

## Scenic Solutions Sets the Stage

Scenic Solutions LLC has purchased the building at 355 Gargrave Rd. for their new headquarters. Owned by Dan and Marybeth McLaughlin, Scenic Solutions is a full serve theatrical and display supplier. They specialize in scenery fabrication for the theater, film, TV and convention display industries. Their services include the full range of stage scenery services, including design, building and fabrication, production coordination, rigging, lighting and stage management. Their technical capabilities include the ability to fabricate scenery and display items from steel, wood, plastic, foam and aluminum and has CNC plasma cutting capability. Dan McLaughlin has over 15 years experience in the theater industry. Scenic Solutions has done work for local clients such as Victoria Theatre Association, Dayton Ballet, Carrollton Park; as well as national events such as NASCAR, Miss Saigon, Phantom and others.

Scenic Solutions can be contacted at 937-866-5062 or on the web at [www.scenicsolutions.com](http://www.scenicsolutions.com).



Dan and Marybeth McLaughlin, owners of Scenic Solutions, take a break from building sets at the facility located at 355 Gargrave Rd.



Shown above is an example of the type of display services that Scenic Solutions provides.

### Sample Clients and Productions:

Stomp Tour	Definitive Solutions
5/3 Bank	Dayton Daily News
Carillon Historical Park	Ballet San Jose
Lyric Opera Cleveland	Sapsis Rigging
Dayton Philharmonic	Schuster Center
Dayton Ballet	Inventing Flight
Dayton Opera	Miami University
Miss Saigon	Wright State University
Oberlin College	University of Cincinnati
PBS Think TV	Victoria Theater Assn
National Underground Railroad Freedom center	

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Motoman Inc. recently celebrated 15 years** of success in West Carrollton with events, that included facility tours, live robot demonstrations, technical forums, commemorative ceremonies and an Open House.

More than 300 customers, suppliers, and dignitaries toured Motoman's headquarters in West Carrollton, Ohio, and manufacturing facility in Troy, Ohio. Live demonstrations featured Motoman robots performing a wide variety of applications, including machine tending, palletizing, bottle packing, vision-assisted inspection and assembly, multiple robot control of three and four robots, spot welding, and material handling. One demo showed how Motoman robots will be used to assist surgeons performing spinal surgeries.

Mr. Shin Nakayama, Chairman of the Board of Yaskawa Electric Corporation (YEC), mentioned that the year Motoman was formed, YEC celebrated shipping their 10,000th robot. Last year, they celebrated shipping their 100,000th robot.

Festivities included a traditional "Kagami-Biraki" Japanese sake ceremony for good luck, led by Mr. Kasu Okabe, Senior Vice President and Senior Presidential Advisor, Motoman, Inc.

Ohio Governor Bob Taft toured Motoman's headquarters. Governor Taft congratulated Motoman on 15 years of growth and success. He called Motoman's focus on customer satisfaction and success a model for all Ohio companies to emulate. Maxine Gilman, Mayor of West Carrollton, Ohio, also participated in the celebrations.

Also, Craig Jennings, Motoman Chief Operating Officer since 1997, was recently named the Executive of the Year by the Dayton Business Journal. Motoman's profits doubled from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2003 under his leadership.



**The El Meson Restaurant is Expanding Again.** Herman Castro and family have purchased the former auto repair garage next door to the restaurant. The building has been demolished to expand the parking spaces available to the restaurant to 90 spaces. The Castros have also expanded the hours at the restaurant. They are now open on Mondays for lunch and dinner and open Sunday evenings. Plans are also in the works to add an addition to the restaurant which will add 140 seats. This will include high tech meeting space for small business meetings and presentations.

**BW-3 Buffalo Wild Wings**, 2082 S. Alex Rd., was recently named as a Wi-Fi Hotspots location. The Wi-Fi-Freespot Directory is a listing of hotspot locations that offer Free Wireless Internet Access. Take your laptop and enjoy lunch.



**Down the Pike Bar & Grill**, located at 1603 S. Alex Rd., celebrates their 15 year anniversary this year. Pictured are Tony Denny, owner, and employee, Amy Phillips.



**The Miami Valley International Trade Association (MVITA)** is a volunteer organization promoting

international trade in the Miami Valley and supporting local business efforts in their quest to sell products and services to customers overseas. MVITA presents several educational and social programs throughout the year. For more information, go to their web site at [www.mvita.org](http://www.mvita.org) or call 937-226-8482.

The Ramada Inn located at 3555 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd. was recently purchased by **Interstate Ford** of Miamisburg. Interstate will move their entire operation to the Ramada site after building a new facility. Their plans are to have the new site open by Thanksgiving 2005.

## New Businesses

**Spaghetti's Restaurante Italia**, 1933 S. Alex Rd., is a new restaurant serving Italian food.

**Leader Wireless** recently opened at 1905 S. Alex Rd. They sell wireless phones and equipment.

**Unique Boutique**, 834 Watertower Lane, recently opened and sells gifts, novelty items, and clothing.

**Blue Jacket Realty, Inc.**, 405-B W. Central Ave., is the real estate office of Larry Parks.

**Media Sales Network**, 940 Watertower Lane,

**Lubrisource**, 931 E. Central Ave., distributors of lubricants to industry.

**Clean Care Services, Ltd./Hannah's Absolutely Clean**, 938 Watertower Lane, recently opened their cleaning service.

**Breckenridge Financial Supplies**, 916 Watertower Lane, is a supplier of banking and financial supplies.

**This and That**, 9 N. Elm St., opened its retail operation recently in the Olde Downtown.

**Leather Shak**, 830 Watertower Lane, sells various leather goods.

**Mad River Pets**, 2042-B S. Alex Rd., distributes pet foods.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo by Jerry Huffman

**South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce** awards 2004 Courage Award to West Carrollton for Mock Critical Incident June 2004 to:

Dr. Millie Chamberlin	Principal at West Carrollton High School
Mike Laycox	Athletic Trainer with West Carrollton High School
Doug Woodard	Sgt/Training Coordinator with West Carrollton Police Dept.
Leanne Nash	Fire Prevention Officer/EMS Coordinator with West Carrollton Fire Dept.

The 2004 Award is to commemorate courage above and beyond the operating norm. Risk taking, problem solving and ethical judgment apply.

The 2004 plaque reads: "To Plan, Overcome and Accomplish"

For more information contact: West Carrollton City Manager Tracy Williams at 937-859-5183 or Julia Maxton, President, South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce at 937-433-2032 X103.

The city's new **Water Softening Plant** is online full time, delivering soft water throughout the city's water distribution system. Any questions about the system can be directed to Maureen Parsons, City Engineer, at 847-4662.

Doug Williams has announced the opening of **Fibertech** Residential and Commercial Carpet Cleaning Company in West Carrollton. The company features a unique steam "Triple-Clean" approach with the newest cleaning technology. Contact Fibertech at 241-7112 for additional information or a free demonstration.

## Sign Code Update

The city has retained David Hartt, D.B. Hartt, Inc., as their consultant to conduct the comprehensive update of the city's Sign Code. Planning Commission will oversee the work of the consultant. The Business Advisory Council will also be actively involved in the update process. The purpose of the update is:

- \* Create a Sign Code which is legally defensible in light of existing First Amendment case law.
- \* To produce a Sign Code which is easy to understand for business owners or citizens.
- \* To evaluate and revise the appropriate level of signage permitted for all uses.

It is anticipated that public meetings, including one especially for businesses, will be conducted in early March to receive comments about the problems and concerns of the existing Sign Code.

It is expected that the Planning Commission will recommend a new Sign Code for City Council's consideration in late May.

## Business Income Tax Changes

The City of West Carrollton income tax rate increased from 1.75% to 2% starting January 1, 2005.

Employers were required to make the necessary changes to begin withholding the new rate from employees for wages earned in West Carrollton after December 31, 2004.

Businesses that are required to file a business tax return (Form R) for West Carrollton should also make the appropriate adjustments for estimated tax payments on business income for the 2005 return.

It should also be noted that due to State uniformity, the city income tax return due date will now follow federal guidelines for 2004 for all Ohio cities. That means the 2004 return will now be due 3-1/2 months after year-end (April 15, 2005 for calendar year-end taxpayers).

If you have any questions, call the tax department at (937) 859-8288.



Our apologies to the Farmers & Merchants Bank. We missed announcing them as a recipient of the Annual City Beautiful Flower Award for Businesses at the Business Appreciation Breakfast on October 21.

**Three Business Appreciation Awards** were presented to local organizations at the City of West Carrollton's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast on October 21.

Selections of the winning organizations – made by the City's Business Advisory Council – were based on growth, entrepreneurial flair and community service. The winners were:

- **Crown Cork & Seal Co.**, large business (more than 101 employees): Maker of aluminum can lids with a long tradition of community service, noted for their positive employee relations, current and past winners of an annual City Beautiful Flower Award for Businesses. The award was accepted by Robert Mason, Plant Manager, and Roy Jackson, Tech Services Manager.
- **Farmers and Merchants Bank**, 3235 Alex-Bell Rd., medium business (26 to 100 employees): A local community bank active in community projects. Bank officers serve on a number of community organizations, they have a long tradition of service to the community, and current winner of an annual City Beautiful Flower Award for Businesses. Accepting the award was Erica Shade, Branch Manager, and Deanna Rose, Customer Service Rep.

- **Edward Jones Investments**, 8 N. Elm St., small business (1 to 25 employees): West Carrollton office of this national investment firm has experienced continued and steady growth over the past number of years. John Knechtly, Investment Representative, has been very active in a number of community activities, including the organization of the Hometown Days Festival in Olde Downtown and the effort to raise capital funds for the West Carrollton YMCA.



### City Council

Maxine Gilman, Mayor  
 Jack Jensen, Deputy Mayor  
 Angie Fryman, Council Member  
 Bill Gordon, Council Member  
 Jody Jones, Council Member  
 Linda Lotspaih, Council Member  
 Jeff Sanner, Council Member

### City Officials

G. Tracy Williams, City Manager  
 Thomas E. Reilly, Finance Director  
 Jack Keister, Fire Chief  
 Richard R. Barnhart, Police Chief  
 Rick Bolton, Parks & Recreation Director  
 Rich Norton, Service Director  
 David K. Humphreys, Planning/Econ. Dev. Dir.

### City Services

Building Inspection	859-5184
City Manager	859-5183
Fire (non-emergency)	847-4645
Income Tax	859-8288
Parks & Recreation	859-5181
Planning/Zoning	859-5783
Police (non-emergency)	859-3688
Streets/Refuse	859-5184
Water/Sewer	859-8280

[www.westcarrollton.org](http://www.westcarrollton.org)

CityBeautifulCommissionWestCarrolltonOhio@groups.msn.com



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