Quality is our Recipe!

Jim Hilliker named Entrepreneur of the Month

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It’s great to live in a community that recognizes when it has needs and then is able to bring in businesses that provides for those needs. That is exactly what Jim Hilliker did in 1976 when he realized there was a need for a high quality, quick-service restaurant here in Logan County.

Better Food Systems, Inc. was formed in 1976 by Don, Jim, and Rick Hilliker. It started out as a family owned and operated business and continues to be so even today. After years in the hotel business, the Hillikers opened their first Wendy’s in Bellefontaine. At the time, Bellefontaine was the smallest city to have a Wendy’s. Today Jim runs multiple stores and employs hundreds.

Currently the Wendy’s system includes more than 6,500 franchise and company restaurants in the U.S. and 29 other countries and U.S. territories worldwide. “Better Food Systems Inc. is one of the longest term franchise groups in the Wendy’s system,” says Jim Hilliker. When you say your product is the best hamburgers in the industry you have to stand behind your product. Something people may not know about Wendy’s is when we say “Quality is our recipe,” we mean fresh never frozen beef, fresh produce, fresh salads and hamburgers prepared hot off the grill when you order.

As a successful entrepreneur we asked Jim if he has a unique marketing strategy or business model. Jim says, “It’s not important who comes in, it’s important who comes back in! Returning customers is our primary concern.” It’s that kind of sound advice that makes Logan County and our community lucky to have someone like Jim Hilliker. He has a great feel for business and has spent time helping others and offering advice to other small business owners or young entrepreneurs.

For 38 years Better Food Systems, Inc has been in business and 25 of those years has been as a chamber member. When asked why Jim belongs to the chamber he says, “The Chamber monitors the “pulse” of the community. Members have the benefit of looking to the future through the efforts of the chamber.”

Jim would also like to give thanks and credit to longtime employee Gary Lisi, who has been with him for the past 35 years and 30 of those as the Director of Operations. Also working for Jim is Chris Winch, CPA and Company Controller.
Jim Hilliker and Wendy’s Cont...

Jim has been a quiet and strong supporter of Logan County through the years. Jim is a member of the local bar association and a past member on the Ohio State University Board of Trustees.

Mr. Hilliker has personally and through his family been a large advocate for the YMCA. In addition Jim is very active in his church and a supporter of booster clubs, school athletics and recreational sports.

The Logan County Chamber of Commerce would like to thanks Jim Hilliker for his dedication and support to Logan County and Congratulate him on being January’s Business and Entrepreneur of the Month.

Due to the first Thursday falling on New Years Day
January’s Coffee Hour will be at Sweet Aromas on Thursday January 8th at 8:00am.
Come join the chamber for an opportunity to network with other local business representatives.

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEBSITE

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the launch of our new website. Please take a minute and enjoy the journey of our new site.

www.logancountyohio.com
The Hilliker YMCA Board of Directors has announced the hiring of Mike Mullins as the new executive director and CEO for the organization. Most recently, Mr. Mullins served as CEO at Adriel School for seven years and as the president of the Board of Directors for the United Way of Logan County, as well as president of the Hilliker YMCA Board of Directors.

As a way to give back to the community the board agreed to accept a compensation package that includes no paid benefits, which will provide a substantial savings to the Hilliker YMCA.

“Mr. Mullins has demonstrated immense leadership and business management skill during his career and this community will be extremely fortunate to have a community minded CEO of his caliber,” states board member Bob Barnwell.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Mr. Mullins on his new position and wish him the best!

**ALSO...**

**Honda Heritage Center: A tribute to the past, a focus on the future**

The Honda Heritage Center in Marysville officially opened its doors today, offering the world a glimpse of the innovative history and growth the company has achieved in Ohio and North America during the past 55 years.

Ohio Governor John Kasich joined Honda officials and state and local community leaders to celebrate the opening of the new $35 million, 160,000-square-foot facility which includes a museum, Technical Development Center and office space for Honda North America.

The new museum, which will open to the public in January, pays tribute to Honda’s unique tradition and highlights products and significant milestones in the history of Honda in North America, including a natural focus on the role of Honda’s operations in Ohio. A vision to dream big is evident throughout the museum, exemplified by the visible evolution of the motorcycles, automobiles and power equipment on display. In addition, the space honors groundbreaking new Honda technologies such as a replica of the humanoid robot ASIMO and the HondaJet, which will begin customer deliveries in 2015.

In addition to the Honda museum, the building is home to a new Technical Development Center, which is focused on advancing the skills of Honda engineers, equipment service technicians, and production associates involved in auto production at Honda plants in Ohio and throughout North America. This will help prepare Honda and its associates for the 21st century of manufacturing where success will be defined by the successful interaction between associates and advanced technology.
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We are so excited to introduce Logan County’s newest place to escape and relax at a private, comfortable, country Bed & Breakfast. Located just outside of West Liberty owners Rick and Julie Hidinger’s goal is to make their guests feel comfortable and to provide them a relaxing place to reconnect with the ones they love.

Escape Route 508 features three second floor guest rooms (The Honey Room, Field of Greens and The Farm) with private baths, clean, comfortable, free WIFI, HDTV and an inviting common space. For the warmer months enjoy outdoor gardens, private patios, spa, and an in-ground heated pool.

Included free in your stay is a delicious continental breakfast. Julie’s unique and flavorful country breakfast gives a nod to her childhood beginnings in California and Idaho.

Rick and Julie are joined by their niece Hannah who shares their enjoyment of hospitality and meeting people. Hannah volunteers her efforts and will soon be joining the B&B as a fellow innkeeper.

The Hidingers would like to offer discounts to local residents, so if you would like to enjoy the relaxation that comes with being in the county, star gazing from the hot tub at night, sleeping late without fear of missing breakfast, or watching the sunrise while sipping coffee schedule your visit to Escape Route 508.

Logan County is blessed with so many wonderful attractions. Just a short drive from many of our top attractions: Marmon Valley Farm, Piatt Castles, Markin Farms Zip Line Adventures, The Simon Kenton Trail and many more favorites can be enjoyed.

**Think Logan County for your next Staycation!**

Visit www.escaperoute508.com or call 937.210.2456
Check out our NEW website to help promote our Community throughout the world.

Visit www.logancountyohio.com

Contact us for more information on how to make this valuable tool work for your business.

937.599.5121
**Board Member of the Month**

**Rick Hatcher, Chamber of Commerce Board Member of the Month**

Whether you see Rick at Citizens Federal Savings and Loan or on one of the many boards he volunteers his time on, he always seems to have a smile on his face. As a life long resident, Rick began a full time position at Citizens Federal in December 2007 as the Executive Vice President and Secretary. He was promoted to the president and managing officer in July of 2009.

As well as the Logan County Chamber of Commerce Board, where he is chairman of the Legislative Committee, he is currently serving on the Mary Rutan Hospital Board; as a member of Team Logan (Economic Development Committee for Logan County); as president of the Board of Trustees for the James Forsythe Milroy Foundation. Rick is actively involved on the United Way Champions Committee, member of the Logan County Junior Achievement Board; chairperson on the Bellefontaine High School Hall of Fame Committee for the past 20+ years, member of Kiwanis and member of St. Patrick Church.

“... the chamber’s commitment to its members along with its concern for the economic development of Logan County,” Rick states is why he belongs to the chamber.

Thank you Rick for your commitment to the Logan County Chamber of Commerce and our community.

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**Legislative Meeting Tuesday January 13th 7:30am**

The Legislative group this month will hear from Logan County Sherriff Andy Smith. The monthly Legislative meeting will be on Tuesday January 13th at 7:30am here at the chamber office.

Andrew J. Smith has served as Logan County Sheriff since 2009. Prior to being elected Sheriff, he served 18 years as a deputy with the Logan County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Smith is a graduate of The Ohio State University and West Liberty-Salem High School. *Fun Fact* Did you know that a West Liberty-Salem graduate has served as Logan County Sheriff for the past 36 years!

Sheriff Smith plans to talk with the group about crime trends in Logan County. The Legislative meeting is open to the public. Come start your morning learning more about our community and being an active part in our County.

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**Attention Human Resource Professionals**

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to be bringing back our Human Resource Group. This group will meet quarterly and have various HR related content presented to them. The first quarterly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 24th at 11:30am. The presenter will be David Korte from Coolidge Law.
Attend the Safety Council Meeting January 15 7:30am

Safety Council is a monthly program hosted by the Logan County Chamber that is held at Ohio Hi Point in their Tech Center.

This month, Katie Benson, a physician at Advanced Spinal Health and Wellness will present to the group. Dr. Katie Benson has been on the Wellness Advisory Council for USA Weightlifting, Judo and Wrestling since 2009. She travels across the United States and provides wellness care for the Olympic athletes. Dr. Benson is an Ohio native and received her Bachelor’s of Science Degree from the University of Findlay and her doctorate from Palmer College of Chiropractic Florida.

She is a wellness doctor and her office is the only Maximized Living Health Center in the state of Ohio. As a Maximized Living Doctor she focuses on restoring health through the 5 Essentials: Restoring a healthy mindset, restoring healing and a healthy nervous system through corrective chiropractic care, restoring a proper diet and nutrition, restoring proper movement and exercise, and removing toxins.

Come enjoy your morning coffee with other Safety Council professionals and learn more.

Ohio Safety Council

Workplace Wellness Grant Program

Employers wanting to improve the health and wellness of their workers can benefit from our newest program, the Workplace Wellness Grant Program (WWGP). It provides funding to assist employers in establishing training and programs to reduce health risk factors specific to their employees. BWC established WWGP to study the effect of a wellness program in the workplace on bringing down incidence and cost of accidents and illnesses. The goal is to control the escalating cost of workers’ compensation claims through addressing health risk factors. The WWGP’s collateral goals are also to reduce health-care costs for employers, as well as improve the health of the workforce.

Is your business and employees ready for the new year?
January Community Calendar

January 1st: Chamber of Commerce Closed for New Years
January 2nd: Chamber of Commerce Closed for New Years
January 8th: First Thursday’s Coffee Hour 8am @ Sweet Aromas
January 13th: Legislative Meeting 7:30am @ Chamber Office
January 15th: Safety Council Meeting 7:30am @ Ohio Hi Point
January 16th: Visitors Bureau Council Meeting 8:00am @ Chamber Office

BENEFIT: Members receive a DIGITAL PRESENCE through the Chamber website and mobile application.