



OLIVET IN

SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN...

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Need a gift?

Chamber Mugs are still available at

several downtown businesses for \$5.00.

Be sure to schedule your holiday event! The Community Center is a great place for co-workers, family and friends to gather. Please call 749-2241 for more details and to reserve your space.

Thanks to everyone who completed and returned the recent Chamber Survey! We received a good response and it was very interesting to read the different points of view. Following is a summary of the results. (Please note that the percentages may not add up to exactly 100% due to some respondents marking more than one answer or no answer at all).

Most of you (90%) joined the chamber to make a community contribution, followed by the desire to improve business climate (32%). Other responses included the intent to market your business and to make business contacts (18% and 14% respectively). Forty-one percent feel that our meeting time/place/day of the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at

the Community Center was very convenient. An equal number felt it was somewhat convenient, while 13% stated this was not at all convenient. This was due



primarily to other activities or obligations. The Chamber Newsletter appears to

be where most people (68%) get their information regarding Chamber events. Half stated that they mostly received information through word of mouth, and 32% specified the Chamber meetings.

In regards to the Chamber Newsletter, half felt the content of the newsletter was very useful. Twenty-seven percent felt it was fairly useful, and four respondents felt it was not very useful. Of those, two were unsure of how to make the news-

letter more useful, one felt that the newsletter is too focused on community rather than commerce activities, and one felt their business was located too far out of town to benefit from in-town Chamber activities.

A surprising number (73%) have never visited the Chamber website. This appeared to be more of an issue of lack of internet access. The good news is that of the 27% who have visited the website, most have visited on a regular basis! Two suggestions were shared in regards to improving the website: one expressed the importance of keeping updated info available and how it is a GREAT tool for the Chamber and members of the community, and the other suggestion was to possibly highlight Chamber member(s) to generate interest.

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SURVEY RESULTS CONTINUED

The Business Directory topped the list as the membership service that is the most useful to your business, followed closely by the newsletter (63% and 59% respectively). A good number (32%) also felt the “Night on the Town” is particularly useful. Five percent specified the Chamber website. One respondent commented on the Firemen’s Festival as a tool to provide exposure for the Chamber.

For the membership service you would most like to see implemented, most (41%) felt that a group health insurance plan would be the most useful. “Member Spotlight” and/or highlight new members also received

a favorable response (36%) and the idea of Chamber gift certificates appealed to some (27%). Only three respondents thought “Business After Hours” should be implemented

There were a variety of responses to the question of what should be our top priorities in the next couple of years. Some views included promoting and attempting to bring in new businesses to Olivet, concentrating on improving local economy, be more commerce-focused, encourage and enhance down-town beautification, promoting activities that would bring more people into Olivet and incentives to keep people in town to shop, increase community communications and development, continue our relationship with the College, to try and discourage any out-

sourcing of any more factory jobs in the Olivet area and to help promote and protect our local businesses and tradesmen, and to increase member participation to allow for more activities (ie. “welcome packets” and advertising businesses through activities).

The question of what we can do to most benefit your business also received a variety of responses. Some of those included: continuing to work with the College, as well as continuing working together to promote our community, to accept change and promote growth, recognize importance of industrial sector of Olivet, concentrate on

commerce instead of community service activities, concern for the economic climate and job losses in Olivet, encourage City Hall and the college to use local tradesmen, “advertise” Chamber members more, the importance of good police protection and fire services, and how the “Night on the Town” and the Business Directory are great benefits to businesses.

Again, a big **THANKS** to everyone who took the time to share their views! The Chamber officers appreciate your input and value your opinions.



<http://www.olivetchamber.org>

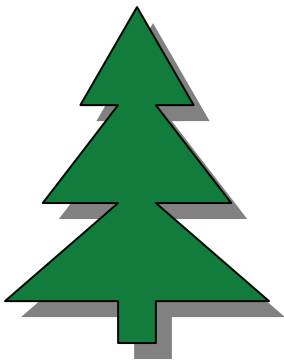
NEW DIRECTORIES

The 2005-06 Chamber directories are being distributed to area businesses, City Hall, Olivet Community Schools, Olivet College, area churches and realtors. A big thank you goes to Bruce Snyder and his staff at Olivet College for the design of the directory, and to Cindy Waun for her help with its publication. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Becky Ramage at 749-4085.

CHAMBER MEETINGS
6:00 PM
First Tuesday of every month

Olivet
 Community
 Center

The third annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 6:30 pm in front of Olivet Pharmacy. This event is sponsored by the Olivet Community Chamber of Commerce and the Olivet Fire Fighters Association and will include music, refreshments and a visit from Santa, who will be handing out goodies for the kids. Please join us as our community comes together to celebrate the holiday season!



**NEED MORE
SPACE FOR THE
OFFICE HOLIDAY
PARTY?
Call 749-2241!**

2005 CHAMBER FUND RAISER

The Olivet Chamber was fortunate to partner with Olivet College again this year to help with parking cars at the OC football games. The Chamber agrees to provide the staff for the college lots, as well as the lot donated by Ben Hart, while the College and the Chamber share the receipts! This year we were able to raise \$2,134.00, making this our most successful year to date. Thank you to all our parking

volunteers:

**Frank Brownell
John Collins
Ben Hart
Danny LaPoint
Denny LaPoint
Larry Marsh
Mandi Persons
Becky Ramage
Lyle See
Roger St Johns
Doug Swift
Linda Swift
Cindy Waun
Karl Weaver
Pam Weaver
Steve Whiting**



OLIVET BECOMES SAFE HAVEN FOR RAVY FAMILY

Eighteen members of the Ravy family, who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina, were welcomed to Olivet with an outpouring of support from alumni, the college and community. The Women's Board of Olivet College opened the Oak Chest, a downtown resale shop, and allowed the family to select some much needed clothing at no charge. The college's Betsy Dole Women's Resource Center sponsored a Dunk Tank to raise money. Olivet College athletic teams, Greek societies and seminar classes joined in fundraising and food collection efforts. As a Fall Service Day project, members of Alpha Omega joined President Tuski in painting the exterior of the Gruen House, where some of the family

members were housed. Jessica (Davenport) Creaiger's '00 class at C.W. Otto Middle School in Lansing conducted a food drive. Through Al Swain's '78 connection, a motorized wheelchair was donated by Caremore, Inc. of Brighton. The city of Olivet is still collecting for a 100,000 pop can drive.

Candy Ford-Mercury Inc., in Charlotte donated a van to Michelle Ravy, whose son, Greg, attends Olivet College. The Ravy family also received medical care from Dr. Martha Walsh in Marshall and dental care from Dr. Rand McKinley in Battle Creek, at no charge.

Several churches and organizations sent donations to the college to support its efforts with caring

for the family in its time of need. They include Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor, Edgewood United Church of Christ in East Lansing, First Assembly of God in Olivet, Gracewalk Community Outreach in Olivet, Olivet Community Chamber of Commerce, Olivet Congregational Church U.C.C., and the Mayflower Congregational Church and Plymouth Congregational Church, both in Lansing. The national United Church of Christ also made a \$5,000 donation. The list of supporters and donations goes on and on - caring for the needs of the Ravy family was truly a community effort.

<http://www.olivetchamber.org>

The Olivet Community Center is now available for community use! Please call The Olivet Hardware @ 269-749-2441 for rental information.

PO BOX 300
Olivet MI



MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Olivet Community Chamber of Commerce meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month @ 6:00 pm in the Olivet Community Center. We encourage you to join our organization, as we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions. We welcome the involvement of anyone who would like the opportunity to benefit our community. To become a member of our Olivet Community Chamber of Commerce, simply complete the application below and return it to Olivet Community Chamber of Commerce, PO BOX 300, Olivet MI 49076. Annual membership dues are \$30.00 for Business Memberships and \$15.00 for Individual Memberships.

Business Name: _____

Individual Name (s): _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Amount enclosed: _____