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“Small Bet, Big Return”

It's time for the 33rd annual BBA Trade Fair, March 12 & 13

By Jackie Giroux
Reporter

It's that time of year when the Bedford Business Association hosts the largest social event in Bedford Township. The 33rd annual BBA Trade Fair will run Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bedford High School, located at 8285 Jackman Rd. in Temperance.

As in years past, the event is totally free with the exception of food and beverages for purchase. Vendors fill both gymnasiums and the hallways. Since there is no admission fee, attendees can see all that Trade Fair has to offer over the course of two days, if they choose to, rather than trying to see everything in one afternoon. There is plenty of free parking including handicap parking spaces.

Everything about Trade Fair is family-friendly, so all ages are welcome to attend. Attendees come from the Bedford area as well as the surrounding areas such as Monroe, Sylva, Toledo and Lenawee County.

Trade Fair is the perfect opportunity to see all that Bedford has to offer – that many goods and services residents or businesses need can be found locally. With today's busy lifestyles, new Bedford residents

may not have had the time to discover many of the community's businesses. Trade Fair is the perfect place to see the variety of businesses in Bedford. Others who are considering a move to Bedford might be swayed to do so after attending Trade Fair and seeing everything the business community has to offer.

When the doors open, participating business owners and representatives of organizations and churches will be ready to greet Trade Fair visitors. They look forward to the community stopping by their booths. Be sure to pick up a program at the BBA booth, in the main hallway at the main entrance, which has a layout map of Trade Fair that shows where each participating business booth is located. You can then head in whatever direction you choose, but before you do be sure to also get, at the BBA booth, your game entry for a chance to win a BBA gift certificate.

“The Leprechaun and his pots of gold are taking a break this year,” said committee member Dona Folk. “The BBA with the ‘Small Bet, Big Return’ theme in mind has decided to bring in the ‘Dealer’ this year. He will place poker hands from a pair to a royal flush in booths throughout the event. On Saturday night he

will fold them and place poker hands in new booths on Sunday. There will be 16 poker hands to find each day. Look for the clues and after finding the poker hands write the booth number or name on the entry and turn your entry in at the BBA booth. All active players will be entered in the drawing, Folk explained.

“As you are looking for the dealer's poker hands make sure you check out all the great deals the businesses have to offer right here in Bedford. Don't forget to play both days!” she added.

The Trade Fair booths will be showcasing the goods or services that each business or organization offers. While the booths are informative, many also have drawings, contests or items they will be handing out.

Some businesses that have been located in Bedford for years have participated in every Trade Fair since the event began. Others have participated for varying numbers of years and businesses like Kara's Critter Care are at the 33rd annual Trade Fair for the first time.

“This will be my first year,” said owner Kara Zapko. “I hope to gain exposure and be memorable so six months down the road when someone goes on vacation they remember to call me to pet sit.”



The BHS Alumni Association is working on Phase 3 of their stadium project, which includes getting rid of the porta-johns at the stadium and constructing restrooms. They will have a built-to-scale porta-john at their Trade Fair booth along with Phase 3 information. The porta-john replica serves as a container for donations of any size, from pocket change to small or large bills. All donations go to the Phase 3 project.

Zapko's booth will feature a poster board of happy clients along with some information. “I'll have gift cards, business magnets and regular cards, a cat basket raffle, a dog basket raffle and I will have Shaggy the dog mascot,” she said. You can find Kara's Critter Care in the main hallway, booth 117.

“This year will be our third trade fair,” said Premier Cruise

Planners owner TC Clements. “We are incredibly excited as each year we meet new people and see existing clients. The Trade Fair is one of those events where as a collective community we get to meet, do business and show the surrounding area what ‘Bedford Strong’ really means.

“Trade Fair allows a chance to explain to our neighbors how

people can travel better and typically for less when they use a well-qualified and knowledgeable travel agent. Most people think that using an agent costs more and nothing could be further from the truth. We exist to save our client time and money.”

Clements said their booth has been expanded this year due

(Continued on page 8)

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