



► *Muscle*  
The Chamber  
Division



► *Vision*  
The Economic Development  
Division



► *Flavor*  
The Tourism  
Division



► *Spirit*  
The Downtown Development  
Division

# Alliance

## All Access

*Cultivating a Positive Climate  
for  
Hardin County Prosperity*



## Christmas Around the Square Craft Fair

Start your holiday shopping early this year at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Around the Square Craft Fair. The Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Hardin County Historic Courthouse in downtown Kenton.

You will find some new vendors at the craft fair, including a couple from the Country Living Magazine Fair. The Harco Choir will perform holiday music at 9:30 am. Homemade food is provided by the Hardin County Homemakers.

The annual basket auction begins at 11:00 am in Veteran’s Hall in the courthouse. The auction features 30 baskets with some truly unique containers. As always, they are filled with beautiful gift items, and various gift certificates from local businesses. These auction items make wonderful decorations as well as gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list.

Also, this year we will bring back the online bidding for the basket auction. You will find a link on our

website [www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org) or on our Facebook page that will take you to the auction where you can view photos and descriptions of each basket and enter your bids.

The Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance encourages everyone to shop at Christmas Around the Square Craft Fair and to Buy Local First Hardin County this holiday season.

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# How's your front door looking these days?

We all want our Downtowns to be the economic heart of the region. It has to be in tip-top shape. It's the front door to all of our communities, thus the question; how's your front door looking these days?

Our community's downtowns are a reflection of who we are and what we represent. In fact, downtowns are everyone's neighborhood. You want your neighborhood to look attractive. You want its appearance to enhance your financial investment. You want it to reflect your personal commitment to living there.

Downtown still houses many of the most important small businesses in the region. Downtown is what visitors to the city see, remember, and develop opinions about.

In the last several months the Historic Court House District has spent time and energy sprucing

up the downtown and realizes the vital importance of its esthetic value.

The Historic Court House District's first plan of action to spruce up the downtown was purchasing large industrial flower pots that could stay out year round. This was achieved by a collaborative effort with the city of Kenton and writing a grant to the Community Grant Foundation that was awarded in May of this year. The HCD funded the flowers and décor that have gone into the flower pots and DJ's Hauling, was generous to donate the dirt, topsoil and labor to fill the large pots.

By now, you have probably noticed the tall whimsical crazy smiling pumpkins on the court house lawn.

We've had so many great responses to all the "sprucing up."

Keep an eye out for the Christmas



*Jacqueline Fitzgerald*  
Director

décor to come....Snowflakes! Yes, "snow" flakes. The HCD has ordered six LED snowflake lights from Bronner's to adorn the light poles on the East and West sides of the downtown square.

Our hope is that you will also believe in the "Front Door" vision. Get involved and help your community prosper. We all can make a difference, one person at a time.



## Economic Development County Wide

The Hardin County Economic Development Council was originally formed in 1992 to promote community improvement and economic growth in Hardin County. Through their efforts, Hardin County has realized new growth, new jobs, and new tax revenues that benefit both the current and future residents of our great county.

However, the job of economic development is an ongoing and continual operation that must first retain and expand existing business and then bring in new. In September of 2006, the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance was a merger established to strengthen and consolidate our efforts that had begun some twenty years before.

Located in the middle of everything, Hardin County is blessed with a diverse economy supported by a skilled workforce, who must continue to develop to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Hardin County is seen as a agricultural/manufacturing and educational center because of the presence of a diverse agricultural base, a dynamic blend of major manufacturers, and one of the nation's finest private universities.

Also, Hardin Memorial Hospital, a member hospital of OhioHealth, delivers quality healthcare in a safe environment with exceptional customer service.

Our transportation and logistics

has improved greatly with the completion of Interstate 30 (old US 30 expanded) in the northern part of the county and the 600' runway extension to the Hardin County Airport, now 4,803 feet, which will accommodate larger planes, such as Cessna and Lear business jets. These have improved our chances of attracting national and international prospective developers.

The manufacturing sector is anchored by such veteran employers as International Paper, Ada Technologies, Precision Strip, Triumph Thermal Systems, Pleasant Precision, Robinson Fin and Wilson Sporting Goods, with newcomers WIWA, LP and Harvest Pride Tortilla & Chips.

Ohio Northern University is a unique liberal arts university that also houses three of the country's finest post secondary programs in engineering, law and pharmacy.

We are continually striving to develop teaming efforts with



*John Hoken*

Director of Economic Development

community improvement organizations.

We also maintain an inventory of available county-wide buildings and sites on a worldwide business prospect web site. This is a no-cost way of promoting our vacant buildings and our available land.

An expanded and productive economic development system county wide is a major goal of the Alliance and a committee has worked together with business and education to coordinate the efforts. This committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at Henry's Restaurant.



Hardin Memorial Hospital's expansion and renovation of its Emergency Department underway

# Holiday Contest, Encourages all to Shop Local

As the holiday season approaches, shopping lists grow and so do the opportunities to boost the local economy.

The Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance and the Buy Ada First Committee will kick off the holiday season with a Buy Local First Holiday Contest. The Contest will begin on Saturday, November 9, and will run through Thursday, December 12. This effort focuses on encouraging shoppers to buy local this holiday season.

There are so many advantages when you shop local, like having produce, merchandise and services close to home. Shopping local saves you time, money & convenience to name a few. It also keeps Hardin County unique, reduces environmental impact, creates more jobs, and encourages local success. If we want to continue to have these products

and services available to us, we need to frequent these businesses and let them know through our patronage that we value and appreciate them.

The Holiday Contest is your opportunity to check out and support not only the businesses participating in the contest, but also all the local businesses in Hardin County.

The contest is simple; just visit Hardin County's participating businesses and register to win gift certificates, coupons, and more! There will be over \$600 in prizes given away thanks to the businesses. A list of participating businesses and details of the contest are on page four of this newsletter and will be available at the Alliance office 225 South Detroit Street, Kenton. It will also be available at any of the participating businesses, online at [www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org) or our



*Annetta Shirk*  
Director of Chamber & Tourism

Facebook page Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance. For more information on this Buy Local First Hardin County event please contact the Alliance at 419-673-4131 or [alliance@hardinohio.org](mailto:alliance@hardinohio.org).





## Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Around the Square Craft Fair

**November 9, 2013 9:00 am-2:00 pm**

- Home Décor
- Jewelry
- Arts & Crafts
- Basket Auction

Check out our new vendors including a couple from the Country Living Fair

**Hardin County Courthouse, Kenton, Ohio**  
419-673-4131 or [www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org)



# Buy Local First Holiday Contest



The Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance  
and  
The Buy Ada First Committee  
November 9—December 12, 2013



## Contest Rules:

- Visit Hardin County's participating businesses and register to win gift certificates, coupons, and more!
- List of participating businesses and details will be available at the Alliance office 225 S. Detroit Street, Kenton, any of the businesses, online at [www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org) or our Facebook page Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance.
- Must be 18 years old or older to play.
- No purchase necessary.
- Employees of the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance, and the Buy Local Committee are not eligible to participate or win.

## Top Reasons to Buy Local First

- Strengthen your local economy
- Create more jobs
- Put your taxes to good use
- Support community groups
- Invest in your community
- Encourage local prosperity
- Keep our community unique
- Customer Service is better
- Reduces environmental impact



## Support our local community and shop locally

Through the Buy Local First Hardin County campaign we want local residents to realize that they have the power to improve life in Hardin County. Simply by choosing to make a greater percentage of your total purchases locally.

## Holiday Contest Participating Businesses

1. Big Wilks Motor Sales, Kenton
2. Carol Slane Florist, Ada
3. Community Health Professionals, Ada
4. DPI Ink, Forest
5. Enchanted Forest, Dunkirk
6. Enchanted Forest Christmas House, Dunkirk
7. Forest Trading Post, Forest
8. Forney Sales & Service, Forest
9. Geno's Cycle Shop, Forest
10. Go-Fer Pizza, Mt. Victory
11. Goodrich Photography, Forest
12. Hardin County Historical Museum, Kenton
13. Harmony House, Mt. Victory
14. Helen's Gifts & Collectibles, Kenton
15. Hempy Water Conditioning, Forest
16. Hillcrest Lanes, Kenton
17. kudoStudio, Kenton
18. Liberty National Bank, Ada
19. Liberty National Bank, Kenton
20. Lula's Pack Rat, Kenton
21. Martin Meat Market, Forest
22. Ms. & His Hair Salon, Forest
23. M<sup>c</sup>Vitty Memorial Forest VFW Post 1182, Forest
24. Mt. Victory Hardware, Mt. Victory
25. Mt. Victory State Bank, Mt. Victory
26. Nana's, Forest
27. New Generation Antiques, Mt. Victory
28. New Leaf Garden Center, Kenton
29. New Leaf Garden Center, Ada
30. Ohio Cart Parts-N-More LLC, Ada
31. Pizza Hut, Kenton
32. Plaza Inn Restaurant and Catering, Mt. Victory
33. Quest Federal Credit Union, Kenton
34. Quest Federal Credit Union, Kenton
35. Quest Federal Credit Union, Ada
36. Reichert's, Ada
37. The First Citizens National Bank, Dunkirk
38. The Inn at Ohio Northern University, Ada
39. The Print Shop, Forest
40. Thomas Family Tavern, Kenton
41. Ths. Jitterz Coffee Company, LTD, Kenton
42. Twirl, Kenton
43. Unique Boutique & Spalon, Kenton
44. Vintage Creations, Mt. Victory

This is the list of businesses as of October 28. The updated list of participating businesses and what they are giving away will be available on our website, [www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org) and Facebook page, Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance by November 5.

## Health Care Reform and the Anthem Chamber Plan

The Obama administration's landmark health care reform bill begins in earnest January 1, 2014 with the introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace for individuals and families. Yet, with implementation so close most American businesses and individuals are not quite sure what reform means to them and what requirements will be involved. Further, many chamber of commerce members are asking, "what impact will reform have on employers specifically covered by Anthem's Blue Cross and Blue Shield Chamber Plan?"

Good News! Our Anthem Chamber Plan insured group members will be largely unaffected by the changes occurring January 1, related to the Marketplace open enrollment. The new Health Insurance Marketplace effective January 1, 2014 is primarily focused on providing low cost options for individuals and families. The Marketplace will provide many plan options from several top insurance companies, all displayed at one website. For those individuals and families with household income below 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL), government subsidies will be available to reduce premium costs. For example, a family of four earning less than \$94,000 per year and an individual earning less than \$46,000 per year will qualify for government help. These same subsidies are not available if insurance is purchased through a group. Marketplace quotes will be

available after October 1, 2013 for January 2014 enrollment. For those Chamber Groups who do not offer coverage to their employees referring them to a local agent for enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace could be a positive for your employees.

Chamber employers who utilize the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield group discounted program can continue the program into 2014 and beyond. Anthem will continue to provide discounts due to the Central Ohio Chamber of Commerce Health Care Alliance. In addition 2013 prices can be extended to December 1, 2014 for Anthem group customers by utilizing Anthem's Early Renewal. This delays any price increases

caused by community rating restrictions in the reform bill.

We recommend you talk to your agent to make sure you understand new components in the law such as the Individual Mandate, the Employer Mandate (delayed until 2015) as well as the requirement to provide employees with Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) regarding your plan.

Please call us for more information on Health Reform and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. For questions regarding group insurance call 1-888-506-1574. For questions regarding the individual Marketplace call 1-866-397-7275.

### RIBBON CUTTING HELD AT LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

The Alliance conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony at Love In The Name Of Christ (Love Inc.), located at 224 W. Columbus St., (the old City Building) in Kenton on Saturday, August 31. The ribbon cutting was in conjunction with the Grand Opening of their new facilities.

Love In the Name of Christ is a proven outreach model that helps Christian churches come together to help people in need.



Cutting the ribbon is Sara Brown, Director of Love In The Name of Christ, with the Board Members, volunteers, Hardin County Ambassadors and special guests

## New Members

### Home Run Memorial Park

Gary Jones or Matt Jennings  
13625 SR 292  
Kenton, Ohio 43326

Home Run Memorial Park is a 35 acre, 7 field baseball and softball complex that primarily serves the Kenton Little League. HRMP was built in 2005-2006 and was opened Memorial Day weekend of 2007. We have youth baseball and softball as well as adult softball leagues and recently merged in the Y t-ball program which is now a division of Kenton Little League. We host

multiple tournaments annually that bring visitors in to our community from multiple states.

### Trillium CNG

David George  
300 W. Wilson Bridge Road,  
Suite 350  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
614-844-4328

A full service CNG Development and serving company, specializing in the design, building, operations and maintenance of CNG fueling stations.

### Tractor Supply Company

Ben Smith, Store Manager  
948 E. Columbus St.  
Kenton, Ohio 43326

Tractor Supply Company services all customers rural and urban which include do-it-yourself backyard projects to small to medium farm operations.



## ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 AWARDS

The Alliance is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and Community Service Awards.

Anyone from Hardin County may be nominated to receive these honors. A panel of judges from Alliance members will make the final decision. The recipients will be revealed Thursday, February 27, 2014 during the Alliance's annual meeting held at Ohio Northern University's McIntosh Center.

Selection of Citizen of the Year will be based upon an individual's outstanding achievements and contributions which have made Hardin County better.

To be considered for the Business of the Year award, a business or industry should give back to the

community, support local business, and create or encourage job growth.

The Community Service Award is given to an individual, group or business who has dedicated themselves to helping others and improving our community. To nominate a person, group or business for these awards, please complete an application and

return it with a short explanation of the qualifications that make this nominee deserving of the award. Entries should be submitted by February 3, 2014, to the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance, 225 South Detroit Street, Kenton, Ohio 43326. Nominations may be faxed to 419-674-4876 or e-mailed to [alliance@HardinOhio.org](mailto:alliance@HardinOhio.org).





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

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## Events In Hardin County

- Nov. 1 — HCCOA Holiday Bazaar
- Nov. 2 — Holiday Craft Up
- Nov. 4 — Dine In With United Way, Midway
- Nov. 8 — HMH Guild Bake Sale
- Nov. 9 — Christmas Around the Square Craft Fair
- Nov. 9 — Hardin Northern Band Boosters Christmas Bazaar & Craft Show
- Nov. 9 — Music Feast Show Choir Invitational Competition, Ada
- Nov. 18-22 — Festival of Trees
- Nov. 30 — Lions Christmas Parade Reindeer Relay, Holiday 5K Run
- Nov. 29– Dec. 26 — Lake of Lights
- Dec. 1 — Candy Cane Walk
- Dec. 7 — Christmas Open House at the Museum
- Dec. 12 — Alliance Christmas Luncheon
- Dec. 14 — Christmas at the Farm

Check out our calendar for upcoming Freed Center Performances and other events  
[www.hardinohio.org](http://www.hardinohio.org)

Plan now to spend this  
Christmas Season with the

**Hardin County  
Chamber & Business Alliance**

*Member  
Christmas Luncheon*

**Thursday, December 12  
at 11:30 am**

Kenton Armory  
Cost is \$14 per person  
Includes lunch catered by  
The Plaza Inn, Chinese Auction  
& Musical Entertainment

RSVP by December 6  
to 419-673-4131 or  
[alliance@hardinohio.org](mailto:alliance@hardinohio.org)