



CLEAN TIMES

~ Textile Care Professionals ~

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SUPPORT YOUR OHIO DISTRIBUTORS

Purchasing through a distributor/supplier is non-taxable and puts money back into Ohio...not to mention rates



Columbia Gas Change May Mean Higher Bills for Some Businesses

Premium content from Business First by Jeff Bell, Staff reporter



Dublin Cleaners co-owner Brian Butler thought he was doing the right thing by making his business more energy-efficient, but now he no longer qualifies for a price break Columbia Gas grants to some high-volume users.

After spending around \$25,000 to make his dry-cleaning plant more energy-efficient, Dublin Cleaners co-owner Brian Butler is thinking about burning extra natural gas to cut his energy bill.

Say what?

[Read more...](#)

OCA's Workers' Comp Group Just Got Bigger & Better!

OCA's group workers' compensation program has taken yet another step ahead of the competition! York Risk Services group has acquired OCA's group administrator, Frank Gates, bringing new and enhanced products and services along with additional expertise to OCA members!

The best part is that OCA's service team remains the same.

are negotiable!

These suppliers support the work of OCA as Associate Members. When you need supplies, equipment, waste removal or other services, contact OCA members first.

Belenky Inc.
Robert Minster
330-867-3333
rminster@belenkyinc.com

E.J. Thomas Co. LLC
Randy Zimmerman
614-294-3373
rzimmerman@ejthomascompany.com

Hudson Equipment Inc.
Skip Wilke
330-342-9900
skip@hudsonequipment.com

Machinex
Jeff Dunn
513-771-4020
jeff.dunn@machinexonline.com

RR Street Company
Roger Stevenson
502-523-3635
rstevenson@4streets.com

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Other things that won't change immediately are the forms, fee structure or contracts currently in place.

For more information contact: Tammy Ring at 614-791-7664 or tring@frankgates.com.

Using QR Codes in Your Cleaners

What is a QR code you ask? And how can it help me in my business? The Wiki definition is: A **QR code** (abbreviated from **Quick Response code**) is a type of [matrix barcode](#) (or two-dimensional code) first designed for the automotive industry. More recently, the system has become popular outside of the industry due to its fast readability and comparatively large storage capacity. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. The information encoded can be made up of four standardized kinds ("modes") of data (numeric, alphanumeric, byte/binary, [Kanji](#)), or by supported extensions virtually any kind of data.[\[1\]](#)

It looks like this:



[Read more...](#)

Clothes That Clean Themselves?

Spilled mustard on your tie at lunch? No worries: Just take a stroll in the sun. Chinese scientists [have created](#) a chemical additive to cotton that degrades stains and kills bacteria when exposed to light, opening the door to self-cleaning clothes.

Titanium dioxide had already been known to attack stains and can be affixed to cotton, but activation requires light from the ultraviolet spectrum, making it impractical. When the researchers added nitrogen and silver iodide to the mix, however, two hours and a 1,000-watt lamp was all it took to defeat a deep orange stain. The process should work on "almost all organic pollutants," the researchers [said](#). (The photocatalytic process would also function under cloudy skies, but it would be slower.)

And you were still wrapping your mind around wrinkle-free shirts ...

**Reminder: Ohio's Minimum Wage Now
\$7.70/Hour**

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Contact the [OCA Office](#) for more information.

On January 1, 2012 Ohio's minimum wage rose 30 cents to \$7.70 an hour, the biggest gain in three years. About 291,000 Ohioans will receive the adjustment which only applies to businesses that generate more than \$283,000 in gross sales (or revenue) a year. Companies making less - as well as employees younger than 15 - will continue to be subject to the federal minimum wage which is \$7.25/hr. That means a full-time, minimum-wage worker this year will earn \$624 more.

Ohioans voted in 2006 to change the way minimum wage is calculated. Before, state legislators had to vote to raise it. Now it is linked to inflation; as the cost of living rises, the minimum wage rises.

Click [here](#) to download and print an updated poster for your business.

[Panda Express Headed for the Cleaners...](#)

U.S. fast-food chain Panda Express said it is turning its Chinese food franchise expertise to a new venture -- dry cleaning-in conjunction with Proctor and Gamble's Tide drycleaning franchise. "There isn't any consolidation in this particular industry. There is no McDonald's of dry cleaners. We see this as an opportunity," said Andrew Cherng, co-chief executive officer of Panda Express.

The company, which began in 1973 with one restaurant in Pasadena, Calif., and eventually became an empire tucked into food courts in U.S. shopping malls, earned \$1.4 billion in revenue in 2010.

[Read more...](#)

[BWC Sets 2012 Maximum Group Discount Rate](#)

As expected, at the November BWC Board of Directors Meeting, the BWC officially approved the Maximum Group Rating Discount for the July 1, 2012 Rate Year. The BWC decided on a 53% Maximum Discount and the elimination of the Break Even Factor. You may recall that for the July 1, 2011 Rate Year, the Maximum Group Rating Discount was a 65%. However, after the Break Even Factor was applied, the Discount was reduced to the equivalent of a 51% Discount. Therefore, the new changes result in a slight increase in the maximum discount for the July 1, 2012 rate

year. The Group Rating moratorium is now over as well and we have sent Group Rating invitations to your current and prospective group rating members. We will continue to aggressively follow up with these employers through the February 29, 2012 Group Rating Filing Deadline.

[Read more...](#)

Still Time to Enroll in OCA's Workers' Comp Program

Time is running out...sign up now!

Enrollment materials for the July 1, 2012 Frank Gates Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program have been sent to all employers that qualify.

If your company has not enrolled in the Program yet, the deadline for Frank Gates to receive the enrollment materials is **Thursday, February 23, 2012.**

[Read more...](#)

Save the Dates

Frank Gates University - 2012 Ohio State Fund Seminars

Join these half-day, morning educational sessions to stay informed about Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) changes and total workers' compensation cost control recommendations from Frank Gates/Avizent.

April 17 at Bridgewater Banquet Center, Powell

April 18, Manor House, Mason

April 19, Kroc Center, Dayton

April 24, Courtyard by Marriott, Canton

April 25, Holiday Inn, Strongsville

April 26, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg

2012 Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Safety Congress

The 2012 Ohio Safety Congress will offer practical solutions to:

- Improve worker health and productivity;
- Prevent workforce injuries and illnesses;
- Reduce workers' compensation costs;
- Identify solutions for hazardous situations;
- Provide cost-effective, multi-disciplinary training and

professional development.

March 29-31, Greater Columbus Convention Center

Ohio Cleaners Association

Nancy Waterhouse

Director of Services