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The law firm of **Amer Cunningham Co., L.P.A.** is pleased to announce its move to Suite 1100 in the Key Bank Building. Our contact information remains the same.



Amer Cunningham Co., L.P.A.

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Active minds like yours are invited to attend the Greater Akron Chamber's 99th Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006. Don't miss these thought-provoking events at this year's meeting, sponsored by KeyBank:

THINK LEADER - WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Greater Akron Chamber Chairman, Anthony J. Alexander, President and CEO of FirstEnergy Corp., will be recognizing the leading thinkers and achievements of 2005 and electing new board members. In partnership with business, government, and the non-profit sector, FirstEnergy Corp. and the FirstEnergy Foundation help make our region an attractive place to live, work, and do business.

THINK BIG - THE H. PETER BURG AWARD

The Greater Akron Chamber's Executive Committee and the Akron Tomorrow Trustees created the H. Peter Burg Economic Development Award as a way of recognizing local business leaders who have made outstanding contributions and served as role models to enhance local and regional economic and community development. The award will be presented to Robert P. Refiner of Brouse McDowell, L.P.A., during this year's Annual Meeting.

Refiner has been of great help to many business owners by providing legal business counsel on strategic and operational opportunities and challenges. He is one of Northeast Ohio's top lawyers and currently works to advance regional economic development with Team NEO, the Greater Akron Chamber, the Akron Community Foundation, Akron Tomorrow, The University of Akron Research Foundation, National Inventors Hall of Fame, and Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education (NOCHE), among others.

THINK SMART - NOTTINGHAM & SPIRK

John Nottingham and John Spirk are the founders and co-presidents of Nottingham-Spirk Design Associates, Inc., one of the leading new product invention and development groups in the U.S. Their company is responsible for the creation of hundreds of

successful products with over 400 commercialized patents. Combined sales of products created by Nottingham-Spirk exceed \$30 billion. Don't miss their presentation, "Creating An Environment For Innovation."

THINK AHEAD - IFA

To help promote economic development efforts in our region, the Greater Akron Chamber has partnered with Hitchcock Fleming & Associates (hfa), one of Northeast Ohio's most successful and progressive marketing communications agencies for over 65 years. hfa currently does work with the Akron Civic Theater, E. J. Thomas Hall, Lock 3 Live, the Akron Beacon Journal, and many more local groups. The hfa team will be on hand to unveil the insightful and inventive new marketing strategy to be used in 2006.

THINK FUN

This year's meeting is about more than just the annual agenda. Get ready for activities that will inform and entertain your entire brain!

Thursday, March 23, 2006
Reception 5:00 p.m. • Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Reserve a Table Today!

Corporate Table of 8 (Registration in program and on table)	\$600.00
Patron Sponsor (Registration in program)	\$130.00
Individual (Registration in program)	\$60.00

Register online at www.greaterakronchamber.org, call Tony Rihella at (330) 237-1250, or use the registration form inside. RSVP by noon on **March 14, 2006.**

The Greater Akron Chamber Board of Directors is recommending nominees to serve on the Board. These recommendations will be voted on by the membership at the Greater Akron Chamber's Annual Meeting on March 23, 2006. To view the recommended slate of officers, go to page 2 or visit the chamber's web site at www.greaterakronchamber.org.

Greater Akron Chamber Directions

March/April 2006 www.greaterakronchamber.org

Economic Development Activities...

Chamber Hosts Annual Forum

The Crowne Plaza Quaker Square provided the venue to more than 70 professionals from the economic development community including real estate brokers, private developers, economic development practitioners and government officials as the Greater Akron Chamber unveiled its 2006 activity plan. The 90-minute program outlined the Chamber's 2006 business plan and 2005 accomplishments along with a glimpse of the 2006 economic outlook. The Chamber also provided details regarding the 2006 marketing strategy, The Morning Buzz quarterly breakfast program, and Business Friendly Communities, along with a presentation by an international corporate site selection consultant.



L to R: Daniel Colantone, Greater Akron Chamber; Robert Bowman, City of Akron; and Ron DeBarb, NEOTEC.

"The goal was to continue our collaborative efforts in bringing our partners together in order to maximize investment opportunities in the region," states Richard Rebadow, Senior Vice President of Economic Development with the Greater Akron Chamber. "The feedback is encouraged and will dictate how we maintain and enhance our strategies at future initiatives."

"When the Greater Akron Chamber hosts events like this, it keeps the economic development community informed of not only what is going on, but more importantly, how we can integrate our activities" stated Gregg Cramer, Assistant Director of Administration for the Summit County Department of Community & Economic Development. "The 2006 Economic Development Strategy is another tool to promote cooperation

between the public and private sectors and the many good things that Summit County has to offer companies looking to expand or relocate here."

Chamber Kicks Off The Morning Buzz

Doug Allison Executive Director of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), was the featured speaker during the Chamber's inaugural Morning Buzz event held at the Silver Lake Country Club. The topic, "Don't Let the Fear Factor Prevent You From Expanding Your Business Abroad" was attended by over 120 guests and also featured presentations by Pat Patwardhan, International Business Consultant, and Greg Anderson, President and General Manager of Akron Polymer Products Inc and Managing Partner of West Akron North America LLC, who provided their viewpoints on encouraging expansion into the global marketplace. The Morning Buzz is a new quarterly economic development breakfast series that



L to R: Greg Anderson, Akron Polymer Products; Pat Patwardhan, International Business Consultant; and Doug Allison, Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC).

provides networking opportunities to integrate small business owners with corporate business leadership on regional issues. The Chamber is partnering with local chambers and regional economic development organizations. Join us for the next Morning Buzz on Wednesday, May 10, 2006, when a panel of experts from Quicken Loans, Fedex Custom Critical, and others will discuss "Best Work Practices." They will share their knowledge and key components in being identified as "One of the Best Places to Work."

Chamber Partners with City of Akron

As a follow-up to the investment trade mission to Israel, led by the City of Akron in early January, the Greater Akron Chamber was able to join forces with City of Akron economic development officials, area business leaders, along with its partners at the Ohio Israeli Chamber in welcoming members of the Targetech Innovation Center to the Greater Akron Region. The four-day event featured a presentation by Mayor Don Plusquellic at the Shaw Jewish Community Center covering details of the mission which culminated in a memorandum of



L to R: Azriel Kadim, Targetech; Brenda Zeitlin, Targetech; Samuel DeShazo, Greater Akron Chamber; and Robert Bowman, City of Akron.

the morning buzz Schedule for 2006
May 10, 2006 - Best Work Practices
August 9, 2006 - Freakonomics
December 5, 2006 - Middle Market Forum

understanding between Akron and Targetech officials in bringing technology innovation along with product commercialization developed at the Tel Aviv Incubator facility into the Akron marketplace. The agreement, valued at more than \$1 million, will be funded by investment proceeds secured from both public and private resources.

Continued on page 2

The Voice for Business

Mayor Don Plusquellic's State of the City Address

On February 8, 2006, Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic presented his 20th State of the City Address to a packed crowd at The Tangier. The Akron Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Akron Press Club, and the Greater Akron Chamber hosted the event that drew over 420 attendees.

Mayor Plusquellic praised the twelve Akron firefighters, twelve Akron police officers, and eleven Akron City employees that volunteered to go to the Gulf States and aid those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The Mayor said the federal response to Hurricane Katrina is just one example of insignificant federal funding to communities. He expressed frustration with the administration's proposed 20 percent cut to the Community Development Block Grant program. He also disapproved of Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell's TEL amendment to limit government spending arguing that it



Mayor Plusquellic identified key achievements in 2005 and outlined his goals for the coming year.

will hurt the local communities. In an effort to counteract some of the loss of state and federal funding, Mayor Plusquellic supports the proposed 1/4 cent sales tax increase for Summit County that would benefit law enforcement and economic development.

Mayor Plusquellic stated that economic development practices have changed, and the City of Akron finds itself fighting to keep jobs in the area. The Mayor told a story about how the Lieutenant Governors of both Kentucky and Tennessee have traveled to Akron in the last 24 months trying to lure companies to their respective states. In one situation, they were successful when Aircraft Braking Systems relocated 58 jobs to Kentucky. In response, Mayor Plusquellic stated that Akron must be progressive and innovative in economic development. In that regard, the City of Akron and GOJO Industries Inc. have agreed to invest at least \$1 million from local public and private sources into the Targetech Incubator in Israel. In return, the companies that emerge from this incubator will establish in Akron when they enter the U.S. market. According to the Mayor, this public-private partnership is the first of its kind for a city in the United States.

Mayor Plusquellic also spoke of the need for quality public education and for a solution to Ohio's problems with school funding. He endorsed the passage of the Akron Public Schools' levy that will be on the May ballot and encouraged community partnerships to create strong community learning centers like the Helen Arnold Community Center, the Judith Resnick CLC (formerly Fairlawn School), and the Voris Community Learning Center.

Along with education, Mayor Plusquellic emphasized strong neighborhoods. He is placing another \$50,000 towards the demolition of dilapidated houses that bring down property values. He discussed a number of new housing initiatives including the housing along Hickory Street, the Canal Town project on Memorial Parkway, Cascade Village under the Y-bridge built by AMHA as part of a \$60 million Hope V program, and a new neighborhood where the existing Edgewood Homes stand near the Akron Zoo. Mayor Plusquellic also mentioned Testa Companies' groundbreaking for 100 new units at Northside.

Mayor Plusquellic closed his State of the City Address by thanking local servicemen and servicewomen and their families. He also encouraged fellow baby boomers to consider their legacies and to improve the community by volunteering as tutors and mentors or by creating new businesses that employ the younger generations.

Want to Get the Ear of Government?

The Greater Akron Chamber can help. With Cap Wiz software, members can find contact information for elected officials and media outlets, track important legislation, and express their views to elected officials in an easy to use format. Please log onto <http://capwiz.com/greaterakronchamber/> and sign up for our **Action E-List**. Help us represent your interests in Columbus and Washington DC.

Action E-List

Plan Ahead...Chamber Day in Columbus and Legislative Reception at the State House

On Wednesday, May 24, 2006, Greater Akron Chamber members will have the opportunity to attend the Chamber Day in Columbus hosted by Senator Kimberly Zurz and Legislative Reception. During the day, members will meet with representatives of key departments in the State of Ohio, as well as talk to elected officials that represent the region. In the evening, the Greater Akron Chamber will host a Legislative Reception in the Atrium of the State House. All state representatives and senators will be invited, along with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Members will be able to mingle with Ohio's leaders, while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Depending on attendance, transportation may also be provided for the day. For more information about the Chamber Day in Columbus and Legislative Reception, please contact Ashley Stine, Coordinator, Advocacy, at (330) 237-1262 or by e-mail at stine@greaterakronchamber.org. Sponsorship opportunities for both the day and evening activities are also available. Please contact Ashley Stine for more information on sponsorship.

Economic Development Activities...

(Continued from page 1)

"The visit to Akron from representatives of the Israeli incubator, 'Targetech,' to assist in the promotion of the Akron community's investment in the soon-to-be Targetech/Akron Incubator was a huge success. The representatives, Azriel Kadim and Brenda Zeitlin, were most complimentary of the City, its leadership, and the partnership environment displayed by the various representatives of the private sector, institutions, and organizations," said Robert Bowman, Deputy Mayor of Economic Development for the City of Akron. "The City appreciates the Chamber's participation in the program that included meetings with potential investors and business service providers."

Targetech officials were also guests of various cultural, hospitality events and tours of local area businesses that included the Goodyear Polymer Center, Taylor Institute of Direct Marketing, Akron Industrial Incubator, GOJO Industries, Summa Enterprise Group, Akron Children's Hospital, Bridgestone Firestone, and Akron General Hospital. As part of the planned itinerary, the Greater Akron Chamber hosted an informational meeting with Targetech and City of Akron economic development officials to discuss potential collaborative efforts aimed at maximizing investment opportunities that are expected to be realized from the memorandum of understanding recently executed with the City of Akron. "We are very pleased to be involved in this initiative and look forward to actively participating with our entrepreneurial partners in this truly unique endeavor," stated Richard Rebadow of the Greater Akron Chamber.

Noble International Comes to Stow from Michigan

Noble International, Ltd. dedicated its newest facility in the City of Stow, Ohio, on January 25. The facility, which will occupy about half of the former Goodyear Mold Facility, will

house the company's laser welded-blanks operation that will supply parts for the Dodge Durango production in North America. The Stow plant is Noble's sixth production facility and reflects the Company's expansion and the growth of the laser-welded blanks market.



L to R: Janet D'Antonio, Stow City Council; Chuck Wiedie, City of Stow; Cindy Smith-Lewis, Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber; Jim Nielson, Albrecht Incorporated; Christopher L. Morin, Noble International; Karen Fritschel, Mayor of Stow; Richard Rebadow, Greater Akron Chamber; Jay J. Hansen, Noble International; and David Wright, Noble International.

According to Noble's Chief Operating Officer, Jay J. Hansen, "When Noble was awarded the Durango program in July 2005, we committed to open an all-new facility to meet our customer's needs in January 2006. Our team has met the target of beginning this month." Durango stampings are produced at Daimler Chrysler's Twinsburg Stamping Facility on Ohio State Route 82 in northern Summit County.

The facility is the result of collaboration between a number of economic development partners in the Greater Akron market including the City of Stow, the Summit County Port Authority, the Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce,

Summit County Department of Community and Economic Development, and The University of Akron to name of few. The Greater Akron Chamber is still assisting the City of Stow in identifying local suppliers that are interested in doing business with Noble. In addition, the Chamber and local officials are working to satisfy the needs of other segments of Noble's growing business and to identify other business opportunities for the area.

Noble is expected to create 45 new jobs over the next 36-month period and currently has started its operations with 14 employees.

Chamber Reports on Region

In January, in a presentation to the members of the Home Builders Association Serving Portage and Summit Counties, Greater Akron Chamber's Richard Rebadow said, "In terms of employment, the Greater Akron Chamber is working with 59 active prospects looking to expand or build in the Greater Akron Region." He continued, "Northeast Ohio stacks up well for companies looking to build a plant or relocate. The area has a solid supply of what companies say they most want in considering sites - access to highways."

"That factor was cited by more than 91 percent of corporate executives surveyed last summer by *Area Development* magazine. Another factor was occupancy or construction costs, another area in which Northeast Ohio measures up," Rebadow said. The survey also found that 12 percent of new projects in 2006 would be located in the Midwest, which includes Ohio.

"Last year, the Chamber assisted 21 companies in new projects involving \$16 million in capital investment," Rebadow said. "Those projects resulted in the creation of 630 jobs and the retention of 700 others," he said.

The Greater Akron Chamber is happy to have helped...

- **Lockheed Martin:** a \$180 million investment involving the manufacturing of a new High Altitude Airship™ at the Lockheed Martin Airdock facility in the City of Akron.
- **ECD/Ovonics:** a \$4.9 million investment involving the renovation of the former Akron Steel Treating site on South Broadway for a prototype hydrogen fuel tank testing facility in the City of Akron.
- **Technoform Germany:** a \$6 million investment involving the attraction of a German manufacturer specializing in precision plastic forming products in the City of Twinsburg.
- **Mahika Packaging Company:** a \$3.6 million investment involving the attraction of an Asian plastic packaging company in the City of Twinsburg.

2006 Greater Akron Chamber Board Nominees

Term Expires 2009

Anthony J. Alexander, FirstEnergy Corp.
 Roger D. Emerson, Brouse McDowell, LPA
 Mark Gore, Firestone Country Club
 Thomas G. Knoll, Stark & Knoll Co., LPA
 Richard J. Kramer, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
 Robert W. Malone, Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs LLP
 Philip H. Maynard, ASW Services
 Willard Roderick, Barberton Citizens Hospital
 Glen Stephens, G. Stephens, Inc.
 Thomas J. Strauss, Summa Health System
 Thomas E. Tulodzieski, KeyBank National Association
 Jeffery A. Walters, CBIZ/Mayer Hoffman McCann
 Margaret Williams, AT&T

Term Expires 2008

Scott Armstrong, Floyd Browne Group
 Rollie H. Bauer, The Cypress Companies
 Alan J. Bleyer, Akron General Health System
 Nicholas V. Browning, FirstMerit Bank Akron Region
 James N. Crutchfield, Akron Beacon Journal
 Timothy A. Dimoff, SACS Consulting & Investigative Services
 Donna J. Early, Providence Personnel Consultants
 Richard C. Fedorovich, Bober Markey Fedorovich & Co.
 William R. Feth, AESCO Electronics
 J. Michael Hochschwender, Smithers Scientific Services, Inc.
 Bruce A. Jentner, Jentner Financial Group
 Charles E. Jones, FirstEnergy Corp.
 Jeffrey A. Murphy, Dominion
 Jack Pickard, FedEx Custom Critical
 B. Louis Poppovich, Fifth Third Bank Northeastern Ohio
 Theodore F. Walter, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.

Term Expires 2007

Jody Bacon, Akron Community Foundation
 Theresa Carter, OMNOVA Foundation
 James J. Coats, Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Company
 William H. Considine, Akron Children's Hospital
 Timothy R. Fitzwater, National City Bank
 William J. Ginter
 Jay Griffith, Advanced Elastomer Systems
 Joseph S. Kanfer, GOJO Industries Inc.
 Dennis A. Kleidon, Kleidon & Associates
 Richard J. Kramer, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
 Jack Pickard, FedEx Custom Critical
 Timothy J. Ochsenhirt, Roetzel & Dress
 John Orr, Myers Industries
 James L. Ruhlin, The Ruhlin Company
 James D. Staley, YRC Regional Transportation

Karen Talbott, Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates
 Donzell Taylor, Welty Building Co. Ltd.
 Karl Warnke, Davey Tree Expert Company

Ex-Officio Members

Dr. Carol A. Cartwright, Kent State University
 Daniel C. Colantone, Greater Akron Chamber
 Charles E. Connor, Alcon Tool Company
 William Frantz, Northern Ohio Golf Charities
 Charles W. Keiper, Portage County, Ohio
 Frederick J. Krum, Akron-Canton Airport
 James B. McCarthy, Summit County, Ohio
 Robert C. McConnell, Cascade Capital Corporation
 Dr. Lois Margaret Nora, NEOUCOM
 Donald L. Plusquellic, City of Akron
 Dr. Luis M. Proenza, The University of Akron
 Sharon Ray, Medina County, Ohio

Ex-Officio Young Professional Group Representatives

Leah D. Anglin, Young Professionals of Akron
 Margaret D. Lazerini, ArtCetera
 George H. Van Horne, IV, TorchBearers
 Michele Torner, Akron Jaycees

2006 Executive Committee Nominations

Chairman
 Thomas E. Tulodzieski, KeyBank National Association
Chairman-Elect
 Thomas J. Strauss, Summa Health System
Immediate Past Chairman
 Anthony J. Alexander, FirstEnergy Corp.
Vice Chairman, Marketing
 James N. Crutchfield, Akron Beacon Journal
Vice Chairman, Entrepreneurship
 Roger D. Emerson, Brouse McDowell, LPA
Vice Chairman, Business Development
 Charles E. Jones, FirstEnergy Corp.
Vice Chairman, Small Business
 Dennis A. Kleidon, Kleidon & Associates
Vice Chairman, Finance
 Richard J. Kramer, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Vice Chairman, Business Services
 Jack Pickard, FedEx Custom Critical
Vice Chairman, Workforce Development
 Karen Talbott, Visiting Nurse Service & Affiliates
Vice Chairman, Advocacy
 Jeffery A. Walters, CBIZ/Mayer Hoffman McCann

Welcome New Members!

Please patronize your new Chamber members. The Greater Akron Chamber thanks you for helping us support the region's business community.

Academy DJs
 Richard Barker
 4460 Smithview Ave., N.W.
 Massillon, OH 44647
 (330) 437-2807
 E-mail: richard@academydjs.com

The American Cancer Society
 Margaret Mascio-Medzie,
 Executive Director
 1900 W. Market St.
 Akron, OH 44313
 (330) 572-1167
 Fax: (330) 865-1205
 E-mail: mmedzie@cancer.org

Bearing Engineered Solution Inc.
 Charles Manocchio, President
 P.O. Box 438
 Akron, OH 44232
 (330) 697-9227
 Fax: (330) 699-3796
 E-mail: cmanocchio@aol.com

Burt Greenwald Chevrolet, Inc.
 Gretchen March, Owner
 1490 Vernon Odum Blvd.
 P.O. Box 8068
 Akron, OH 44320-8068
 (330) 867-3010
 Fax: (330) 867-5477
 E-mail: mark@burtgreenwald.com

Chemstress Consultant Company
 Robert A. Handelman, President
 55 E. Mill St.
 Akron, OH 44308
 (330) 535-5591
 Fax: (330) 535-1431

LongHorn Steakhouse Montrose
 Kevin A. Long, Managing Partner
 45 Montrose West Ave.
 Copley, OH 44321
 (330) 670-9059
 Fax: (330) 670-9069

MAPS Air Museum
 Carole Hayden
 2260 International Pkwy.
 North Canton, OH 44720
 (330) 896-6332
 Fax: (330) 896-7656
 E-mail: carolehayden@sbcglobal.net

Middlebury Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation
 Diana Collier, Director of
 Administration and Marketing
 974 E. Market St.
 Akron, OH 44305
 (330) 762-9066
 Fax: (330) 762-0321
 E-mail: diana.collier@saberhealth.com

Ronald E. Molnar
 300 Spyglass Dr.
 Akron, OH 44333
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 E-mail: rmolnar05@yahoo.com

The following member companies were listed with incorrect phone numbers in the January/February 2006 Directions newsletter and are being re-published.

Abacus Child Care Centers, Inc.
 George Farris, President
 839 S. Arlington St.
 P.O. Box 7333
 Akron, OH 44306
 (330) 773-4200
 E-mail: abacuschildcare@aol.com

Brilliant Learning Center
 Tracey Murphy, Com. Partnership/
 Manager
 17 N. Hawkins Ave.
 Akron, OH 44313
 (330) 867-1245
 Fax: (330) 867-1388
 E-mail: tracey.murphy@iamb Brilliant.com

Consumer Credit Counseling Service
 Victor L. Russell, Area Manager
 554 N. Park Ave.
 Warren, OH 44481
 (800) 355-2227 Ext. 819
 Fax: (330) 399-2591
 E-mail: vrussell@cccservices.com

The Green Room Spa & Salon
 Liz Quimby, Spa Director
 4031 Massillon Rd., Unit B
 Uniontown, OH 44685
 (330) 899-1700
 Fax: (330) 899-1701
 E-mail: liz@greenroomspa.com

Hairline Clinic Inc.
 Rob Hoffman, President
 1525 Home Ave.
 Akron, OH 44310
 (330) 633-5225
 Fax: (330) 633-0567
 E-mail: rob@hairline.com

Herston Cleaners
 Jeff Herston, Owner
 1112 S. Arlington St.
 Akron, OH 44306
 (330) 724-2612
 Fax: (330) 724-5369
 E-mail: herstoncleaners@sbcglobal.net

polkadotpeeps, ltd.
 David Sutula, Vice President
 705 Wellesley Ave.
 Akron, OH 44303
 (330) 867-7337
 Fax: (330) 867-7339
 E-mail: dave@polkadotpeeps.com

Rittman Chamber of Commerce
 John Landers, Executive Director
 12 N. Main St. # 2
 Rittman, OH 44270
 (330) 925-4828

S & K Asphalt & Concrete Inc.
 Nick Skeriotis
 2275 Manchester Rd.
 Akron, OH 44314
 (330) 848-6284
 Fax: (330) 848-6285
 E-mail: skasphalt@sbcglobal.com

Schulte & Company CPAs, Inc.
 Sophia Voillette
 6005 Cleveland-Massillon Rd.
 Fairlawn, OH 44333
 (330) 670-0600
 Fax: (330) 665-1192
 E-mail: sophie@schultecpa.com

Summit Tower Services Inc.
 Kathy Campbell, HR Director
 4502 Boyce Pkwy.
 Stow, OH 44224
 (330) 572-2100
 Fax: (330) 512-3722
 E-mail: kcampbell@gdpgroup.com

Wacker Chemical Corp - SILMIX
 David Greenwell, Site Manager
 2215 International Pkwy.
 North Canton, OH 44720
 (330) 628-5017
 Fax: (330) 628-5242
 E-mail: angelagrim@wacker.com

WDD Online Website Design & Development Ltd.
 Katie R. Bruno
 150 Quadral Dr., Ste. A3
 Wadsworth, OH 44281
 (330) 334-3152
 Fax: (330) 334-3509
 E-mail: kbruno@wddonline.com

Work Solutions
 Scott Marris, PTA
 (330) 848-6284
 6651 Frank Ave., N.W.
 North Canton, OH 44720
 (330) 244-8761
 Fax: (330) 244-8769
 E-mail: northsiderehabilitation@sbcglobal.net

C. J. Young & Associates
 C. J. Young, CEO/President
 822 Frederick Blvd.
 Akron, OH 44320-1718
 (330) 867-8567
 Fax: (330) 867-7101
 E-mail: youn269@worldnet.att.net

JJC Investors, Inc.
 Jeremy Caudill, President
 667 W. Park Ave.
 Barberton, OH 44203
 (330) 848-0200
 Fax: (330) 848-0204
 E-mail: jeremyceo@sbcglobal.net

JoAnn's Professional Touch, Inc.
 JoAnn DiPierro, President
 596 Stephens Rd.
 Akron, OH 44312
 (330) 733-3146

Market Street Café
 Scott Burford, Chef
 1688 W. Market St.
 Akron, OH 44313
 (330) 835-9202
 Fax: (330) 835-9701
 E-mail: marketstreetcafe@sbcglobal.net

PROTECTUS
 Pete Garvin
 600 Weber Dr.
 Wadsworth, OH 44281
 (330) 336-3577
 Fax: (330) 335-7275
 E-mail: pgarvin@protectus.com

QIN
 Michael Mata, Partner
 1558 Front St.
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
 (440) 325-2102
 Fax: (330) 922-1488
 E-mail: mike@QIN.com

Summit Masonic Complex
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 91 Springside Dr.
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 (330) 315-3628
 Fax: (330) 315-3650
 E-mail: masoniccomplex@neo.rr.com

Vista Data Systems
 Jerry D. Peyton, President
 150 N. Miller Rd., Ste. 250 A
 Akron, OH 44333
 (330) 864-5070
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Directions

March/April 2006



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 Akron, Ohio 44308
 (330) 376-5550

PresidentDaniel C. Colantone
 ChairmanAnthony J. Alexander
 Chair-Elect....Thomas E. Tulodzieski

We welcome reader questions and comments. Advertising rates are available for Chamber members. Advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the Greater Akron Chamber.

Directions is a bi-monthly publication of the Greater Akron Chamber, a tax-exempt non-profit organization.

The mission of the Greater Akron Chamber is to promote economic development to benefit the people of the Greater Akron Region.

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WEDNESDAYS
 March 1
 June 7
 September 6
 December 6

An after hours networking event with a focus on welcoming new members, speed networking, and learning about all the ways you can Get Connected with the Chamber!

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HomeTown Health Network	Group Health Insurance	(330) 834-2226
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For more information, call (330) 376-8156 or (800) 837-8156.

76th Annual Ohio Safety Congress & Expo

Columbus Convention Center


Tuesday, March 28 - Thursday, March 30, 2006

For additional information on Safety Congress, including information on seminars, continuing education, and the expo area and advance registration, please visit BWC's Web site at ohiobwc.com or call 1-800-OHIOBWC. Attendees also can register onsite.

Greater Akron Chamber-Endorsed Health Care Plans



Call your insurance broker today for a Greater Akron Chamber quote or call the Greater Akron Chamber at (330) 237-1247 for more information.

Arts & Sports Package

The Greater Akron Chamber offers member-preferred pricing to a variety of arts and sports venues.

Listed below are organizations that are part of the Chamber Arts & Sports Package. For more information, contact Fred Berry at (330) 237-1211 or berry@greaterakronchamber.org.

- E.J. Thomas Hall
- Carousel Dinner Theatre
- Akron Symphony Orchestra
- Cleveland Playhouse
- Weathervane Playhouse
- Playhouse Square
- The University of Akron
- Kent State University
- Akron Zips
- Kent Flashes
- Cleveland Browns
- Akron Aeros
- Cleveland Indians
- Cleveland Cavaliers/Gund Arena Company
- 2006 World Golf Championships - Bridgestone Invitational

2006 SEASON
Chamber Member Special!

Experience being a Subscriber - Order tickets for Buddy & Urinetown and pay Subscriber pricing! Up to 30% off!

 I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change - Jan 11 - Feb 25	 Sisters for the Sea Mar 1 - Apr 29
 GREASE May 3 - Jul 1	 Buddy Jul 5 - Sep 2
 Minesweeper Sep 6 - Nov 4	 SINGIN' IN THE RAIN Nov 8 - Jan 6, 2007

Timeless Classics
Modern Hits

(330) 724-9855 (800) 362-4100
www.carouselinnertheatre.com
1275 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH 44306

Advertise on the Chamber's web site for as low as \$6 a day*!

www.greaterakronchamber.org

Call **Barbara Evans** at (330) 237-1257

JOIN OUR LIST OF SPONSORS:

- AirTran/CAK Airport
- Albrecht Incorporated
- ASW Services
- John S. Knight Center

* with a 6-month contract

The Platinum Rule for Powerful Professional Relationships

Presented by **Scott Zimmerman**
Wednesday, April 26, 2006
Chenoweth Banquet Center
3087 Chenoweth Rd., Akron
Fee: \$39
(\$25 each if three or more register from the same company.)

11:00 Check-in
11:30 Buffet Luncheon
12:00 Keynote Speaker

Call Pat Conry at (330) 896-8110 or e-mail pl_conry@portagelakescareercenter.org for more information.

Sponsored by:
Superior Staffing Inc.
Portage Lakes Career Center

SCORE Stands Ready to Help Small Businesses

Akron SCORE, a resource partner of the Chamber and the U.S. Small Business Administration, stands ready, at no charge, to help small businesses achieve their goals in the new year.

"We can assist existing companies improve all areas of their operations," said Ron Stallings, SCORE Chairman. "And we can help improve the chances of success of persons planning new ventures."

Stallings points out that confidential SCORE counseling can be short or long term. Numbers of clients have continued their SCORE relationships for several years or more. Client services include both face-to-face and on-site counseling.

As resource partners, SCORE and the Chamber cooperate in a variety of ways, including client referrals, where appropriate, and in connection with the Chamber's retention program.

Akron SCORE also offers small business workshops at its offices on the 18th floor of One Cascade Plaza provided by the Chamber. They are scheduled for the next quarter on March 22 and April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

SCORE's counselors are working and retired businessmen and women who offer their services at no cost as a way of giving back to the community. Akron SCORE has assisted more than 16,000 clients since it opened in 1965. Its service area covers Summit, Portage, Medina, Wayne, and Holmes Counties. For appointments or additional information, call (330) 379-3163, toll-free at 877 AKSCORE or by e-mail at akronscore81@aol.com.



JumpStart Gives Akron Firm \$500,000

JumpStart Inc., Northeast Ohio's non-profit venture development organization, recently announced an investment commitment of \$500,000 in Akron-based Knotice, reflecting JumpStart's third investment in Summit County.

"Our investment in Knotice further validates the strength of the technology sector in Northeast Ohio," noted JumpStart Chief Investment Officer, Lynn-Ann Gries. The investment will be used to further product development and expand Knotice's sales organization. "Their solution for Personal Relevance Marketing (PRM) allows marketers to understand and communicate with their customers in a more meaningful and effective manner," Gries added.

"Consumers are much more sophisticated in their media consumption these days. To be effective, marketers have to communicate in a highly relevant and coordinated fashion over an increasing number of online channels, such as e-mail, web, and mobile phone. Our product allows them to do just that," offered Knotice CEO, Brian Deagan.

About Knotice

Knotice provides software and services for PRM, allowing marketers to communicate on a more individualized and holistic basis to build loyalty, reinforce customer relationships, and stimulate sales opportunities. To learn more about Knotice, call (800) 801-4194 or visit www.knotice.com.

About JumpStart Inc.

JumpStart (www.jumpstartinc.org) accelerates the growth of early-stage businesses and ideas into venture-ready companies by delivering vital, focused resources to entrepreneurs in Northeast Ohio. JumpStart identifies and invests in early-stage companies that have strong potential in the marketplace, solid prospects for high growth, and are likely to qualify for later-stage funding. Beyond investing, the JumpStart team provides a continuum of business development services to its client companies to help ensure their success.

CAK - A Better Way to Go!

CAK Achieves Fourth Consecutive Record

2005 was another for the record books at Akron-Canton Airport (CAK). Nearly 1.45 million passengers traveled to/from the airport compared to 1.35 million the year before, a 5.6 percent increase. New flights offered by AirTran Airways and Frontier Airlines fueled the passenger growth at CAK. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation statistics, Akron-Canton was the second fastest growing airport in the nation from 2001-2004, increasing capacity (as measured by increased seats) by more than 100 percent. That growth is largely attributable to the expansion of low fare flights offered by industry juggernaut AirTran Airways at CAK.



CAK Launches New Innovative Web Site

Northeast Ohio has a new destination on the web. The totally redesigned www.akroncantonairport.com is sure to become a mandatory stop before heading to the airport, or even booking your next flight. The site offers innovative, customer-focused content designed to expand the airport's renowned customer experience from outside the airport terminal to inside your computer terminal, car, and onto the airplane. The new web site offers all the information travelers expect including, parking options, airlines, rental cars, directions to the terminal, and real-time arrivals and departures. What makes this site unique are the features that travelers do not expect but will love, including an online travel booking engine, a new customer-focused relaxation station, and a blog port.

ClevelandIntern.net to Offer Virtual Career Fairs for Information, Technology, and Finance



ClevelandIntern.net, the premier web site for recruiting college interns in Northeast Ohio, is launching a new service for employers who recruit interns in highly competitive fields. Starting on March 20 and extending through April 30, ClevelandIntern.net will offer Virtual (online) Career Fairs for employers recruiting interns in science and technology, business, communications, and diversity. The Virtual Career Fairs are sponsored by FirstEnergy Corp., Hyland Software, Inc., Polyone, and Westfield Insurance.

ClevelandIntern.net (www.clevelandintern.net) has served over 1,900 employers and posted over 5,000 positions in the last three years. Basic job postings are free to employers. Virtual Career Fairs are a premium service for employers seeking to expand their recruiting options. They offer employers a new way to reach students that is highly targeted and is directly marketed to students on 17 Northeast Ohio colleges and universities. The fairs are timed to reach students during the period when they are searching for summer internships. The Virtual Career Fairs offer employers the ability to easily access a large pool of potential interns for the low cost of \$150.

Recruiting interns is a great way for employers to build a pipeline of highly qualified and motivated college students for full-time positions after graduation. For more information on virtual career fairs and other premium services, please contact Dumont Owen at (330) 666-9258 Ext. 225.

Wanted: Leaders Committed to Serving Community

Leadership Akron is seeking applications for its twenty-third class. Desired candidates will possess a strong desire to serve the community, demonstrated leadership ability or potential, and a willingness to commit time and energy to the program. Leadership Akron educates, motivates, and develops leaders through a year-long program that equips them for community service. Through intensive study of community issues and interaction with decision-makers, participants enhance their effectiveness as community leaders.

"Leadership Akron is a unique opportunity to broaden one's horizons as a leader in our community," said Mark Scheffler, executive director. "Through Leadership Akron, participants connect to leaders in other sectors, get a behind-the-scenes look at the major issues and organizations of greater Akron, and make new discoveries about themselves. These ingredients make for an unparalleled experience for all of our participants."

The program, begun in 1984, has a graduate list of more than 675 trained community leaders. Beginning with a tour of the City of Akron in August and a two-day Opening Retreat in September, the program continues one full day every month through June 2007. In addition, each month the program offers a series of on-site visits to organizations that relate to the current monthly topic. Topics include social services, education, government, the arts, business, health, media, and the justice system.

Leadership Akron is an independent, nonprofit, educational organization with a mission to inspire leadership committed to community service. Each participant is assessed tuition of \$2,200. Partial scholarships are available. Applications and information about Class XXIII are available by visiting the Leadership Akron web site at www.lakron.com or calling the Leadership Akron office at (330) 237.1249. Final deadline for applications is **May 1, 2006**.

Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty Seeks Partners

As part of their year-long celebration of Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty's 25th year anniversary and Coldwell Banker's 100th year anniversary, Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty wants to partner with you to send 200 children to Camps of Hope.

In Ohio, on an annual basis, over 1,200 youth are diagnosed with some form of childhood cancer, and over 2,500 children lose their battle to this devastating disease each year. In Northern Ohio, it is estimated that over 350 children are diagnosed and close to 1,000 children die each year.

In cooperation with the American Cancer Society, Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty has initiated the opportunity for children in our community who have or currently are undergoing treatment to have a memorable summer camp experience. Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty will match your generous donations up to \$40,000, dollar for dollar, for all donations made prior to May 1, 2006, and send children with cancer in the ten-county Northeast Ohio area to Camps of Hope.

Make a difference in the life of a child! For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (888) ACS-OHIO or call Ed Dolinsky, President of Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty, at (216) 831-2911.

Tune Into 91.3 Life & Lyrics

Life & Lyrics features community leaders in the Greater Akron area and the music That has shaped their lives. For a complete list of guests, go to www.913thesummit.com/lyrics.htm.



The Final Count for Greater Akron is...

94,574 Readers on February 8, 2006!

That's 2,318 over last year! Congratulations!

Visit www.thiscityreads.org to download a copy of the First Report.

membership has its benefits

Greater Akron Chamber's Networking Calendar 2006

march – may registration

Qty.	Event	Cost	Total
—	99th Annual Meeting March 23, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline March 14 noon</i>	\$60 per person \$130 per patron \$600 per corp. table of 8	—
—	Workers' Compensation Luncheon March 27, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline March 22 noon</i>	\$25 member \$35 non-member	—
—	KNOW April 19, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline April 14 noon</i>	\$25 member \$35 non-member	—
—	The Morning Buzz May 10, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline May 5 noon</i>	\$15 per person	—
—	Get Connected! June 7, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline June 5 noon</i>	No charge	—
—	Small Business Council Annual Luncheon/Awards Banquet June 16, 2006 <i>RSVP deadline June 12 noon</i>	\$35 per person	—
TOTAL			—

We can offer a vegetarian entrée (club's choice) as a substitute to our chicken entrée. You are asked to work through the Chamber at (330) 376-5550 for this request.

Register online at www.greaterakronchamber.org

Reminder: We are required to confirm the exact number of reservations in advance of any event. Once your reservation is made, you are responsible for payment.

Company Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 Event _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 Event _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 Event _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 Event _____

Name _____
 Title _____
 Event _____

CHECK OR CHARGE ONLY - Invoicing is not available. Payment must accompany reservation.
 Check enclosed (payable to the Greater Akron Chamber)
 VISA MasterCard American Express

Cardholder Name _____ Exp. Date _____
 Card No. _____

For reservation confirmations, clip and fax to (330) 379-3164 or mail to:
Chamber Events Registration
 Greater Akron Chamber
 1 Cascade Plaza, 17th Floor
 Akron, OH 44308-1192

For additional information, call the receptionist at (330) 376-5550.

march – may networking events

Thursday, March 23
99TH ANNUAL MEETING
 "Welcome To The Brain Belt: An Environment for Innovation"
 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
 3180 W. Market St.
 \$60 per person; \$130 per patron sponsor; and \$600 per corp. table of 8
 RSVP by noon on March 14
 Sponsored by KeyBank



The Chamber will be recognizing the leading thinkers and achievements of 2005, electing new board members, and unveiling a mentally stimulating new marketing strategy for 2006.

Monday, March 27
EDUCATION LUNCHEON - "THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION: 2006 AND BEYOND"
 Keynote Speaker: **William E. Mabe, Administrator & Chief Executive Officer of The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation**
 Registration 11:00 a.m.
 Program 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Greystone Hall
 103 S. High St.
 \$25 members; \$35 non-members
 RSVP by noon on March 22
 Sponsored by Compensation Consultants Inc.



William E. Mabe

William E. Mabe will speak on the new changes to Workers' Compensation and the direction of the Bureau in 2006 and beyond.

Governor Bob Taft appointed William E. Mabe as Administrator/CEO in November 2005. Governor Taft selected Mabe, a retired Nationwide executive, to head the state's workers' compensation program because of his "strong track record of improving... operations in need of turnaround." Mabe retired from Nationwide in 2003 after serving the insurance company in several capacities, most recently as senior vice president of Nationwide Provident Operation. During his career, Mabe built a reputation as an able administrator capable of achieving major turnaround for private companies in distress.

Following Mabe's keynote address will be a question-and-answer session.

Spring Seminar Series

You've worked hard to make your business a success. Now what? A poorly designed business succession plan, or not having a plan at all, can negate a lifetime of hard work. Even if you do start planning early, the range of options can be bewildering. Who's going to manage the business when you no longer work in the business. How will ownership be transferred? Will your business even carry on or will you sell it? Will your family be involved? Where do you start?

Fortunately, there is help available. The Greater Akron Chamber has partnered with Kent State University's Ohio Employee Ownership Center (OECC) to present the Spring 2006 Business Succession Planning Program. The series of four timely seminars will help you navigate through the process and ensure that business success translates into retirement success. The schedule for Spring 2006 is as follows:

March 16, 2006 – David Gaino, Moore Stephens Apple – Introduction to Business Succession Planning
March 30, 2006 – Ray Dunkle, Brockman Coats Gedelian & Company – How Much is My Company Worth? – The ABC's of Valuation
April 13, 2006 – Michael Wear, Stark & Knoll Co., LPA – Estate/Succession Planning Techniques
April 27, 2006 – Selling to Your Employees - Management Buyouts, Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), and Co-ops

The seminars will be taught by recognized local and national professionals in the business succession and estate planning fields. Each session runs from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and will be held at Greystone Hall, 103 S. High St., in Akron. Parking is free, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Chris Cooper or Bill McIntyre at the OECC at (330) 672-3028 or oecc@kent.edu.

Wednesday, April 19
KNOW
 Lee Nielsen, President of The Nielsen Group – "Managing Your Way Around, Through, and Beyond the Glass Ceiling"
 Registration & Networking 11:00 a.m.
 Program 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Portage Country Club
 240 North Portage Path, Akron
 \$25 members; \$35 non-members
 RSVP by noon on April 14
 Sponsored by Chicago Title



Lee Nielsen

Lee will give real life examples and advice to reaching your career goals in today's business environment. Lee is the trusted advisor to executives from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies in developing results oriented cultures within their organizations. She has over 25 years experience in executive HR management at American Greetings, Office Max, and The Glidden Co., and as the CEO of an entrepreneurial medical products company. Lee earned a BS in Psychology from Webster University (75) and an MBA from Northwestern University (78) and is an Adjunct Faculty member in the MBA program at Cleveland State University.

For stories that inspire, innovative ideas, and practical solutions, be a part of the Greater Akron Chamber's exhilarating program sponsored by Chicago Title and developed exclusively for women.

Wednesday, May 10
THE MORNING BUZZ
 Panel Discussion - "Best Work Practices"
 Registration & Networking 7:30 a.m.
 Program 7:50 - 9:00 a.m.
 Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
 1989 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls
 \$15 per person
 RSVP by noon on May 5
 Sponsored by National City Bank

National City

Join us to hear a panel of experts share their knowledge and the key components in being voted one of the "Best Places to Work." It's more than a concept – it's a culture! **Jeff Perry**, Vice President, Quicken Loans Cleveland Internet Home Lending Center, and **Regina Sacha**, Vice President of Human Resources with FedEx Custom Critical, will be part of the panel. Chamber Partners: Cuyahoga Falls Chamber of Commerce • Stow-Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce

june networking events

Wednesday, June 7
GET CONNECTED!
 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 Location to be determined
 No charge
 RSVP by noon on June 5
 Sponsored by Direct Energy



This is a quarterly after hours networking event with a focus on welcoming new members, speed networking, and learning about all of the ways you can Get Connected with the Chamber!

Friday, June 16
SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL ANNUAL BANQUET/AWARDS LUNCHEON
 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
 Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls
 1989 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls
 \$35 per person
 RSVP by noon on June 12
 Sponsored by Brott Mardis & Co.



Join the Greater Akron Chamber in celebrating the accomplishments of local business leaders who have been selected as 2006 award winners – "Entrepreneur of the Year," "Small Business Advocate of the Year," "New and Emerging Business of the Year," and new this year - "Home-Based Business Owner of the Year."

upcoming networking events

july
 10th Membership Golf Classic
 19th KNOW

august
 9th The Morning Buzz
 21st Board Golf Outing

september
 6th Get Connected!
 28th Circle of Influence Reception

october
 17th Executive Dialogue
 18th KNOW

november
 2nd Economic Outlook 2007
 10th Local Elected Officials Recognition Luncheon

december
 5th The Morning Buzz
 6th Get Connected!

a cut above



Did you know the Greater Akron Chamber offers assistance with ribbon cutting ceremonies?

A ribbon cutting ceremony is one of the most exciting events for a business, whether new or existing. It is an important part of your overall marketing and advertising plan and a great way to kick off a grand opening. It offers you the opportunity to meet key leaders in the community and get acquainted with your neighbors and Chamber members. The Greater Akron Chamber would enjoy assisting you in the planning of your event.

For more information, contact Tessa Mindenhall at (330) 237-1244.

The Summit Masonic Complex held a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 10, 2006, to celebrate the opening of its new banquet and meeting facility. Located at 91 Springside Drive in Akron, the Summit Masonic Complex has banquet and meeting rooms of varying sizes, the largest holding up to 351 guests. The Complex has contracted with some of the top caterers in the Akron area to provide both corporate and leisure guests with a top-notch experience. Planning a wedding? The Summit Masonic Complex has the perfect banquet room, complete with a front riser/stage for the head table, center dance floor, mirrored walls, and mood lighting. Several 2006 dates are available. For more information and a virtual tour, visit www.summitmasoniccomplex.com. For booking information, contact Dianna McClain at (330) 807-4415.

The staff of the Goddard School celebrated its Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 20, 2006. The Goddard School offers the foundation to encourage your child's lifelong love of learning. In a warm, loving atmosphere caring teachers support the healthy development of your child from six weeks to six years old. *Goddard Developmental Guidelines* form the basis of unique lesson plans that are brought to life in a fun and imaginative way. Learning centers for dramatic play, creative art, science, quiet reading, and blocks and puzzles provide your child the opportunity to explore independently and confidently. The Goddard School's year-round program offers your family the choice of either a half- or full-day schedule. The Goddard School is located at 105 Springside Drive, in Akron. For more information, contact Karen Marinis at (330) 245-1025.



Summit Masonic Complex Ribbon Cutting
 Front Row L to R: Ray Huepel, Charles Bull, James Bull, R. Sams, Ed Utery, Arden Osborne, and Bobby McClain;
 Back Row: William Snow, Bath Township Administrator.



Goddard School Ribbon Cutting
 Front Row L to R: Karen Marinis, Owner; Katie Guaze, Director;
 Back Row L to R: Monika Windle, Andrea Wolff, Andrea Bergum, Rachel Shrank, Pam Gaino, Amanda Mistovich, Liz Richardson, and Liz Engelhardt.

- Cutler Real Estate**, formerly known as CUTLER/GMAC Real Estate, announced it is no longer affiliated with the GMAC franchise and will move forward as an independent firm with a new corporate identity and slogan "The Simple Way Home," and web site (www.cutlerhomes.com) to emphasize the company's local foundation and operations.
- Project Learn of Summit County** opened nine new Community Learning and Family First Learning Centers after it received an increase in funding from the Ohio Department of Education. As part of the program expansion, Project Learn plans to double its student enrollment over the next two years.
- Corporate Clips** (SIAA) with a Silver Award for **Akron Children's Hospital's** "Horse of a Different Color" program book and a Merit Award for **Akron Community Foundation's** 2004 annual report. *Attn. Members: What's new with your company or organization? Any special awards or certifications, expansions, or new partnerships? Make your company news our Corporate Clips. Mail them to the Greater Akron Chamber, fax to (330) 379-3164, or e-mail to grimmitt@greaterakronchamber.org. We're pleased to share your good news.*
- TRIAD Communications, Inc.** was honored at the Third Annual Service Industry Advertising Awards with a Silver Award for **Akron Children's Hospital's** "Horse of a Different Color" program book and a Merit Award for **Akron Community Foundation's** 2004 annual report. *Attn. Members: What's new with your company or organization? Any special awards or certifications, expansions, or new partnerships? Make your company news our Corporate Clips. Mail them to the Greater Akron Chamber, fax to (330) 379-3164, or e-mail to grimmitt@greaterakronchamber.org. We're pleased to share your good news.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Greater Akron Chamber

Membership Golf Classic
 Monday, July 10, 2006
 10:00 AM Shotgun Start
 Raintree Country Club
 Sponsored by SummaCare

SUMMACARE

For more information, call Karen Beltram, at 330.237.1254.

ROUNDTABLE

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
 AirTran Airways, Inc.
Second Speaker in the Series, "Success Through Regionalism"
JOE LEONARD
March 16, 2006
Noon - The Tangier

New Media Director
 The Naples Daily News
Third Speaker in the Series, "Success Through Regionalism"
ROB CURLEY
April 20, 2006
Noon - The Tangier

Dean
 Corcoran Gallery of Art & Design
CHRISTINA DE PAUL
May 18, 2006
Noon - The Tangier

The Roundtable founders are the Akron Beacon Journal, the Greater Akron Chamber, and The Kiwanis Club of Akron. Tickets are \$14; for reservations, mail your check to Akron Roundtable, 22 Scenic View, Akron, Ohio 44321-1348.

Nominations Sought for Small Business Council Awards

We all know or do business with people who deserve recognition for the fine work they do in the business world. You can give them that recognition by nominating them for one of the Greater Akron Chamber's annual Small Business Council Awards.

All business owners and business advocates in the tri-county region (Summit, Portage, and Medina Counties) are eligible to win in one or more of the following categories:

- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Small Business Advocate of the Year
- New & Emerging Business of the Year
- Home-Based Business Owner of the Year

Nomination forms must be returned by **March 10, 2006**. Judges will evaluate all nominees based on their achievements. Winners will be announced at the Small Business Council's Annual Luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Sheraton Suites Akron/Cuyahoga Falls on Friday, June 16, 2006, beginning at 11:15 a.m. Mark your calendar, and plan to help us congratulate the winners!

Please take the time to download the nomination form and identify that outstanding business or business person. We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon! To view and print a form, go to www.greaterakronchamber.org.