



# Weekly NewsBrief

A weekly e-news publication for members

May 11-17, 2009

Mission:  
To partner with our membership  
to create a sustainable business environment.

## SMALL BUSINESS

### Chamber celebrates small business with its membership

## BLUE WATER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS IN THE BLUE WATER AREA  
DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS MONTH



Award Winning Singing Impressionist

THE BLUE WATER AREA CHAMBER  
PRESENTS

# Funny Business

WITH

## MAT GAUTHIER

AWARD-WINNING  
SINGING IMPRESSIONIST

Thursday, May 14, 2009 at McMorran Place

VIP Sponsor Dinner, The Lounge: 6:00–7:15 p.m.  
Pre-Show Mixer: 7:15–8:15 p.m.  
Funny Business with Mat Gauthier: 8:30-10:00 p.m.



### Center Stage Sponsors

- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allegra Print & Imaging              | Blue Water Townhouses     |
| Comfort Keepers Home Care            | E & A Credit Union        |
| EmbroidMe                            | R.C. Dionne Consulting    |
| Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Moeller, PC | Huron Automatic Screw Co. |
| Kramer Realty, Inc.                  | Landmark Academy          |
| Pollock-Randall Funeral Home         | Port Huron Hospital       |
| Regency on the Lake                  | Times Herald              |
| Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce   | WGRT                      |

Wine Sponsor: Duraclean by Bachellor  
Print Sponsor: Allegra Print & Imaging

### Center Stage Corporate Package: \$300

- Your business name in announcements and promotional material
- 4 VIP dinner tickets (1/2 table) to an exclusive Sponsors' dinner for 200 in McMorran Lounge catered by Fogcutter featuring Filet Mignon & Cajun Jumbo Shrimp
- 4 "front & center" tickets to the show for your staff, customers and colleagues
- 4 parking passes to McMorran parking lot for your entourage
- Sponsor recognition at VIP dinner
- Business listing in show program

Upgrade to a full table of 8 for \$550

### Individual Tickets: only \$20 each

Includes Comcast.networking mixer and 90-minute show!

### Easy Ways to Purchase Tickets:

- Email [info@bluewaterchamber.com](mailto:info@bluewaterchamber.com)
- Call (810) 985-7101  
Toll free (800) 361-0526

Visa and Mastercard accepted.  
Checks made payable to: BWACC  
Invoices payable within 14 days  
A Fund Development Committee event of the  
Blue Water Area Chamber of Commerce

Headline Sponsor



Box Office Sponsor



**Senate, House Quickly Pass \$304M In Cuts**

With sour looks and heavy hearts, the House and Senate appropriations sub-committees quickly passed a \$304 million budget cutting executive order Tuesday as a way to balance the last five months of a current fiscal year budget that is out of whack to the tune of an historic \$1.3 billion.

Human services, State Police, community health programs and state employees took the brunt of the cuts, with School Aid, universities and community colleges off the table due to the strings attached to the federal economic stimulus package.

The layoffs of 300 state employees come from roughly half of the departments in state government. Roughly a third of those impacted were the state police troopers slated to get pink-slipped. The Department of Civil Rights, for example, is seeing its ranks quartered by the E.O.

The House Fiscal Agency's list of cuts contained in Executive Order 2009-22 stretched 15 pages and 187 individual line-items. The cuts were so numerous, Emerson didn't bother going over them line by line and the lawmakers didn't bother asking. The Senate Appropriations Committee quickly reconvened and passed the E.O. 2009-22 on a 17-2 vote. The House Appropriations Committee also quickly reconvened and followed suit, supporting the document 27-4, which makes the E.O. effective.

For now, budget officials feel confident that no more cuts in the FY 2009 budget will be needed. The FY 2010 budget doesn't look overly promising, though. Cuts made Tuesday would likely carry over into the next Fiscal Year, plus as much as another \$100 million more.

**Dems Sweep Out UI Changes**

The Democratic-led House Thursday shot out a pair of bills that would expand unemployment benefits to part-timers and workers going through specialized training. The bills' which would change the state's Unemployment Insurance law, are needed in order for Michigan to take advantage of \$138.9 million in one-time federal economic stimulus money.

Under HB 4785, workers in a declining industry who have used up their available 79 weeks of benefits but are in a training program in a "high-demand" occupation can collect another 26 weeks of benefits. HB 4786 would allow an unemployed part-time worker to collect benefits if they are seeking part-time work or if they've refused full-time work starting in 2011.

States agreeing to make these changes to their UI laws must do so under "good faith." They cannot sunset the changes to expire after the stimulus money is gone and they can't change the law after the fact if lawmakers know all along that's what they plan to do.

**Save the Date****Quarterly Coffee Hour**

with

**Rep. Phil Pavlov**Republican, Port Huron  
House District 81Friday, June 5  
9-10AMAcheson Community Resource  
Room, 514 McMorran Blvd.  
Port HuronSponsored by  
Public Affairs Committee

## EDUCATION

### Education Committee working on fall series of workshops

The Education Committee has successfully concluded their spring series of small business educational workshops. The first workshop held in March, Marketing Bootcamp and the April session, The Brand of Choice provided over 100 participants collectively the tools and tips needed to up their marketing efforts in a down economy.

The May session provided a timely program for businesses who want to build a customer service culture with ways to build teamwork and service internally as well as externally to the customer. This session was led by a local award-winning HR professional, Merideth Ryan, E&A Credit Union.

The Committee will meet on **Tuesday, May 12, 9AM** at the Chamber office to continue plans for the fall series and possibly a bonus Web Workshop in June.

## Networking

The Shameless Networkers will host their Tuesday morning meeting at the Great Lakes Maritime Center, 51 Water Street, Port Huron on **May 12, 8-9AM**. Anyone interested in attending this Business by Referral (BbR) networking group should contact Kathy Nemer-Kaiser, Countryside CPA Services PLLC at (810) 326-1651.

## Ambassadors

The Blue Water Ambassadors held a ribbon cutting for Blue Water FunBikz and RideOn! Rentals on Friday, May 1 and Serenity Senior Living on Friday, May 8. The Ambassadors will have an active committee meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, Noon** at the Chamber making calls to new members and existing members encouraging participation in our upcoming events!

## Executive Board

The Executive Board will meet on **Wednesday, May 13, Noon** at the Chamber for their monthly meeting to review the status of the 2009 goals including: membership; financial stability; advocacy; participation and collaboration. Discussion will also include small business development initiatives in Port Huron as a result of the City Council's resolution recognizing the Chamber as the lead organization for small business assistance.

## Fund Development

The Chairs of the Fund Development Committee and its two sub-committees, Golf Committee and the Annual Meeting and Business Awards will be held on **Tuesday, May 12, Noon** at the Chamber office. They will provide a status report on fundraising efforts for the three major events in 2009, beginning with this Thursday's Funny Business event. Money raised through these events will help the Chamber provide small business advocacy, education and development assistance to the business community. The Golf Committee meeting for this week has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.