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June 24
Chamber Golf Outing
Golf Club of Dublin
11:30 a.m. Check-In
1:30 p.m. Shot-Gun Start
Please see insert in this
newsletter

August 12
**Prospects for the Economy
and Financial Markets**
Jim Coons, Business Economist
7:30 – 9:00 am
Heritage Golf Club
See details in newsletter and
insert

Nationally Recognized Expert on the Economy to Speak

Where will the economy head next? How will the Federal Reserve react? What is the future for stock prices and interest rates?

Join us on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 for a special presentation by James W. Coons on the economy and financial markets exclusively for customers and friends of the Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce and Champaign National Bank.

Mr. Coons is a nationally recognized expert on the economy and financial markets. Based in Columbus, he has briefed the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and spoken on Capitol Hill. He is frequently quoted in the press and writes regularly for the *Columbus Dispatch*. Audiences across the country have appreciated his commonsense approach and accessible style.

Mr. Coons correctly predicted the disappointing performance of the stock market since early 2000, the abrupt slowdown in economic activity that followed and the level and timing of the January 2001 peak in short-term interest rates.

Please join the Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce and Champaign National Bank at 7:30 a.m. on August 12, 2003 at Heritage Golf Club in Hilliard. Please see the insert for reservation information.

Membership Renewals

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership with the Chamber. Since last press time, the following members have reinvested - thank you so much!! **ServicePro.NET, Inc.; The Olen Corporation; Team Rahal; Starr Trophy & Awards; The Hanover Company**

Luncheons

Just as a reminder, we do not have any monthly luncheons during the summer. Our next luncheon will be in September. Please look in your September newsletter for specific information. Thanks to **Saturn West** who donated a doorprize for our May luncheon.

Still Time to Advertise and Play at the Golf Outing

A great way to get your name out to the community is through sponsorship at the Annual Golf Outing to be held on Tuesday, June 24 at the Golf Club of Dublin. Sponsorships available include:

Hole Sponsor	\$150
Tee Box Sponsor	\$150
Door Prizes	
Goodie Bag Items	(approx. 120 needed)



Please contact the Chamber office to secure your sponsorship. Your business name will be listed in the golf program and in the July newsletter. Your name will also appear on a sign at the hole and/or tee if you choose to sponsor them.

Plan to golf that day as well. The event is open to the public. A registration and sponsorship form is included in this newsletter. Deadline to sign up is June

Leadership Hilliard...Be in the Class of 2003-04!

Leadership Hilliard is a collaboration of community and business leaders which strives to increase the quality and quantity of existing and emerging leadership in the Hilliard area. The goal of Leadership Hilliard is to develop community members' potential for leadership, provide an opportunity for communication with and among community leaders, motivate and encourage program participants to work within Hilliard effectively and to assist in the decision-making process of the public and private institutions. If you are looking to become involved in the Hilliard community, then please call 876-7666 or email at info@hilliardchamber.org for more information on this program. There are a limited number of spaces in the class which will begin in the fall of 2003.

City of Hilliard Comprehensive Economic Development Master Plan

You have an opportunity to attend an Open House on Wednesday, June 18 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in Council Chambers located at 3800 Municipal Way to review the Comprehensive Economic Development Master Plan before the City Council votes on it. You may RSVP to Judy Perry at 876-7361 ext. 786.

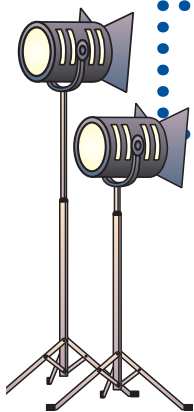
P e r s p e c t i v e

On May 13, 2003 the Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a Roundtable Breakfast hosted by State Senator Steve Stivers. The Roundtable was unique in that it was an informal gathering of business and professional leaders from around Hilliard and gave them the opportunity to have direct dialog with the Senator about a wide range of issues. Senator Stivers was very open about his position and concerns facing the citizens of the State of Ohio, what he feels is important, and what legislation that he has sponsored. He was also very concerned about what difficulties face our small businesses in Hilliard and what they feel can be done at the state level to make it easier and less expensive for businesses to operate. He noted several issues that he will review and has promised to respond to each of those issues directly. He encouraged all citizens of the Hilliard area and the chamber members to contact him if they have a question, issue or a problem that needs to be addressed at the state level.

On May 16, 2003 we had a final luncheon of the year and was honored to have Rob Oller, Sportswriter for the *Columbus Dispatch* as our speaker. Rob gave the attendees a glimpse into what it is like to meet and interview individuals from all sports. One of Rob's favorite assignments is covering the Professional Golf Association Tour and golf in general. He has had many experiences both funny and embarrassing in covering sports. He was an entertaining speaker and we were pleased to have him. I would like to thank Scott Rider for making the arrangements to have Rob. Apparently, Scott ran track with Rob at The Ohio State University. It is rumored that they may hold some records that will never be broken!!! This is mainly because they don't run those events any longer. I would like to thank both Rob and Scott for a great finish to a wonderful year of luncheons.

The Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce golf outing will be held on Tuesday June 24, 2003 at the beautiful Golf Club of Dublin. The club is just north of Hilliard off of Avery Road. It is a new course that opened last year and it will be a magnificent setting for this years outing. This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year to support the operations of the chamber. Tell everyone you know and bring clients and co-workers. Make it a fun time. Please make your reservations today by calling the chamber office at 876-7666.

I would like to remind everyone that I welcome any ideas, comments or suggestions that you, as a member of the chamber have to offer. This is your organization and I am here to serve you. Please send any comments to me at tmo62@aol.com or by mailing them to the chamber office and I will respond to you as quickly as possible. Thank you for your ongoing support.



Spotlight on Business.....computer moms®

...mentors on the move for all of your computing needs

- What needs do you have in the area of computers and systems to support the growth that you have planned for next year?
- What would happen if you lost information about your customers?
- What costs are you incurring to store paperwork related to your business?
- Do you have the right software to support your business?
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computer moms® can take care of all of your computer needs, including:

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- Purchasing assistance
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 - o QuickBooks
 - o ACT!
 - o Any industry specific software used by your business
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The local **computer moms®** franchise was started in August of 2002 and employs certified mentors that focus on specific areas using their extensive background and experience. Our mentors have gone through a comprehensive, on-going training program.

Contact **computer moms®** at 614-272-1141.

(**computer moms®** was awarded the opportunity to feature its business in this space by being the winner of a door prize drawing at a Chamber luncheon. There will be another drawing at the September luncheon, so please plan to attend!)

Stivers introduces Tort Reform Bill

Tort Reform Bill SB-80 was recently introduced by **Senator Steve Stivers** because, he believes, the problems with the current civil justice system are threefold: frivolous lawsuits, uncertain verdicts and perpetual liability. This is a piece of legislation that:

- Balances the rights of those who have been legitimately harmed with the rights of those who have been unfairly sued;
- Preserves access to the court system for those who are actually harmed by the negligence of others;
- Offers protection for businesses and professionals by establishing a 10-year time limit within which product liability and construction-related lawsuits can be filed;
- Offers more stringent standards regulating frivolous conduct by attorneys, and permits judges to impose penalties on those violating the new standards;
- Limits excessive attorney fees to ensure that plaintiffs are fully compensated for their losses; and
- Creates a Legal Consumers Bill of Rights to ensure that plaintiffs have the opportunity to make well-informed decisions concerning their cases and be more aware of their rights related to contingency fee agreements.

Senator Stivers explains: "Our current tort reform system has caused bankruptcies and loss of jobs, but most importantly, stifles innovation. The goal of this bill is a balanced plan: to compensate injured parties fairly while removing the negative impact our current civil justice system has on jobs and economic development." Source: Ohio Chamber Legislative Update, May 2, 2003

Advertising Opportunities

The Hilliard Area Chamber of Commerce is providing opportunities for our members to advertise within our membership and to those outside as well. Please contact the chamber for more information about the following (all are on a space available basis):

1	<u>Inserts in the newsletter:</u> Limited to no more than 3 each issues; member provides the specified number of flyers; cost is \$100	3	<u>Business card size ad in newsletter:</u> \$100 for 3 months; \$175 for 6 months; \$350 for 12 months
2	<u>Labels:</u> Mailing labels of members provided by zip or organization sort: cost is \$100	4	<u>Flyers in relocation packets:</u> members provides the flyers to be inserted in relocation packets requested by companies and residents; cost is \$100

Member Bits

Mammograms are being offered at **Traditions at Mill Run**, 3550 Fishinger Blvd., on June 10 from 9:30 am to 2 pm. To schedule a mammogram, call the Columbus Cancer Clinic at 263-5006. The cost for the exam is \$80. Services will be provided regardless of ability to pay.

On Wednesday, September 24, 2003, the **Better Business Bureau** will once again present its *Business Integrity Awards* to honor "those firms or individuals whose business practices and related activities exemplify the **BBB's** mission and principles". Entries are due by Friday, July 25 and will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Must have been in business at least three year; have a favorable track record at **BBB** of Central Ohio; business must not exhibit any indications that they do not meet their financial obligations.
- For more information on the awards, visit www.centralohiobb.org
- **The Goddard School**, located on Roberts Court, received the Occupancy Award at the company's recent convention in San Diego. The award recognizes those schools that maintain a 95 percent occupancy throughout the year.



Parking, Parking, Parking

Certainly location is vital, but the importance of adequate parking should not be downplayed. This has always been recognized as a key to retail success, but an article in *Business First* indicates that almost any type of business will benefit from an area that provides proper parking for both clients and employees.

In addition to adequate client spaces, it is also important to provide the company employees with an area that offers both safety and cheap/free parking.

Many municipalities are now stressing the importance of the area's appearance, as well. They often "require green spaces and trees to break up oceans of asphalt". According to landscape architects, "landscaping should do more than improve the looks of a lot or satisfy zoning requirements". It can also decrease the amount of heat generating from the paved area. Identifying the area to park that is closest to the front entrance and the proper path to walk to the door are also facets of the overall landscape design. A professional in the field can educate the business owner in the necessary ingredients that are part of the lot's efficiency.

Planning for proper parking should not be overlooked. "Sinking money into a parking lot might seem to add unreasonable costs . . . until your parking lot begins to drive people away".

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JUNE 2003 SEMINAR CALENDAR

Seminars are held at **EWI - Edison Welding Institute**
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(turn south from Lane Ave.)
at **1250 Arthur E. Adams Dr.**

Seminars are \$35 each. A discount of \$5 applies if your check and registration are received 3 days before the seminar.

■ HOW TO START YOUR BUSINESS

How to start your business the right way.
Thursday, June 19, 2003
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

■ MARKETING

How to effectively target your markets.
Thursday, June 26, 2003
8:30 AM - Noon

■ WRITING AN EFFECTIVE BUSINESS PLAN

How to write a plan you banker will love
Thursday, June 19, 2003
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

■ HOME BASED BUSINESS

How to be successful with your Home Based Business.
Thursday, June 26, 2003
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

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