



Whipple Tree Gift Shop preview party for members only

The Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce Blue Water Ambassadors will host a ribbon cutting at 3PM for Peter and Linda Whipple, local owners of the new retail gift store in downtown Port Huron, The Whipple Tree.

The Whipple Tree is located at 219 Huron Avenue, in the former Harris House gift store and sells an eclectic array of home accents and unique gift items.

Chamber members are invited to an exclusive preview party to celebrate the grand opening of the store Tuesday evening, 5:30-9:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.

Leadership Blue Water graduates inaugural class

As Chairperson of the Port Huron Hospital Business & Professional Committee and sponsoring partner, Chamber President Vickie Ledsworth presented all twenty-three participants in the inaugural class of Leadership Blue Water with framed Certificates of Achievements during their graduation ceremony held on Wednesday, November 19 at the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners meeting.

St. Clair County Board of Commissioner, Pamela Wall also presented each graduate with a signed Proclamation from the County Board.

After the public presentation, Denise Brooks, Director of the Port Huron Hospital Foundation hosted a celebration dinner at The Vintage Tavern. Members of the planning committee and speakers also attended.

Brian Wood, Aaron Hulett and Ann Schultz received scholarships from

Nominating Committee presents 2009 slate of board candidates

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the Nominating Committees' 2009 slate of candidates to fill several open directors positions.

The 2009 Ballot was distributed to the membership (one vote per company) on Thursday, November 20 and members have through Thursday, November 27 to complete.

The candidates listed below would begin their 3-year terms in January:

Ernie Albert

Kerr Albert Office Supply

Rick Dionne

Earl Smith Distributing

Dr. Connie Harrison

Baker College of Port Huron

Al Jones

Comfort Keepers Home Care

Norm Krol

GNK Enterprises

John Liston

Port Huron Hospital

"Leadership Blue water was very informative and inspirational to see other professionals from varied backgrounds and interests come together. There is great power in what you are doing."

Al Jones,
Comfort Keepers Home Care

the Chamber's **Community Benefit Fund** to participate in the program.

The planning committee will meet in December to review the program and plan the next series.

Senator Levin testifies in support of financial assistance for auto industry

Immediate support is needed to shore up our automotive manufacturing sector and to preserve the more than 2.5 million jobs directly and indirectly linked to the U.S. auto industry. Senator Carl Levin testified in front of the House Financial Services Committee to emphasize the need for Congress to take swift action on behalf of our nation's automakers.

Throughout the world, the dire financial crisis continues to spur governments to provide assistance to their manufacturing industries, which are not able to obtain the credit they so vitally need to continue operations. Both Germany and the European Union are studying the possibility of providing support for their automotive industries.

Australia has provided more than \$4 billion in funding for its vehicle manufacturers. Automotive manufacturers in China are already voicing their expectation of financial assistance from their government as well. "The Chinese government will undoubtedly support us," says She Cairong, general manager of JAC Motors, a Chinese automobile manufacturer. This quote appeared in a *New York Times* article this morning, highlighting China's consideration of a plan to provide assistance to its domestic automobile companies.

"Standing idly by as the financial crisis decimates our domestic manufacturing capabilities and pulls our fragile economy further into recession is unacceptable."
-Senator Carl Levin

The spotlight is now focused on Congress, which is considering the possibility of rescuing the industry from an economic downturn not of its own making. President-elect Obama has called the U.S. auto industry "the backbone of American manufacturing" and said that the failure of our domestic automakers would be "a disaster" for our economy.

President Bush, Speaker Pelosi, and both the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate agree that bridge loans for our domestic automakers are necessary at this time. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate and the Congressional Leadership to come up with a plan that would provide auto manufacturers with the bridge loans they need to weather this financial storm.

To read Senator Levin's testimony transcript before the House Financial Services Committee follow the link:

[<http://levin.senate.gov/newsroom/release.cfm?id=305099>].



Happy Thanksgiving

The Chamber office
will be closed on
Thursday and Friday

"On behalf of the parents, staff, and student body, we would like to thank you for your commitment to our 3.5 assembly this year. Your continued support to the academic success of our students has been tremendous."

Ann Murphy, Interim Asst. Principal
Port Huron Northern High School

Event supported since 1984 by the Chamber's tax-exempt
Community Benefit Fund

Includes event listings for all area Chambers of Commerce

www.bluewaterchamber.com

Email us your event info today at info@bluewaterchamber.com