

## Letter from the Chamber Chairman

What a great start to the fall season. The weather has been picture perfect - my favorite kind of weather. The farmers have been able to get out and harvest their crops. It does not sound like they are having the best yields, but I always look at it as it could be a lot worse than it is. If you are taking a drive to soak in the great weather be sure to watch out for all the farm machinery going up and down the road.

If you notice at the bottom of all of my articles (if you read them), I have put a reminder to shop in Henry County. I am a firm believer in doing business locally, as much as possible. Not only do you get great service, but it helps our local economy also. I recently read an article on a study that was done which featured the impact of shopping locally-owned businesses, as opposed to "the chain stores". It showed;

- \* For every \$100.00 in consumer spending with a local business, \$68.00 remains in the local economy.
- \* For every \$100.00 in consumer spending with a chain business, \$43.00 remains in the local economy.
- \* For every square foot occupied by a local business, local economic impact is \$179.00.
- \* For every square foot occupied by a chain business, local economic impact is \$105.00.

So, it does have an impact on our economy. Now, let me say one thing, I am not saying "do not shop at Wal-Mart or any other big chain business in our county", for they do have a lot of benefits also. They have the one stop shopping, plenty of parking, and they also help the local economy. This study is showing the difference of shopping locally versus going to Toledo, Findlay, Lima, etc... You never know - you might find out that Henry County has more to offer than you think.

I want to remind our Chamber members, our Annual meeting is coming up on October 29th from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Moose in Napoleon. For some of our new members, according to our by-laws we have to have an annual meeting and we have it just before our Fiscal year ends at the end of November. We also feature "The Taste of Henry County" where we feature some of our local establishments bringing samples of food that they would like to promote – such as any new menu item or a reminder of their specialty. Obviously, this is my favorite meeting because there is eating involved with this meeting. You can come fill your plate and enjoy the great food and we will have a SHORT meeting to give you a recap of what the Chamber has been doing and what we hope to do in the future.

Remember to shop Henry County  
**Chairman, Steve Thomas**

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