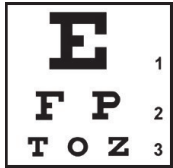




► *Muscle*
The Chamber
Division



► *Vision*
The Economic Development
Division



► *Flavor*
The Tourism
Division



► *Spirit*
The Downtown Development
Division

○ VOLUME 7 | ○ ISSUE 2 | ○ April-May 2013

Special Tourism Edition

Alliance *All Access*

*Cultivating a Positive Climate
for
Hardin County Prosperity*



The “Go-To”
Organization

Join us and Celebrate Gene Autry Days

Hardin County will be celebrating the 20th Annual Gene Autry Days this summer. The two-day event is scheduled for June 22 and 23 at the Hardin County Fairgrounds in Kenton, Ohio.

Gene Autry Days commemorates the western star’s 1938 visit to Kenton. At the time, the Kenton Hardware Company was producing the Autry Repeating Cap Gun, which sold over 6 million guns worldwide.

Today, Gene Autry Days features dealers from several states with over 60 tables of Kenton Toys, cap guns, antique toys and collectibles. The Western Look-a-Like contest, a ‘Lil Cowpokes contest for children, Breakfast with Jessie, chicken BBQ, and a 5K run are among the activities planned for the weekend.

Non-stop entertainment will be provided throughout the two days. The schedule includes Call of the West, music of the American West with Jeanne Cahill and Jerome Campbell; John Buttram, a celebrity sound-a-like and western humorist; Paul Belanger, “The Oklahoma Yodelin’ Cowboy”; Les Gilliam, “The

Oklahoma Balladeer”; Miss Devon & the Outlaw, Devon Dawson received a Grammy Certificate for her participation as the singin’ yodelin’ voice of Jessie, on the Walt Disney CD, “Toy Story 2 Woody’s Roundup featuring Riders in the Sky”, Jessie Del Robertson, aka “Outlaw Jessie Del”; and Kristyn Harris, “The Official Music of Texas.”

A Championship Fast Draw competition and Hardin County Joy Riders 4-H Club will also be hosting events at the Hardin County Fairgrounds over Gene Autry Days weekend.

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Serving the Community and Getting Involved

The first few months as the Director of the Chamber & Business Alliance have been exciting and rewarding for me. It is an honor to work with such wonderful, diverse and professional group of business people.

The Alliance has continued to see growth during the recent difficult economic times. With the economy shifting, I can imagine that we are going to see an even stronger growth surge. As your Alliance director, I always want to hear our members' concerns and what they need from us. We are a membership driven organization. I know ultimately that I am here to serve our members and that will be one of my top priorities.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any suggestions for growth or improvement or to get more involved in the Alliance. Just like most businesses have a "busy season," the upcoming months are *our* busy season. By supporting chamber events you are helping the chamber offer more benefits and services to our members and the community. There are numerous ways you can get involved: Attending events (yes, even attending events is a huge support), volunteering, sponsorship and donating door prizes or silent auction items.

In the following pages you will find information on upcoming events. Select one (or two) and attend or contact the Alliance



Jacqueline Fitzgerald

Director

about additional ways you can help. By getting involved, meeting people and participating, you are making your Chamber & Business Alliance better for all our members.



Think Fresh - Think Local *Think Farmers' Market*

Kenton Farmers' Market opened on Saturday, May 4 and will continue through September. Hours will be from 9 -12pm on Columbus Street between Market Street & Detroit Street. For more information contact Lynn Hoover at 419-674-4580.

Forest Farmers' Market began May 11 and will be held every Saturday from 10 -1pm in the Forest Jackson Public Library Parking Lot. For more information contact Karen Moore at 419-273-2400.

June 6 will kick off the Ada Farmers' Market, held every Thursday in the Community Health Professional's Parking lot from 4pm-7pm. Contact Deb Curlis at 419-634-7443 for more information.

Hardin Memorial Hospital will host a Farmers' Market on Thursdays from 11:30am-3:30pm, opening day will be June 13. For more information contact public relations at 419-675-8137.

WINDPOWER CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2013

As the wind industry struggles to grow and expand in the United States, Hardin County land owners and elected officials are wondering whether a wind farm will ever be constructed.

So, where do you go to learn and network with other companies/professionals who are dealing with these same issues?

One of the resources was the American Wind Energy Association who sponsored the Wind Power 2013 Conference and Exhibition this year in Chicago, May 5 -8.

As part of a contract that JOBS Ohio Regional Growth Partnership has with Site Location Partnership, two admittance badges for the annual wind show were made available.

Nancy Bowen, OSU Extension Community Development and former Economic Development Director for Van Wert County and I were asked and attended the annual conference.

Exceeding wind pioneers' expectations, the wind energy industry has quickly developed into a mainstream source of energy. Mounting political, social and economic concerns regarding climate change, water shortages, along with other drivers, give the nation added incentive to bring more wind power to the U.S. electricity mix.

This was a tremendous opportuni-

ty to meet new clients, solidify existing relationships, learn from industry experts, and interact with 600 exhibitors representing every segment of the global wind industry. All expenses were covered by JOBS Ohio.

With the extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC), it was time to get down to business and Wind Power has never been more relevant to the wind energy industry than right now.

Coming off a record year in 2012, the industry looks forward to building on that momentum. In an ever-changing wind energy industry, companies need real life solutions that are adaptable to the dynamic environment and teach them about new technology, introduce them to a variety of products and services, and help strengthen business relationships.

During many of the sessions we found out what new business opportunities have emerged with the recent policy backing and how this momentum can positively influence the future of Hardin County and the region.

juwi Wind, who is developing the Hog Creek Wind Farm near Dola, was also in attendance. "We are still 100% committed to bringing clean energy and economic development to Hardin County by making Hog



John Hohn

Director of Economic Development

Creek a reality. We continue to pursue every opportunity to secure a power purchase agreement so the project can move forward," said Peter Endres, Project Development Manager for juwi and Hog Creek. Connecting with juwi and other wind developers was a major priority at the conference.



County Insight

Designed to inform all members and the public of what's going on not only with our organization but the entire county.

2013 dates for County Insight:

May 30
October 31

Elks Lodge, Downtown Kenton
7:30 am

- Includes continental breakfast
- No cost or RSVP required
- For more information contact the Alliance at 419-673-4131 or alliance@HardinOhio.org

Plan a Summer “Staycation”

This summer, why not plan a “Staycation” for you and your family. Designed to be light on your wallet, a “Staycation” is a vacation which features activities close to home. So plan to stay local this year and enjoy tons of fun in Hardin County.

No matter what your plans include, make sure the 20th annual Gene Autry Days is part of your summer “Staycation.” Scheduled for June 22 and 23 at the Hardin County Fairgrounds, the event will feature continuous entertainment, antiques toys, Breakfast with Jessie the Yoldin’ Cowgirl, and incredible homemade food. The Ohio Championship Fast Draw Match and Hardin County Joy Riders 4-H Club will also be hosting events at the Hardin County Fairgrounds over the Gene Autry Days weekend.

Other places to include in your summer “Staycation” include the Sullivan Johnson Museum, open Tuesday thru Friday from 1 to 4 pm, and Lawrence Woods State Nature Preserve, open seven days a week from dusk to dawn. Both are wonderful examples of Hardin County’s unique character plus fun for all ages.

If your “Staycation” plans include golf, be sure to schedule a tee-time at Veteran’s Memorial Park Golf Course. Conveniently located in the center of Hardin County, this 18-hole golf course is sure to please any golf enthusiast. If it’s raining, then plan to go bowling at Hillcrest Lanes.

Both options are operating their summer hours so be sure to call ahead.

Every vacation should also include a visit to a pool. We have three outdoor pools in Hardin County, (Kenton, Ada, and Forest.) Again, if it’s raining, plan to swim indoors at either the Hardin County Family YMCA or County Hearth Inn & Suites. Fishing is another must activity for any summer “Staycation”. In Hardin County, you can fish at Boy Scout Lake, located at Veterans Memorial Park; France Lake, located at Saulisberry Park; and also at Victory Lake in Mt. Victory.

If you would like further information about the activities listed or need more suggestions for your



Annetta Shirk

Director of Chamber & Tourism

summer “Staycation”, visit our website www.hardinohio.org or call 419-673-4131.



Hardin County’s Traveling Brochure Rack

The Alliance is now offering a Traveling Brochure Rack that you can set up at your festivals and events.

If you would like to have the display at your next Hardin County function please contact us at 419-674-6480 or alliance@hardinohio.org



Hardin County Parks & Recreation

Ada

Ada War Memorial Park - picnic area, playground, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball fields, all weather track, basketball court, outdoor swimming pool & sand volleyball court.

Ada Railroad Park - located in downtown Ada at the Historic Railroad Depot, this park features beautiful landscape and benches.

Alger

Alger Village Park – shelter houses, ball fields, soccer fields & playground

Dunkirk

Dunkirk Community Park - ball fields, soccer fields, basketball court, playground & shelter house

Forest

Gormley Park - this well shaded park includes a log cabin built in 1903 and a small pond, in addition it has a shelter house, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, horseshoe pits, baseball fields, walking path, playground & an outdoor Swimming Pool.

Kenton

Boy Scout Lake at Veterans Memorial Park District - park includes fishing, playground, basketball court & shelter houses, walking track and a dog park/run.

France Lake at Saulisberry Park this lake is a great place for fishing and camping. Also includes a playground area & shelter house.

Gene Autry Mural & Park -

mural commemorates Gene Autry's visit to Kenton in 1938 and production of the Gene Autry Repeating Cap Pistols made by the former Kenton Hardware Company. Area includes Western themed garden with benches and picnic table.

Home Run Memorial Park - ball fields, walking track & shelter houses

Kenton Outdoor Swimming Pool - pool with slide & a raindrop

City Parks

Pioneer Park - playground

Glendale Park - playground plus county's only skateboard ramps

Wharton Street Park - basketball court & playground

Murray Park (formally Cherry Street Park) - basketball courts & playground. Coming soon Splash Pad!

Mount Victory

Henry Martin Mural & Park - the mural and gazebo were styled to fit the town's history tied to the railroad.

Mount Victory Village Park – ball fields, shelter houses, walking track & playground
Victory Lakes - fishing

Roundhead

Roundhead/MacDonald Park – shelter with picnic tables, walking track, playground, ball fields

Ohio Northern University

Disc Golf Course - 18 hole Frisbee golf course

"Green Monster" - 2.5 mile walking track

Remington Walk - this outdoor display features twelve cast bronze statues by noted artists Frederic Remington, Charles Russell and James Fraser.

Events In Hardin County

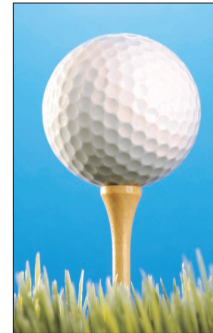
- May 27 – Memorial Day Car Show & Petroliana,
- June 16 – Family Fun Day & Car Show
- June 22-23 – 20th Annual Gene Autry Days
- July 4 – Freedom Celebration
- July 12-14 – Forest's Tree Town Festival
- July 13 – Kenton Kids Day
- August 9-11 – Annual Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sales
- August 9-10 – Ada's F & M Picnic
- August 10-11 – Immaculate Conception Church Summer Festival
- September 3-8 – Hardin County Fair
- September 21 – Ada Harvest & Herb Fest



Bus Group Tours Hardin County



Clintonville Woman's Club and the Vagabonds tour Hardin County, May 9. The morning started out with a tour of Wilson Sporting Goods, followed by lunch at the Inn at Ohio Northern University. After lunch the group took a stroll at the Remington Walk along the Green Monster at ONU, then shopping at the Oak and Barn. The motorcoach then made its way to Kenton for a stop at the Gene Autry Mural Park, with the final stop at The Hardin County Historical Museum.



**Save
The
Date!**

Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance Golf Scramble 2013

*Friday, August 9
8:30 am
Veteran's Memorial
Park Golf Club*

Ribbon Cutting Held at Lula's Pack Rat

The Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Lula's Pack Rat, in conjunction with their Grand Opening on April 19.

Lula's Pack Rat is a variety store that offers a very large selection of new, used and old items, which includes; clothes, furniture and collectibles. Business hours are Monday-Thursday from 9am to 5pm, Friday 9am to 7pm, and Saturday 9am-4pm, closed Sunday. Lula's Pack Rat is owned by Cathy Kemmere and her son Wayne.



Pictured with the Hardin County Ambassadors is Cathy Kemmere, her son Wayne, owners of Lula's Pack Rat. Also, pictured are Roger Kemmere and Jacqueline Fitzgerald, Director of Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance.

New Members

The Ada Icon

Fred Steiner, Publisher
226 Grove St.
Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-889-3065

The Ada Icon is a news and advertising website covering the Ada School District, Ada Village and Ohio Northern University. With over 30 advertisers, the site attracts over 2,000 views in a 30 day period. Ad rates are very affordable and we focus on small businesses. Our sister website is The Bluffton Icon.

American Cancer Society

Jesse Purcell
740 Commerce Drive, Suite B
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
1-888-227-6446 ext. 5217

Look Good...Feel Better is a *FREE* program that teaches beauty techniques to women who are actively undergoing cancer treatment. This program helps them combat the appearance-related side effects of radiation and chemo. Each participant will receive a \$250 makeup kit. Please join us June 3, Aug. 5, Oct. 7 and Dec. 2 from 5-7pm at Not By Choice Outreach, 3 N. Detroit St. in Kenton.

Caretakers

Debra Kuhl
900 E. Franklin St.
Kenton, Ohio 43326
814-572-7021

Caretakers is a Home Care Provider new to Hardin County, but have been caring for families in Indiana since 1988. Our goal is to make a difference in the

community by helping to keep seniors in the homes they love. We pride ourselves on our flexible packages, competitive pricing, and above all, the compassion and care offered by our staff. No contract is too small, no service plan is too rigid since we custom design a plan to fit our Client's individual needs, and all of our Caregivers are thoroughly vetted, rigorously trained, and highly qualified. Quite simply, we make life easier for those who need our services. Families, attorneys, and physicians have trusted Caretakers for over two decades. We hope that Hardin County will give us the opportunity to earn it's trust as well.

Community Economic Development Center

Kevin Ernst
525 S. Main St.
Ada, Ohio 45810
419-772-2753

The mission of the community Economic Development Center is to strengthen communities by bringing forth resources that encourage small business growth and job creation. To achieve this

goal, the center utilizes up and coming student leaders to train, educate, and mentor prospective entrepreneurs and small business owners in and around Central North-West Ohio.

Hume Supply, Inc.

Daven Stedke
1359 E. Hanthorn Road
Lima, Ohio 45804
419-991-5751

Hume Supply is a general contractor in business since 1948. Specializing in design build construction and servicing your needs in concrete, excavating, structural steel, roofing, siding, and demolition.

Lula's Pack Rat

Cathy Kemmere
9 N. Detroit St.
Kenton, Ohio 43326
419-679-1266

We are a variety store and offer a very large selection of new, used and older items as well as clothes, furniture and collectibles. We are local residents born and raised in Hardin County. Our goal is to keep our prices low and be supportive of our community.





Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance
225 S. Detroit Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Phone: 419-673-4131
Fax: 419-674-4876
Email: alliance@hardinohio.org
www.hardinohio.org

STANDARD RATE
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KENTON, OHIO 43326
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June 22-23, 2013
Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 10am-3pm

Cowboy Church on
Sunday at 10am

20th Annual Gene Autry Days

Hardin County Fair Grounds,
14134 Fairground Road, Kenton, Ohio



- Western Music
- Look-A-Likes
- Kenton Toys & Cap Guns
- Memorabilia & Antique Toys
- Lasso up Cancer 5K
- BBQ Chicken Dinner Saturday 5pm
- Breakfast with Jessie the Yodelin' Cowgirl
- Fast Draw Competition
- Horse Show
- Carriage Rides
- Admission \$5, Children 12 & under FREE
- Parking Free