

# Greenfield Business Association

June 2008

# G-Biz

## GET INVOLVED!

Friday, June 20th, 7:30-9:00 a.m.  
@Bill's Restaurant

The Greenfield Business Association  
invites you to attend the

### 2008 Annual Meeting and breakfast

Agenda for the meeting includes:

- Presentation by Ted Carman of Concord Square Development of the progress being made on Greenfield Upper Story Rehabilitation Project.

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- Getting the information we need! Our local building inspectors present common issues that we run up against when considering improvements or renovations in our workplace.
- Short business meeting and elections.

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## Summerfest 2008 July 11 & 12



New energy infusion to the annual sidewalk sale brings with it more reasons to spend the day in Greenfield. We are partnering with the Farmers Market and many Greenfield businesses to pump up the excitement: Live music, performances, scavenger hunt, starving artist sale, street entertainment and more. **BE A PART OF IT!**

Your business can sponsor an activity or set up a tent to gain exposure to new customers. If you'd like more information on how you can join in; Call 774-2791 or email [gba@franklincc.org](mailto:gba@franklincc.org)!

## What Matters To You Department

Graduation weekend: GCC & GHS

It was, without a doubt, glorious weather, exactly right to strut down the grassy aisle with your friends towards the next phase of your life. I didn't actually know any of the graduates personally, although many of the names were familiar.

I wanted to go because I needed a jolt of spark in what has been a bleak season for local education. And I got it, the beaming faces of the graduates, their families and friends, the cameras capturing the handshake moment, the brilliant smile to the crowd, the tears of the student who really cares about her classmates, all that emotion, all that joy and relief, anticipation, it's a bundle and I carried it all with me as I left each ceremony.

I tell you about this because for me, the connection of an extraordinary educational system to the health and well-being of its surrounding businesses and residences is the quintessential relationship for a community. You can't have value growth without schools with decent reputations and you can't have schools with decent reputations without a supportive business community and cheerleader residents.

Greenfield is in an interesting position, a third of its resident's are 55 and over, a group that often gets pegged as having little interest in the public school system.

Another full third of our residents are folks with families who are low or no income wage earners. Then, there is us, the middle third, working, not wealthy, but reasonably well cared for financially.

Most of us work in the Greenfield business community and have a responsibility and a right to be involved with the issues that affect our schools. And many do, it isn't difficult to find a niche for your self in the school system, pick a subject, reading, writing, math, science, athletics, music and art. Your business can make a difference in a department for one kid, or for a whole class.

Examples: Recently Tami Beaugard of Wilson's gave up an hour and a half of one afternoon a week to spend with third graders at Newton Street school. She created a month long curriculum on advertising for the students and not only did she get some great ideas, but she is developing the next generation of Wilson's shoppers.

The GBA, in our on-going effort to bridge relationships, is sponsoring a welcome for the new superintendents. This is an opportunity for us to be a positive force in the development of new leadership and forward motion for the public school system. Please stop in and say hello. June 16th (see calendar for details) is the day.

## CALENDAR OF THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

### JUNE 2008

June 4: Green Drinks: Mesa Verde 5-7, Keeping the planet a good place to call home, Come join the conversation!

June 12: All American Bourbon tasting, 4-6, in store at Ryan and Casey, Just in time for Fathers' Day!

June 14th: The Greenfield Savings Bank Money Tree opens!!! 1-3 pm Big Y Plaza, refreshments, kids stuff, prizes!

June 16th: Meet new team members of the Greenfield Public School leadership, call 774-2791 for details.

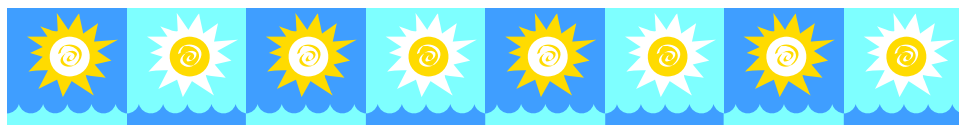
June 20th: GBA annual meeting, Bills Restaurant: 7:30-9:00am

June 20th: YMCA Parking Lot Party, 773-3646, 5:30-9:00p.m.

June 21st: 3rd Annual Green River Brew Fest, 50+ breweries from east to west, live music, food, collectors' pint glass, all for \$20, proceeds to for the Youth Commission's "drop-out prevention program" 12-6, bring your lawn chair, Primate Fiasco will be playing!

June 24th: Becky will be guest bartending at Taylor's Tavern, please come harass her! All tips to benefit the

Greenfield Public Schools,  
**Green River Festival Ticket  
giveaways! 5:00-7:00p.m.**



#### New Members

##### **F.W.Farrell Insurance Agency**

Family owned and operated since 1936, offering the best personalized insurance knowledge for your home, auto, leisure and business insurance needs in Franklin County. Located at Yetter Business Center, 525 Bernardston Road. Tim Farrell can be reached at 773-3686 or via email: [tfarrell@farrell-ins.com](mailto:tfarrell@farrell-ins.com) [www.Farrell-ins.com](http://www.Farrell-ins.com)

##### **Dillon Chevrolet**

45 years of stellar customer service at Dillon Chevrolet has made this General Motors dealer a household name in our community. Visit Tom and the crew at 54 Main Street, call 773-3678 or email [sales@dillon.com](mailto:sales@dillon.com) for more information on your next vehicle! [www.dillonchevrolet.com](http://www.dillonchevrolet.com)

##### **Easy Street Nightclub**

Take back the night from the teenagers! Easy Street is open for the business of relaxing after work, dancing the night away or meeting a first date over a drink. Special events, pool tables, bands and DJ nights bring the 30 something crowd out to play. Easy Street is located at 10 Fiske Avenue. Call 413-376-4230 or email: [easystreetclub@yahoo.com](mailto:easystreetclub@yahoo.com) for events.

##### **Ramon Financial Services, LLC**

Insurance, Investments and Benefits for Individuals and Employers Since July 2006. Located at 20 Kelleher Drive, South Deerfield. Charlie and Allyson can be reached at 413-665-3932 or via email: [cer@ramonfinancial.com](mailto:cer@ramonfinancial.com)

##### **Hale Custom Signs**

With only four years of history Hale Custom Signs has quickly become well known. The high quality of construction, design and production on signage, banners and vehicle logo work puts Hale Custom Signs at the top of the class in the regional sign industry. Dan and his staff are ready to make your message work. You can reach them at 774-5663 or stop in at 74 Montague City Road. Check out examples online at [www.halecustomsigns.com](http://www.halecustomsigns.com)

##### **May, 2008 Congress Approves Genetic Non-Discrimination Bill**

Late last week, the House approved a bill to bar insurance companies and employers from discriminating against an individual based on genetic information. The legislation, the *Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 493.)* was passed on May 1 in the House 420-3 and sailed unopposed through the Senate on April 24.

Though language was added in the Senate aimed at protecting insurance companies from excessive lawsuits, the language was stripped out when it was sent back to the House for their requisite approval. President George W. Bush has announced his intent to sign the bill within a short timeline. Under the bill, insurers would not be allowed to use genetic information to set rates or determine enrollment eligibility, and employers would not be allowed to use such information in hiring or firing decisions.

The bill's proponents are hopeful that by instituting laws against the use of genetic information, individuals will be more likely to undergo genetic testing with the hope that such testing will lead to early treatment of various genetic diseases as well as broad medical advances.

However, some employer groups have raised concerns that the bill didn't go far enough in protecting against lawsuits from unscrupulous individuals who will look to exploit the law. The bill expressly prohibits genetic information from being included on any employer-provided sick or family leave not covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), or any discussion on health insurance covered under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). However, FMLA medical certification forms and certain workers' compensation forms were not specifically mentioned. If genetic information happened to be listed on such forms, employers could be accused of using such information in hiring or firing decisions—even if they didn't—just for having the information.

While the issue of genetic nondiscrimination received wide Congressional support, HIPAA already has language stipulating such information cannot be used in the group health market. How the new law's legal implications will change employers' and insurers' standard operating procedures regarding genetic information remains to be seen.