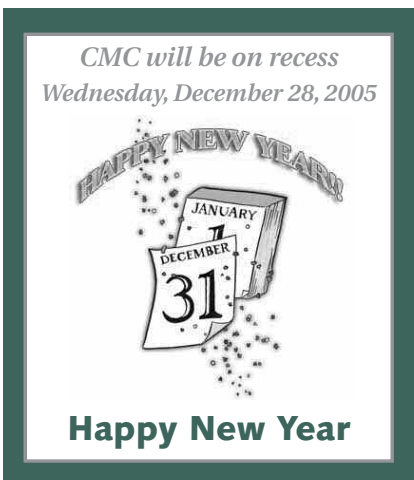


columbus metropolitan club

29 years of
diversity • discussion • debate

Wednesday, December 28, 2005
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Upcoming CMC Forums

Wednesday, January 4, 2006

Blue Chip Forecast & 30-Year Retrospective

Blue Chip Forecast & 30-Year Retrospective, **Bill LaFayette**, Ph.D., VP of economic analysis, *Columbus Chamber*; **George Mokrzan**, Ph.D., VP Sr. Economist, *Huntington Bancshares, Inc.*; **James Newton**, Ph.D., Chief Economic Advisor, *Commerce National Bank*. Sponsored by *Columbus State Community College*

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

Growing Smarter – Chattahoochee Hill Country: Model for Darby Watershed?

Stacy Patton, Executive Director, *Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy*. In partnership with *1,000 Friends of Central Ohio*

Wednesday, January 18, 2006

Gubernatorial Candidates Discussion on Land Use and Economic Development

In partnership with *Greater Ohio*; Sponsored by the *Enterprise Foundation*

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Religion & the Public Domain

E.J. Dionne, Columnist, *Washington Post*. In partnership with *Building Public Spaces*

Wednesday, JANUARY 4TH, noon to 1:15 at the Athletic Club of Columbus

Blue Chip Economic Forecast & 30-Year Retrospective

As the new year begins, we're all curious about what the future will bring. Prosperity or disappointment? Employment or unemployment lines? More money in our pockets or less?

To launch our year of special CMC's 30th Celebration Forums, Dr. Bill LaFayette, vice president of economic analysis for the Columbus Chamber leads off with his witty and informative annual "Blue Chip Forecast." (And, if we know Bill, the bonus retro-1976 perspective promises to be enlightening and entertaining.)

As the Chamber's chief economist, Dr. LaFayette analyzes and interprets economic and demographic trends for Chamber staff, civic leaders, and the Columbus community, and helps determine the implications of those trends for the Chamber's business advocacy and workforce development efforts. **George Mokrzan**, Ph.D., VP Sr. Economist, *Huntington Bancshares, Inc.* and **James Newton**, Ph.D., Chief

Economic Advisor, *Commerce National Bank* will join the conversation.

And now for your forecast preview: 2006: Our eight-county metro area's employment continued to grow much more slowly than average in 2005, and our unemployment rate rose above the national average for the first time since 1981. Will we see better growth in 2006?

Will the five-year decline in retail employment finally end?

1976: Our five-county metro area has just been through a bruising recession that cost us more than 4 percent of our job base. So what happens now? Will there be more job cuts like those at the State of Ohio, Westinghouse, and Rickenbacker Air Force Base?

We have come off last summer's 8.3 percent unemployment rate, and have finally dropped below 7 percent. Will that positive trend continue?

What about inflation? Are we like-



Dr. Bill LaFayette

ly to see a repeat of last year's 9 percent rate?

(Of course, the question on everyone's mind is, "Will Bill, George and Jim break out their leisure suits?" Get down. Groovy.)



Let's Celebrate!

There are times when being serious is gravely important. When whim and levity must give way to debate and discourse. When statistics, supporting data and detailed demographics must dominate every discussion.

This is not one of those times!

This is a time for the staff of the Columbus Metropolitan Club to express our sincerest appreciation to our founders, our Board of Trustees, dozens of committee volunteers, our sponsors, our friends in the media and most importantly, our members for your enthusiastic support!

Happy New Year, 2006! It's time to celebrate 30 years of community conversation!



Linda Cook, volunteer office manager; Lori Marlow, program and marketing coordinator; Jane Scott, executive director and Tracy Shearer, membership coordinator.

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Previews for 2006

Wednesday, January 11, 2006
Growing Smarter Series

Chattahoochee Hill Country: Model for Darby Watershed?

In partnership with *1,000 Friends of Central Ohio*

The Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy, southwest of Atlanta, has a plan to balance conservation and development on 65,000 acres that have not yet been suburbanized. Under conventional zoning, the waterways, farmland and rolling hills would eventually have 30,000 homes that gobble up 80 percent of the land. Under the conservancy's proposal – with broad support but little money – the area could have 38,000 homes on less than 20 percent of the land. The development would primarily be in three clusters of "conservation development."

The area is comparable in many ways to the 56,000-acre Darby Watershed area in western Franklin County in that it is beautiful, under

development pressure and near the city. CMC welcomes **Stacy Patton**, executive director for the *Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy* (www.chatthillcountry.org) to Columbus to infuse the local Darby Creek debate with outside ideas and perhaps energize the non-profit sector, which has not been active in charting plans for the Darby.

What do you think should happen to the Darby Creek area? Plan now to gather new perspectives from a similar community.



About Us...

CMC firmly believes in the free expression of all ideas and the benefits of an open exchange of information. CMC is non-partisan and takes no positions on issues.

Anyone can join! From the beginning, there have been no barriers to membership and all forums have welcomed the general public. Diversity, both in programming and membership, is one of the many benefits of being involved in CMC. Everyone is welcome.

Each forum is an hour-long program that starts with a brief introduction followed by 25-30 minutes of speaker comments. The final half hour is filled with unfiltered, unrehearsed questions from the audience.

Join Today!

Call CMC at (614) 464-3220 for more information.

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CMC forums are held from noon to 1:15 at the *Athletic Club of Columbus*, 136 E. Broad St. unless other wise noted

Write the NUMBER OF GUESTS that will be attending the forum in the box.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, January 4 | Blue Chip Economic Forecast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, January 11 | Growing Smarter - Chattahoochee Hill Country |
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Forum Fees: Enter the number of attendees next to each forum title listed above. RSVP by noon the day before the forum to guarantee your reservation.

	Member	Guest	Public
Early	\$15	\$25	\$30
Regular	\$18	\$25	\$30

Table Reservations: Select the number of seats needed at your table and circle the appropriate rate.

	Member	Guest	Public
8 Seats	\$144	N/A	\$188
10 Seats	\$180	N/A	\$235

Name on table: _____

