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Expo Is On Many Businesses' 'To Do' Lists

Despite wintry weather, the Springboro Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo Committee sees spring just over the horizon.

The 2009 event is set for the second day of spring: Saturday, March 21 at Springboro High School.

Expo members' dedication to detail ensures the continued success and expansion of 'That Spring Thing,' as the popular expo is called.

How popular? The first expo in 2000 saw about 800 attendees touring the approximately 70 exhibits in the high school gymnasium.

Fast forward to 2008. A mini-blizzard forced a one-month postponement of the expo.

"Despite the delay, 6,000 people visited our 160 exhibitors during the free one-day expo," says Anne Stremanos, Executive

Director of the Chamber. 'That

Spring Thing' has become a 'must do' for exhibitors. The expo's success creates unique challenges for each year's committee.

"The expo is a great example of wide-ranging cooperation. The city, schools, township, shops, retailers, professionals and other businesses and non-profits work together to make it a success each year.

"The Springboro Chamber is all about doing what's in the best interest of area companies, and we primarily serve small and medium sized businesses. City chambers are enormous and wonderful. They serve large businesses and industries, have political and economic development arms, and 'do it all.' We work to be relevant and provide excellent value to our members—all 450 of them as of late 2008."



The booths of the 2008 Springboro Business Expo

Chamber Membership Benefits

- Networking opportunities, including a monthly networking breakfast
- Community involvement and visibility
- Access to group insurance rates
- Annual Golf Outing
- Monthly newsletter
- Newsletter flyers and advertising
- Free listing in Directory/ Shoppers Guide
- Web site listing
- Free postings on weekly e-mail update
- Participation in regional business development

For more information, contact the Chamber at 937-748-0074, visit the Chamber office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 325 S. Main St., Monday through Friday or visit us online at www.springboroohio.org or send an e-mail to chamber@springboroohio.org

Why We Do What We Do – *Investing in the Austin Road Interchange*

"Change" will be a certainty in 2009. Area businesses can look forward to at least one local, ultimately positive change.

In February, construction contracts should be awarded for the long-awaited new Interstate 75 interchange at Ohio 741 and Austin Road. For companies with locations close to the city's center, the new interchange will ease the pressure at the State Route 73 interchange on Springboro's western border.

Likewise, transportation is expected to be faster and easier for companies in northern Springboro, when the Austin Pike interchange opens in late 2010. The project has hit obstacles along the long road to reality. Still, it marks a unique cooperative effort among political subdivisions including Springboro, Montgomery County, Miamisburg and Miami Township. "All the entities involved will benefit from this project and we hope it will spur more regional cooperation," says Chris Pozzuto, Springboro's Assistant City Manager.

The project has a 1,400-acre footprint, with about 250 acres within the Springboro City limits. The City owns 40 +/- acres of undeveloped land in the South Tech Business Park, which should continue to flourish and grow once the interchange is open.

"We already have three new businesses in the South Tech Business Park, including the new satellite facility for Dayton Children's Medical Center," he says, "and construction of the interchange hasn't even begun yet."

If pre-interchange development is any indication, the return on investment in the interchange will be very good to the City both for the short-term and well into the future.

Business Makes Its Mark

Many entrepreneurs find their satisfaction where passion and work merge.

Marsha Kelley relates to that. Her passion for Springboro and the schools' athletic programs led to the creation and success of her business, Image Mark-It.

Tucked in a small storefront behind 305 S. Main St., Image Mark-It specializes in promotional items, particularly individualized corporate, team and spirit wear.

Marsha began selling spirit wear to local boosters at high school sporting events almost 13 years ago, working from home until she purchased the Main Street building almost three years ago. Image Mark-It occupies part of the building. The Fan Shop, selling spirit wear, and Main Street Marketplace, vendors who offer a unique array of gift items, use the rest of the large, red building.

Until about five years ago, Marsha was a Registered Nurse in a local pediatric office. Her determination to always be on hand for her children's school activities and the pressure of business convinced her to leave the practice.

Marsha explains, "Image Mark-It offers name brands and can heat press, embroider or silkscreen customers' order. We have an extensive range of apparel, accessories and gift items, and our catalogue is available online."

"We have seven part-time employees. Their children are junior high to college age, so it's a very pleasant working environment. We also have either a college or high school student working here, too," she continues.

Marsha's five children range in age from 17 to 26. Her husband, David, is retired from the Air Force and is now a sub-contractor at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Image Mark-It has not been immune to today's uncertain economy. Until the housing boom burst, she counted a prominent homebuilder among her best customers. Image Mark-it created 'home closing' gift baskets for new homebuyers nationwide until the builder put the program on indefinite hold.

"We've weathered strong and weak economies through word-of-mouth and referrals from satisfied customers," Marsha says.

Image Mark-It is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customers also can order from the website at www.imagemarkit.com. For more information, call 937-748-5238.



Springboro School Spirit Wear

Ledgestone Dental Offers Dental Assisting Program

Finding well-qualified, highly-trained dental assistants is like—well—'like pulling teeth.'

That's one reason Mark Meclosky, D.D.S. and his wife, Rosemarie, now offer a dental assisting course at their Ledgestone Dental office.



The 10-week, intensive program will be offered on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The winter term runs from January 10 through March 14.

"There is a severe shortage of dental assistants nationwide,"

says Mark. He researched other area class opportunities extensively before establishing his Dayton School of Dental Assisting.

His curriculum has been approved and registered with the Ohio State of Career Colleges. After successfully completing the class, students can take a test leading to certification. "Since there are no requirements that DA's be certified, certification opens more career opportunities," he says.

The 80 hour class will be intensive and include home assignments, graded tests, and a comprehensive textbook to master. "Our students will need to be highly motivated. Offering classes here at Ledgestone places our students in an actual work environment, and we can offer closer, more individualized instruction," says Mark.

His certified dental assistant will help teach the course, which will be limited to 12 students each term. The \$2,500 tuition includes all books, supplies and CPR certification instruction. Payment options will be available.

Rosemarie, a former intensive care unit RN, works closely with Mark on various aspects of the school and practice. A six-month marketing campaign that includes direct mail and television ads focuses on the school and practice. "I've been just delighted with the initial response, particularly to the television commercial," she says.

Ledgestone Dental stands as among the first occupants of the professional office complex off Remick Boulevard. Mark took a continuing education course in the area years ago. They fell in love with Springboro and moved their Huber Heights practice here almost six years ago. Mark began practicing in 1985 and specializes in family and cosmetic dentistry.

For more information, call 937-748-9240. The school Web address is www.daytonschoollda.com.

Training Center Welcomes Olympic Hopefuls...and You

It takes far more than six months to become an Olympic contender, professional wrestler or proficient in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

The owners of Prodigy Training Center took only that long to transform an empty 50,000 square foot building into a 'world class athletic training center.' Prodigy expects to train elite athletes and Olympic hopefuls at the center, as well as the everyday sports enthusiast.

Prodigy opened in November at 235 S. Pioneer Blvd. Classes and training programs are in full swing. Areas for wrestling, kickboxing, boxing, Thai boxing, Jiu Jitsu, Taekwondo, as well as MMA dominate the space. Fitness cycling, free weights, strength and cardio conditioning equipment also are available.



"We have more than 100 pieces of equipment. In addition to serving Olympic hopefuls, professional athletes and serious amateurs, we also offer individual and corporate memberships," says Ronda Croucher, Vice President of Marketing and Development.

"Our membership offering is a very different concept. People are able to customize their membership based on interest," says Ronda. "Many of our staff members' names will be familiar to wrestlers, boxers and MMA enthusiasts." The roster includes former Olympians, men and women training for the 2012 Olympics, national champions and top-ranked athletes.

The owners also present impressive credentials. Bas Rutten, undefeated former UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) heavyweight champion, is part owner, as is Craig Charles, director of the MMA program and Ryan Root, wrestling program director. Both are involved with Prodigy's day-to-day operations.

Prodigy has established a non-profit arm, Medals in the Making, and welcomes sponsorships for training Olympic hopefuls and young wrestlers. "We also are developing a boxing program for at-risk youth," explains Ronda. Medals in the Making is currently creating an advisory board and seeking tax-deductible donations.

Rhonda welcomes inquiries about co-branding and sponsorship opportunities with Team Prodigy.

For more information, call her at 513-404-1977.

Dayton Children's Opens New Urgent Care Facility

On Friday, November 7, Mayor John Agenbroad and State Representative Shannon Jones cut the ribbon on the new Dayton Children's Hospital Urgent Care Facility, located at 3333 West Tech Road in Springboro.

Dayton Children's pediatric experts will offer services in urgent care, medical imaging (x-ray, EKG, ultrasound, fluoroscopy, CT scanning), rehabilitative services (audiology, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy) and a full service laboratory. "The new center is all about making it as convenient as possible for parents and families south of Dayton to get specialized pediatric care for their children close to home," says Matt Graybill, Vice President for Business Development and Planning at Dayton Children's.



possible." Dayton Children's also partnered with artists from Dayton Visual Arts Center to create kid-friendly artwork that decorates the facility. "We wanted the facility to be kid-friendly, soothing and inviting,"

McGatha says. "The pictures of the children on the outside panels of the building are employees' children. These are real kids living right here in the community. All of the artwork, the paint color schemes and other design elements like the fish tank in the lobby, are designed to soothe and promote healing."

Facility Hours:

- Urgent care: Monday – Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Rehabilitative services: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Lab and medical imaging: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For more information on Dayton Children's Outpatient Care Center – Springboro, visit www.childrensdayton.org/springboro.

Dayton Children's new facility will be a LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building. "Dayton Children's is dedicated to doing our part to improve the environment for not only our patients, but also for our global community," says Edd McGatha, Director of Facilities at Dayton Children's. "We care about our patients and families and we continually strive to provide the healthiest, safest environment