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Issue 2, 2011

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Welcome to the second annual edition of **CW 43110**, a publication of the Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce. Our goal for this magazine is to inform residents, visitors and potential visitors about our great community and why we love it.



Although this is a Chamber publication, this magazine is not simply about Chamber activities or issues. Instead, we hope to reflect within these pages a sense of why we think that Canal Winchester is one of the greatest places in which to live, work and play.

This publication is relentlessly positive, pro-community and pro-business. We make no apologies for that – indeed, we celebrate it! We hope you will too.

In this issue, we have tried to highlight some of the things that have allowed the Canal Winchester area to retain its hometown, close-knit feel while growing at the same time. Things like our family-friendly community events such as our decades-long Labor Day tradition, our new Blues & Rib Fest, the Historical Society's Ghost Tour and the Christmas in the Village celebration. We also try to highlight some of our proud history and our current day economic challenges and successes. Finally, we try to spotlight some great volunteer organizations that are working hard to help those in need and keep our community strong.

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CW Chamber's Annual Golf Outing Just a Month Away

Attention Golfers! The annual CW Chamber Golf Outing is just around the corner.

To be held at Westchester Golf Course on July 22, this annual four-person scramble will begin with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

The cost to participate is only \$65 per golfer or \$240 per team. Included with your registration is a cart, greens fees, prizes, a light lunch at the turn and a delicious dinner at the end of the day! Plus, you're golfing instead of working – what more can you ask for?

Last year, there were at least 125 golfers who played in the scramble. The Chamber hopes to beat that number next month.

This event is open to non-chamber members. For information on registering your team, call the chamber office at 837-1556. 



Happy golfers at the beginning of last year's Chamber Golf Outing
Photo courtesy of Anne Holmes Photography, 614-893-9303



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Econ 101: CW is Adding Businesses as Community Grows

The 2010 census marked a new chapter of Canal Winchester's development. After several years of steady growth, our community exceeded Ohio's population requirements for becoming a city with the most recent U.S. census results.

The past decade has brought marked growth to many areas in Canal Winchester. Its population increased nearly 60 percent, making it one of central Ohio's fastest growing communities. In addition, more new companies established themselves in Canal Winchester than any other community in central Ohio during 2010.

According to Canal Winchester development director Chris Strayer, approximately 250,000 square feet of development has occurred in the community since 2007, bringing more than 500 jobs to the area. More than 200 of these jobs were added since mid-2009, despite the sluggish economy.

The Diley Ridge Medical Center opened its doors on March 16, 2010, fulfilling the area's need for a healthcare facility. The center treated more than 16,000 emergency patients through the end

of the year, and became the first Gold LEED-certified healthcare facility in Ohio.

A 36,000 square-foot emergency and diagnostics center as well as an adjacent medical office building are located on the medical center's campus. The hospital has already spurred the location of more than 20 medical-related businesses to the Diley Ridge area. These businesses meet the medical needs of Canal Winchester and surrounding communities by offering everything from cardiovascular specialties to physical therapy services. The campus was developed to support growth and may one day include a full-service inpatient hospital, outpatient surgeries and expanded medical offices.

Manifold & Phalor, which celebrated its grand opening in December, has also found success in Canal Winchester. The machine parts manufacturer operates a 30,000 square-foot facility in the Canal Point Industrial Park and employs more than 30 people. The company has thrived during difficult times in the industry and attracted national attention for its expanding manufacturing operations.

In addition to Manifold & Phalor and the developments in the Diley Ridge area, several other companies have recently opened for businesses throughout the community. Other new businesses include the Ohio State School of Cosmetology & Barber School, Winchester Tea Room, PPA Graphics, Nowstalgic Toys, Firestone and a Goodwill collection store. Staples and Chipotle are expected to open later this year.

Strayer shared that Canal Winchester is targeting advanced manufacturing and the food processing industry for future development. Currently a large portion of crops are grown in the area and then shipped elsewhere for processing, making these industries a good fit for the community.

"So many variables make Canal Winchester a prime location for these industries," said Strayer. "A skilled manufacturing workforce, an outstanding water supply, direct access to US Route 33 and proximity to Rickenbacker make our city set for growth in these areas."

There are limited existing buildings available for lease in Canal Winchester, but an ample amount of land available for build-to-suit projects. The city is working with local developers to add more leasable space to the community.

In line with national and central Ohio trends, the community has a large supply of residential properties on the market. Residential development, however, has remained steady due to healthy population growth and is expected to continue.

In preparation for future development, the city regularly improves the infrastructure throughout the community. Several updates to the city's sanitary sewer system and major renovations to Gender Road, one of the city's main thoroughfares, are on the 2011 agenda. Phase I of Gender Road

continued on p. 11

ANNE GONZALES
YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Civil War Anniversary Prompts

Memories of a Home Town Hero

By Brian Fox

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, our nation's bloodiest conflict. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces began shelling the Union stronghold of Fort Sumter which controlled the entrance to Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. Fort Sumter fell the next day and President Lincoln called on the northern states to provide troops to quell the rebellion.

Ohio – one of the most populous states at the time -- supplied over 300,000 soldiers throughout the war. Counted in this number were many from Canal Winchester, including a young farm boy by the name of Alfred Cannon.

According to the Canal Winchester Area Historical Society and other sources, Alfred was born in Canal Winchester in 1844 to James and Ann Cannon. In August of 1862, he enlisted in the 95th regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry which was being organized at that time at Camp Chase in Columbus. Private Cannon was assigned to Company D.

The 95th immediately moved south and was involved in the Battle of Richmond, Ky., August 29-30, during which Alfred

and most of his regiment were captured. The men of the 95th were exchanged later in the year and returned to Camp Chase.

After the regiment was reorganized, Alfred and the rest of the 95th were sent back down to the south and were involved in several engagements in Mississippi including the sieges of Vicksburg and Jackson as well as many lesser known battles.

It was at one of these unheralded places – Brices Crossroads, to be exact – where Private Cannon was once again captured on June 10, 1864. This time he was sent to the infamous prison camp at Andersonville, Georgia.

It was here where Private Cannon would willingly give his “last full measure of devotion” for his countrymen. During preparations for another prisoner exchange, Alfred Cannon drew a lucky number which would have allowed him to go home. Instead, he turned to his friend who had a wife and children and handed him the ticket, saying, “Go to your family.”


Later, as Union troops were marching through Georgia, Private Cannon and other POWs were

shipped to the Confederate prison at Florence, South Carolina. It was there that Private Cannon died on January 21, 1865, of typhoid fever.

In total, the 95th OVI lost 276 men during the war – 217 of them from disease.

After the war, Alfred Cannon's remarkable bravery and selflessness was recognized by local veterans when the Canal Winchester GAR Post #261 was named in his honor. GAR posts were fraternal organizations made up of Union vets – not unlike today's American Legion or VFW.

Today a memorial to Alfred Cannon stands on the grounds of the CW Area Historical Society. It was dedicated in the year 2000, fittingly, on Memorial Day.

Over the next many months, there will be many commemorations, celebrations and recognition of the tremendous events which shook our country so many years ago. As you watch the specials on TV or perhaps travel to some of the historic battlefields, don't forget to stop by the Alfred Cannon Memorial right here in Canal Winchester and spend some time remembering a true hometown hero. 

Brian Fox is a board member of the CW Area Chamber of Commerce and owner of HFM Publications.



Private Alfred Cannon



The Alfred Cannon Memorial at left.

Blues & Ribfest will be Hotter Than Ever in 2011!

When planning your 2011 summer calendar activities, draw a big bright circle around August 5th and 6th where the Canal Winchester Blues and Ribfest promises to deliver even more “smokin’ blues, sizzlin’ hot ribs, and much more!”

An instant classic now in its second year, this free-admission annual event is a real crowd-pleaser with something for just about everyone. When the organizers of the Canal Winchester Blues & Ribfest set out to launch this brand new music/food-themed festival in 2010, they hoped they could meet a goal of attracting 5,000 - 7,000 people into the historic downtown business district. However, the public’s enthusiastic response to mouth-watering barbeque ribs served up with great non-stop live blues performances on two stages was somewhat underestimated by the organizers.

Bruce Jarvis, Program Director of the host organization Main Street Canal Winchester explains, “With attendance over both days last year to be in excess of 20,000 festival-goers from all over central Ohio, our crowd expectations were exceeded by over 200 percent. It was great!”

While things were a little snug at times and some of the master rib chefs literally sold out of ribs before the night was out due to the surge in demand for barbeque, those first-year issues have been noted and addressed. Jarvis stated, “The city has given permission to expand the venue to include the iconic High and Waterloo intersection which gives us room to add more rib and food vendors to better meet demand and improve pedestrian flow throughout the event.”

This is just one example of the improvements being made to the growing festival. There will also be two spacious dining tents at key locations sponsored by Canal Banking Center and Diley Ridge Medical Center/Mount Carmel with plenty of tables and chairs so that the customers can get out of the sun to comfortably eat while in earshot of the live music.



Mayor Ebert congratulates Burt Reynolds, owner of Kingy's Pizza Pub, on winning the 2010 “Best Ribs” award.

A new information booth and children’s activity area tent will be sponsored by Bob McDorman Chevrolet. Rutherford Auto Body/Sudlinger’s Car Detailing is the sponsor of the Main Stage featuring a much larger audience space with room to dance. The popular Beer Garden sponsored by RE/MAX Champions will also be expanded to accommodate more guests as they listen to the sounds of classic American blues coming from the Berwick Glass & Mirror-sponsored solo/duo stage in Stradley Place.

In the art and hand-craft area, there will be additional artists giving demonstrations and offering their one-of-a-kind treasures to the public. Locally-owned Kingy’s Pizza Pub will return to defend their 1st place and People’s Choice awards for best ribs against a determined field of rib masters from all over the state.

The music lineup this year will feature some of the favorites from 2010 with some very talented new bands added to keep the entertainment mix fresh and exciting from start to finish. Jarvis is quick to point out, “Our opening act on Friday is Rob Thompson, a 23 year old guitar-master from South Africa who has clearly been inspired by the great American blues artists

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Human Services' Projects Supported by Many in the Chamber and Community

By Penny Miller


CW Human Services continues to serve Canal Winchester through the various programs we provide because of the wonderful partnerships enjoyed with many Chamber members.

Our Emergency Assistance Program benefitted from a partnership with Shades, Downtown Mainstreet and RE/MAX Realtors during the 2010 inaugural Rib Fest. Similarly, our Tools for Schools project again received significant support from Curves.

The holiday Adopt-A-Family served a record 92 families this past year consisting of 330 people and was only possible because of support from a very generous community including most of the local churches and various civic organizations such as the Lions Club, local realtors and the Rotary. The Village and the School District assists in many

ways as does local businesses such as South Central Power, TS Tech, Kingy's Pizza, Fitness Firm and the local Post Office.

As we forge through 2011, we hope to receive a grant to support the purchase of another vehicle for the Senior Transportation Program and we will assist as the Food Pantry anticipates moving to a bigger facility.

Canal Winchester thrives because people who live and work here take pride in the community. Those in a position to give often support the programs and projects of Human Services as we assist those in need. To learn more about the programs we administer, we encourage you to visit our website at www.cwhumanservices.org or call us at 834-3888. 


Penny Miller has served as the administrative coordinator of CW Human Services since 2005.



Econ, continued from p. 7


construction will be completed this year, with phase II expected to begin in 2012.

"We have seen substantial development in Canal Winchester in recent years and expect the growth-spurt to continue with steady demand in the area," added Strayer.

Although the newly-declared city of Canal Winchester remains ripe for development, the city doesn't plan to lose its small town charm any time soon. Canal Winchester is a community rooted in tradition and full of history that provides a welcoming and prosperous environment for residents and companies alike. 

Ribfest, continued from p. 10

but has never been outside of his native South Africa until now. He will be playing his unique brand of high-energy rocking blues in front of a large American audience for the first time -- and it's happening here in Canal Winchester, Ohio! "

With all the plans and preparations made, this year's Blues & Ribfest looks like the one you don't want to miss! Please see BluesAndRibfest.com for more information. 



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Community

Canal Winchester Farmers' Market:

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Wednesdays (July & Aug only) 5-7 pm

Visit sidewalk vendors along High Street in our Historic downtown. Treat your family to locally grown produce and locally made goods & services - you never know what you might find! Rain or Shine. www.theCWFM.com



Women in Business Coffee:



Held the first Friday of the month (except July which will be held on the 9th) at 8:30 a.m. Call 837-1556 for locations. These coffees present an opportunity for businesswomen in the area to network with other businesswomen, share success stories and help each other succeed.

Music & Art in the Park:

May 20; June 17; July 15, 6 pm

Located at Stradley Park
(beside the Village Offices).

Bring your lawn chairs for this FREE, family-friendly summer concert series.

Picnics are also welcome; however, alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Canal Winchester's community center, located at 22 S. Trine Street, serves as the backup location for all concerts in case of inclement weather. Bring your whole family out to enjoy the fun! For more information, call 834-9727 or visit www.CanalWinchesterOhio.gov



CW Chamber Annual Golf Outing:

July 22, 9 a.m. at Westchester Golf Course. Shotgun start.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Only \$65 per golfer or \$240 per team. Call 837-1556 for info.

Blues & Ribfest:

August 5: 5-11 pm; Aug 6: 11 am - 11 pm

A GREAT event in Historic Downtown CW featuring continuous live blues music, BBQ rib masters, arts & crafts and a beer garden. Expanded area this year to fit everyone in. Fun for all ages! Come on down to vote for your favorite ribs! No charge for admission so come early and bring some friends for a great day! www.bluesandribfest.com





Events

Labor Day Festival:

September 3, 4 & 5

The annual Labor Day Festival is Canal Winchester's largest and longest running event – now in its 91st year! Begun in 1920 as a small gathering called the Fall Festival, it is now a local tradition that attracts thousands of visitors each year. Come on down for carnival rides, the parade, live entertainment, kid's activities, great food and much more. For additional information, contact the Labor Day Committee at (614) 470-0949 or www.cwlaborday.org



Football for Food:

September 9

Fans can attend the football game by donating a can of food for the CW Food Pantry - or a cash donation.

Historic Ghost Tour:

October 14 & 15: 7-9 pm

The Canal Winchester Area Historical Society will hold their 6th Annual Historic Ghost Tour on October 14 & 15 from 7-9 pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the tours.

Learn fascinating local history in a walking tour with long-gone figures from our past. For information call 837-8400 or visit www.cwhistory.org

Christmas in the Village:

December 2: 6-9 pm; December 3: 5-8 pm

Canal Winchester's annual storybook Christmas celebration will be held in the village's historic downtown on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3.

There will be activities for the whole family including a Santa parade each night. This year's event will include horse drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, children's games and crafts, an electric train display, Christmas carolers, a gingerbread house contest and much more. Anyone who would like more information about Christmas



in the Village or details on how to enter the annual gingerbread house contest should call 614-834-9727 or visit www.CanalWinchesterOhio.gov



Clockwise from lower right:
Teri Gilmore, Kelly Thacker,
Elizabeth Safier, Laura Bowen
Wendy Fautz, Laura Henestofel

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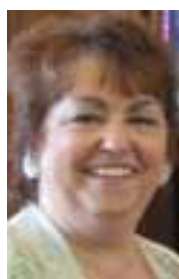


*Ladan
Fischbach, D.D.S.*

Workforce Education Grant Fund Started for Women Business Owners

Women Educating Women, Inc. (WEW), a 501c3 charitable organization calls Canal Winchester home and will soon be providing grants to women-owned micro-businesses to help them better run their business, receive training and make them more competitive.

CW resident Connie Spruill is the founder of WEW and serves as its Executive Director. After thirty-three years as a diehard entrepreneur, she has now turned philanthropist, looking forward to helping women micro-business owners who need a boost to get ahead. (A micro-business is defined as a business with 1-5 employees with \$50,000 or less in annual revenue).



Connie Spruill


owner's skills, making her more competitive in the marketplace.

An example of industry specific training: A harpist who wants to play in hospitals and hospices but cannot do so without a music therapy certification costing around \$1,500 cannot move ahead in her business without the training. There are no funding agencies or government programs that will fund training dollars for an individual. The options available to a woman prior to WEW were to be included in a group training effort, which, in this case, were nonexistent. WEW would consider this type of need as eligible for a grant.

To qualify for consideration, the business owner must submit a business plan with projected revenue and expenses,

the purpose of the business, business goals spelled out and an explanation of how the training will make the business owner more competitive and help move the business forward. A committee of reviewers will then contact the business owner for an interview.

The organization is looking for established women business owners to serve as trainers and service providers to recipients of grants, thus, the moniker: "Women Educating Women". The plan is to offer small grants at the beginning of 2012 once all sponsors are on board.

For more information on requesting a grant or to apply to be a service provider go to: www.womeneducatingwomen2day.org or call: 614-325-5452. 

Saturday, May 7, 2011, Women Educating Women, Inc. held its first fund raiser to provide seed capital for its grant fund. The event, Success for Women-Profiles of Inspiration, originally was produced in the eighties and early nineties as a marketing tool for Connie's business to draw visibility to her micro-enterprise training programs for women. She has loaned the license of her trademarked event to Women Educating Women, Inc. for the sole purpose of raising funds.

The fund will offer small grants to micro-businesses owned and operated by women. The grants are to be used for industry specific training that is not already offered by small business organizations and will upgrade the

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United Way of Fairfield County is creating lasting change in our community by focusing on critical issues in three impact areas: **Education, Income, and Health.**

EDUCATION: We are ensuring that children and youth achieve their potential by preparing them for success academically, socially and emotionally. We are committed to: increasing kindergarten readiness, increasing parental involvement, decreasing risk factors among youth and increasing high school graduation rates and career access.

INCOME: We are supporting services that help families maximize financial stability; increasing accessibility to safe, permanent, affordable housing; ensuring individuals and families in crisis have access to emergency food and shelter, and are adequately prepared for disasters and emergencies.

HEALTH: We are supporting programs that increase the ability of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities to complete independent activities of daily living; increasing health care access to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families; and helping residents maintain healthy nutrition and physical fitness.

Working together with a broad range of community partners, United Way's Community Impact process has identified community conditions that require change. We have developed strategies and goals with measurable outcomes. Local funding is invested on the basis of a program/agency's ability to help our community succeed in one or more of these areas.

For over 70 years, United Way of Fairfield County has been the largest fund-raiser for social services in our community. We have provided financial resources to local non-profit agencies doing great work and have fostered a spirit of generosity and caring. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! Your gift to the United Way campaign ensures that people, who need help, get help and provides hope for a brighter tomorrow.

- Canal Winchester Human Services (CWHS) is a United Way funded agency that has served Canal Winchester since its founding in 1955. CWHS provides information and referral services, emergency financial assistance, food assistance, and transportation services to residents of Canal Winchester.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fairfield County serves children in Canal Winchester schools who live in Fairfield County, matching at-risk youth with trusted adult mentors through both the community and school-based mentoring programs.
- The American Red Cross, Fairfield County Chapter, serves victims of disasters and emergencies throughout Fairfield County. Residents of Canal Winchester who have experienced a disaster have access to emergency assistance, shelter and basic supplies through the services of the Red Cross.

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EDUCATION INCOME HEALTH

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Service Groups

Friends For Life

Animal Haven

www.fflah.rescuegroups.org

Friends For Life Animal Haven is a non-profit animal rescue and adoption corporation which is celebrating its 18th year of operation. The mission is to promote and support humane care for companion animals to achieve the goal of "no more homeless pets."



Over the years hundreds of cats and dogs have been placed in forever homes. This could not have been accomplished without generous donations from community supporters.

Other than expenses for certain utilities (telephone, insurance), the organization continues as a totally volunteer group with the majority of funding designated to the care and feeding of those animals in foster homes. To see some of the available furry friends, or if you would like to volunteer in any way, visit the Animal Haven website.

CW Lions Club

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/canalwinchesterOH

The Canal Winchester Lions Club

is one of over 45,000 clubs in over 200 countries of the world's largest service club, Lions Clubs International. Lions were challenged by Helen Keller to be Knights of the Blind and the CW Lions Club meets that challenge by providing eye exams and glasses to people in our school district who cannot afford them. Our club also collects used glasses and sunglasses for re-use in third world countries.



We sponsor the CWSHS Leo Club, Boy Scout Troop 103, Cub Scout Pack 103, and the Dr. Bender XC Classic. The club supports all four CW schools, along with the high school choral, steel drum, and athletic programs.

In Ohio we support Pilot Dogs (guide dogs), university eye research, Ohio Lions Foundation, and the Ohio Diabetes Association. Our service projects include electronic recycling and trash pick up, with the Leo Club on a section of USR 33.

Bloom Carroll Kiwanis

www.bloomcarrollkiwanis.com

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.



We are devoted to working with youth in their communities, thus we are sponsoring the Bloom Carroll High School Key Club and need YOU to help.

Kiwanis membership is open to all community minded and caring citizens. Applications are accepted at any time. The club meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Bloom Carroll High School cafeteria at 6:30 pm and the 4th Thursday of the month at the Relax' N Day adult day care in Lithopolis, 44 E. Columbus Street at 6:30 pm.

For questions or membership information, contact Joe Taylor at 614-829-7355 or joe@garnerinsurance.org.

Rotary Club of Canal Winchester

www.rotarycanalwinchester.org

The Rotary Club of Canal Winchester is made up of business and professional leaders who volunteer to work locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace and eradicate polio under the motto "Service Above Self."



Locally, the club has helped raise funds for many good causes including: Relay for Life, CW Human Services, CW Food Pantry, Special Olympics, YMCA and Polio Plus among other important organizations. Of course, Rotary is also known for its free dictionaries to grade schoolers!

The Rotary Club meets every Thursday at noon for lunch at Shades where members enjoy a wide variety of speakers and are able to network with business and community leaders in order to better understand the needs of our community. The club also serves Groveport, Lithopolis, Carroll and surrounding areas.

South Gate-Potter Masonic Lodge No. 782

www.freemason.com

Canal Winchester has had a Masonic Lodge in its boundaries since April of 1885. It first met under the name Madison Lodge with Dr. J. B. Potter as its first Master. When Dr. Potter died a few years later, the lodge was renamed in his honor.



Today, the South Gate-Potter Masonic Lodge is still active, holding meetings in its building at 651 Groveport Pike in Canal Winchester. The lodge has supported many charitable efforts in Canal Winchester over the years including the Food Pantry, Adopt-a-Family at Christmas, scholarships and others.

To raise funds, the Lodge has held car shows, rents out its dining hall and is currently sponsoring flea markets this summer at its Groveport Pike location.

The lodge does not solicit membership, but welcomes your membership inquiries.

CW Community Food Pantry

614-837-7734

The Canal Winchester Community Food Pantry is located at 80 West Columbus Street in David's United Church of Christ. The Pantry started in 1974 at David's UCC by a high school Sunday school class who determined that there was a need in our community to help people who were

struggling to make ends meet. Since 1974, our community has grown tremendously and so has the need.

Our pantry is a non-profit organization that is funded by donations from the community, local businesses, civic organizations and area churches. There are several food drives throughout the year organized by the Boy/Girl Scouts, the Post Office, churches and others. Our biggest drive is called "Football for Food" and is held in the fall of each year at one of the CW home football games. It's organized by CW Human Services which works with all the schools in Canal Winchester to make this event a big success.

Does Canal Winchester really need a food pantry?

The answer is -- absolutely! In the past year, the number of people we serve has greatly increased. We average 1,045 food items given each week and recently we gave 1,025 food items in one day!

So, how can you help? You can bring food donations to David's UCC. You can donate money which is used to purchase food items such as milk, eggs and bread and if you would like to be more involved, you can volunteer your time!

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12. SMOOTH AWAY
13. WHAT WE OFFER
14. SKIN ESSENTIALS
15. WHAT WE ALL NEED
16. THE OLDEST PROFESSION
17. SOFT AS A BABY'S BOTTOM
18. GET YOUR DUDE ON

DOWN

1. ADD A HUE
2. IT BEGAN HERE
4. BEST FOOT FORWARD
6. CW PAMPERING SITE
7. LEARN IT ALL
8. SCRUB-A-DUB-DUB
11. CAN YOU HANDLE IT?
19. YOUR ROAD TO STYLE

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**SALON
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GROUP

Women's Business Group Flourishing in Canal Winchester

By Connie Spruill

Women of Winchester is a division within the Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce that is made up of women business owners and professionals in the area. The organization is open to any woman who seeks to grow and have access to business opportunities.



The first Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. is our meeting time and we hold them at local establishments owned by women in the area. The fee to join is \$0! However, we serve continental breakfast and collect \$5 from everyone to pay for coffee, tea and pastries.

The group is the brainchild of Kim Rankin, who has served as President of the Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce for the last five years.

WOW's purpose is to offer a relaxed atmosphere where women professionals and business owners can exchange ideas, opportunities and support one another. Entertainment seems to be a big focus of the group, as we have many comedians among us who always leave us laughing. Education is also a big part of what we offer, as well as setting up forums and events that encourage commerce exchange between all.




In May of 2011 the Canal Chamber – WOW division was a major sponsor of Success for Women, Profiles of Inspiration, an event that focused on women business owners who overcame business obstacles that could have prevented them from succeeding. The event attracted over 125 attendees from around central Ohio.

Saturday, October 29, 2011 is our next large event – “LADIES DAY OUT.” This event used to be “LADIES NIGHT IN”

where we take over the only hotel in Canal Winchester and have a giant pajama party with vendors who offer a plethora of goodies for “we” professional shoppers just in time for Christmas. We have grown so big that the hotel can no longer hold us and the shoppers who patronize the vendors. The Ladies Day Out business model is to give vendors a larger group of walk through shoppers which means more revenue streams for everyone!

So don't wait
and get left out!
Contact Kim
Rankin at: kim@
canalwinchester.com
or call the Chamber
office at:
614-837-1556.



Connie Spruill is a member of the CW Chamber Board of Directors and is the founder and Executive Director of Women Educating Women, Inc. 

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Businessmen Honored

The Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce presented its annual awards for business excellence at the Chamber's annual dinner on March 11. Pictured at right are: Carl Heister (former board member of the Chamber of Commerce and longtime HER realtor) who was named Business Person of the Year; Mike Ippolitti (president of the CW Area Historical Society) who was presented the Pillar of the Community Award; and Ken Heiberger of Heiberger Paving which was named Business of the Year.

Congratulations to these great recipients. 



Carl Heister, Mike Ippolitti, Ken Heiberger



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