes free job postings for your business? Log on at www.southkent.org, enter your login ID and Password and access the Job Postings link to our page. Post your open positions here anytime for any length of time FREE! Contact Sue by phone at 616-531-5990 or email her at sue@southkent.org if you need assistance or have questions.

Job Opportunities available within **Kent County**:

- **Facilities Operations Supervisor - John Ball Zoological Garden**
- **Outreach Worker - Health Department**
- **Seasonal Parks Worker I - Parks Department**
- **Surveillance Officer - Circuit Court Family Division**

Please let Lisa know if you have any questions: lisa.rauch@kentcountymi.gov

A seasonal position that would be starting now – January. It is a great job for someone that would like some extra holiday cash! Please let Casey Jankoska at **Express Employment Professionals** know if you have any questions! Phone (616) 281-0611 - Email casey.jankoska@expresspros.com

Member Spotlight

Board Executives meet monthly and select the Outstanding Volunteer of the Month for their effort and results on behalf of WKACC.

August Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations to Katy Pyles from **Grand Office Supply**.

Katy is our Volunteer of the Month for August. The Executive Committee chose to honor Katy for her dedication and hard work in her roles on the Ambassadors' Committee and as a volunteer for the very successful Grub Crawl event held last spring. Katy wears many volunteer hats with the Chamber and manages them all very well. We can't do what we do without volunteers like Katy.

Renewing Members

- Applause Catering & Events
- Auto Finance Co Inc
- Carrabba's Italian Grill
- Cedar Rock Automotive Inc
- Grand Rapids Appraisal
- Hager Wood Preserving, LLC
- HME Incorporated
- Hobart Sales & Service
- Holy Trinity Lutheran
- Karlson Enterprises
- Lake Michigan Dental
- Liberty Tax Service
- Mepco
- Nutrition-N-More
- Patrick S. Bell & Associates
- Remax Lifestyles
- Roeder & Co., Inc
- Two Men & a Truck Walgreen's
- Walgreens - 36th St
- Walgreen's - Kalamazoo
- Walgreens 11801
- West Michigan Whitecaps
- Wyoming Public Schools

Welcome New Members

- **AFLAC**
- **Cartridge World - Wyoming**
- **Diversified Protection & Investigations**
- **M.D. Bernard & Associates**
- **Pre-Paid Legal**
- **Senior Sing Along**
- **Verizon Wireless**

Member Testimonial

Wow! Just read through the Business Advocate. It is really looking great with lots of news and info on Chamber activities. My thanks to you and the staff for the wonderful improvements."

Anna Kruse

New Legislation - Proceed with Caution Around School Bus Stops and Crossings

With school starting, it is important to remember to exercise caution at school bus stops and crossings. A new law sharpens the focus on safety by increasing penalties and treating moving violations in school bus zones the same as violations in road construction zones. A school bus zone covers the area lying within 20 feet of a stopped school bus that is flashing its lights.

Public Acts 59 and 60 of 2011 make it a one-year misdemeanor for injuring and a 15-year felony for killing a child getting on or off a school bus. WKACC Members, Staff and Board of Directors hope that everyone will use extra caution around bus stops and crossings in order to protect our students.



Santa Parade Committee at Park Party in June

Members working as Volunteers on the 2011 Santa Parade were on hand at *Maranda's Park Party* at **Lamar Park** in June to interact with more than 6000 kids and their parents. Coloring sheets were distributed with the dates for the Santa Parade and the Metro Cruise. Four copies of Kathey Batey's Childrens book titled "*Where Eagles Fly*" were given away in a drawing. We recieved more than 500 entries for the books. Two boys and two girls ages 4-9 were the lucky recipients. Maranda will be Grand Marshall of the Santa Parade on Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 10 am. Join us after the parade at **Brann's** for photos w/Santa!

EDUCATIONAL CORNER Business Building Resources

Watch this spot for resources, local workshops, seminars and organizations that can help you grow and expand your customer base and/or your business. If we hear about it, so will you.

S.C.O.R.E. Upcoming Events

Free Live Webinar: Social Media, The Big Picture. Social media marketing is a lot more than setting up a Facebook page and sending a few Tweets. Find out how to be socially successful! Sign up today for the first in a series of free webinars from social media guru Lon Safko.

Simple Steps for Starting Your Business. Get your new business off on the right foot by taking SCORE's 5-part workshop series that covers every step from getting your big idea to finding financing. Register now!

Helping Veterans Start Businesses. SCORE's Veteran Fast Launch Initiative aims to give former military men and women all the resources they need to succeed at entrepreneurship. Training, software, scholarships and SCORE mentoring are all provided. Find out more.

Career Connections

FREE - 3-part, Career Networking Event that will positively impact your Healthy Career! FREE Hone your networking skills, polish your presentation and meet other professionals who may enhance, or advance, your career. The only supplies you'll need for this back-to-school event are business cards and an elevator speech. To kick off the program, principals at MP Talent Management Group will present a three part mini-workshop covering your image-presenting yourself well as a speaker, looking good while doing it and matching both with a superb online presence. The mini-workshop will be followed with Speed Networking.

Date: September 20, 5:00 p.m (first of 3 sessions)

Location: 1104 Kirkhof Center, Grand Valley State University **Cost: Free.** Registration Required: 616-331-2215.

Community Connections

Let us know how **YOUR Business is building better communities.** Submit community improvement project announcements to sue@southkent.org. Subject to space availability.



The City of Wyoming has created a *Facebook* fan page to assist in its communication with residents and the surrounding community. The City will utilize the page to provide department news and information, photos, events information and to encourage dialogue between residents and the City. Residents are encouraged to fan the page and check it regularly for the latest information on what is happening in their neighborhoods. The page is being monitored daily, but residents with emergencies or immediate needs should still contact the City of Wyoming directly at (616) 530-7226. The City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department and the Wyoming Senior Center already have fan pages and will continue to manage those pages.



American's with Disabilities Act - What's New Under the ADA: Legislation & Regulation Update, September 7-8, 2011, Kellogg Hotel & Conf Cntr, Michigan State Univ., 55 S. Harrison Avenue, E. Lansing, Mi. Presenters:

- ♦ Jeanne Goldberg, Senior Attorney Advisor, Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Equal Emp.Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C.
- ♦ Robin Jones, Director, Great Lakes ADA Center, University of Illinois at Chicago
- ♦ Dave Yanchulis, Accessibility Specialist, U.S. Access Board, Washington, D.C.

Register for the conference at www.123signup.com/event?id=ctbtz

*Register for half-day, full-day or both days. *Continuing Education Units (CEU) available

*Special prices for people with disabilities and disability advocates. *Free parking,

*Continental breakfast and lunch included, *Discounted rooms available at the Kellogg Hotel

*For questions, contact Dan Cooper at (800) 288-5923 or dcooper@mpas.org