




September/October 2006

Nappanee Area Chamber of Commerce  
(574) 773-7812  
Nappaneechamber.com  
nappaneeecofc@kconline.com

2006  
Calendar  
of Events

**Dates to Remember** 

**BID Meeting**  
7:00 PM  
Thurs. Sept. 28

**State Main Street  
Conference – Wabash**  
Thurs. Sept. 28 – 30

**Small Business Institute  
Meeting – Goshen  
College**  
Tue. Oct. 3

**Small Business  
Development Center  
Circuit Rider**  
Thurs. Oct. 5

**Chamber Retail Meeting**  
Fri. Oct. 6

**Leadership Academy**  
Tue, Oct. 10

**Chamber Board of  
Directors Meeting**  
Mon. Oct. 16

**NIFTY Meeting**  
Mon. Oct. 23



**2006 APPLE FESTIVAL – 31 YEARS OF SUCCESS!!**



**APPLE FESTIVAL  
BY THE NUMBERS**

50,000+ attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Nappanee Apple Festival

984 Cups of Ice Cream were sold

62 the number of inches that the winning frog jumped during the Frog Jumping Contest

240 Carmel Apples were sold

4 is the number of hours it took to make the 7' Apple Pie

22 Food booths offered a variety of delicacies

648 Announcements were made from the Gazebo during the festival

112 Craft Vendor Booths

85 units participated in the Apple Festival Parade

9 Songs were sang during the Apple Festival 1<sup>st</sup> Brethren Church Service

3 age of the youngest participant in the Apple Pie Eating Contest

84 Young Eagle airplane rides were given to first time flyers

90.5 inches of Apple Peel took first prize

103 minutes was how long the Train blocked the railroad crossing

219 miles were logged by Stan Huffer in the Apple Festival Truck





**Special Points of Interest  
from Tourism Industry  
At-A-Glance**

22 million people live within  
three hours of Elkhart  
County

Elkhart County's business  
climate includes over 5,100  
businesses employing over  
108,000

Manufacturing businesses  
account for nearly 50% of  
the county's total jobs

Over 24,000 workers  
commute into Elkhart  
County from surrounding  
counties every day

Tourism contributes over  
\$325 million to the county's  
economy

The tourism industry  
accounts for over 4,900  
jobs in Elkhart County,  
providing over \$69 million  
in wages.

Elkhart County hotels have  
a total of 2,171 rooms and  
sold more than 400,000  
room nights in 2005

Elkhart County and nearby  
Shipshewana are home to  
three of the top five most  
popular attractions in  
Northern Indiana

**NEW MEMBER – HEARTFELT CREATIONS**

**Willis and Linda Bontrager** have combined two popular hobbies, Stamping and Scrapbooking, in their new store "**Heartfelt Creations**". The Bontragers have been in the stamping and scrapbooking business for seven years and have their own line of rubber stamps. The store offers a variety of other decorative and gift items. Willis and Linda want to make **Heartfelt Creations** more than a place to just buy stamping and scrapbooking supplies, they want to be a place where customers can relax, learn and create. They also plan to host parties and offer classes in the near future. Visit **Heartfelt Creations** in the Country Center (1309 E. Market St.) M-F 9-6, Sa 9-3. Phone: 574-773-3088

Email: [stamping@grs-heartfeltcreations.com](mailto:stamping@grs-heartfeltcreations.com)

WEB: [www.grs-heartfeltcreations.com](http://www.grs-heartfeltcreations.com)

**BOARD TO THANK CHAMBER VOLUNTEERS**

The Chamber Board of Directors invites all volunteers and a guest to attend the **Chamber Volunteer Appreciation Picnic** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 PM along side the pond at **Heritage House**. Board members will serve a picnic supper of hamburgers and hotdogs followed by homemade ice cream. J.Jay Brooks, an international entertainer, will be performing his "one hour trip" down memory lane through classic songs from days-gone-by from 6:30 to 7:30. Please RSVP to the Chamber (773-7821) by Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2006-2007 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UNDERWAY**

Nine students are enjoying the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Nappanee Leadership Academy:

Carol Berkeypile, 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank

Ryan Brenneman, Nappanee Window

Kami Coffin, Family Christian Dev. Center

Chris Colglazier, Nappanee Window

Steve Hochstetler, Nappanee Window

Fred Lechlitner, Farm Bureau Insurance

Dori Martin, Nappanee Family Eyecare

Grant Schrock, MMA Steward Solutions

Gerard Tejada, Nappanee Window

Kevin Deary, Executive Director of the Elkhart County Boys and Girls Club, is the leadership theory facilitator. The class meets on the second Tuesday of each month in various locations throughout the community.

During the eleven month program, students will experience all aspects of our Nappanee community. The October 10<sup>th</sup> session will feature Mayor Larry Thompson presenting a "State of the City Bus Tour".

**SMALL BUSINESS INSTITUTE – ELKHART COUNTY**

A new business resource is available for local entrepreneurs. The **Small Business Institute of Elkhart County** is to be the collaborative community resource contact point for entrepreneurs to secure information and assistance in starting or expanding a business in the Elkhart County community. Partnering organizations include:

Nappanee Chamber of Commerce, Goshen College Center for Business & Entrepreneurial Education, Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, Goshen Chamber of Commerce, Middlebury Chamber of Commerce, Elkhart County Economic Development Corporation, Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information about services available as you start to develop your business, please contact Larry Andrews at the NACC.



**2005 Visitor Spending by Sector**



**Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**

- Brad Baum**  
John Mast Construction
- Tom Bradway**  
Curtis TV
- Dianne Debelak**  
HomeSpun Country Inn
- Gary Fraelich**  
Nappanee Ford
- Sonya Nash**  
Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Shane Henry**  
Fabwel Owens Corning
- John Leavitt**  
Salem Insurance
- Gavin Miller**  
Lake City Bank
- Gary Shuder**  
Newmar Corp
- Criss Walter**  
Holmes & Walter Attorneys

**STATE ROAD 19 SURVEY**

The Chamber Board of Directors recently conducted an informal survey asking members if they preferred intersection improvements or 4-laning of SR 19 from Elkhart to Nappanee. A recently released State of Indiana Transportation Plan proposed only intersection improvements. The results of the survey will be shared with INDOT. Over 80% of the surveys returned supported 4-laning of SR 19.

**HERITAGE HOUSE ACTIVITIES!!**

**Heritage House** Assisted Living of Nappanee is now offering a **Soup and Salad Luncheon** every Thursday, \$5.00 per person. 24 hour advance reservation requested for the lunch. Call 574-773-3592 for more information.

**LINDA YODER, APPLE FESTIVAL GRAND MARSHALL**



Linda Yoder, Director of the Nappanee Public Library, wasn't sure what to think as she walked into the library conference room with Gale Gerber, and what looked like her whole staff taking a break, but graciously said, "I can do that" when asked to be the 2006 Apple Festival Grand Marshall. Linda has managed the Nappanee Library since 1987 and has served on the board of several local organizations.

2007 Apple Festival Dates:

**September 14, 15 & 16, 2007**



**BUSINESS LUNCHEON AT HERITAGE HOUSE – 12-1 PM**

Friday, October 13, 2006 Steve Thall, Sales and Marketing professional skilled in client relations and business development, will present "**5 Ways to Grow Your Business**" at Heritage House (1700 Waterfall Dr.). Action International's **5 ways to grow your business** is the fastest way to massively increase your profits because of one concept: **Leverage**, or as we define it, "ever more with ever less." Call **Heritage House** to reserve your \$5.00 lunch at 773-3592.