

CHAMBER CHECK
PARKE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Next Chamber Networking @ Noon set for April 26th



Brian Hewitt

Tuesday,
 April 26 at the
 Benjamin's II
 Restaurant

Social Security
 Update for
 Businesses &
 Employees

The Parke County Chamber of Commerce will receive an interactive update on Social Security as it applies to businesses and employees at their next Networking at Noon program on April 26th in Rockville at the Benjamin's II Restaurant. Brian Hewitt, District Manager for the Social Security Administration, will discuss the impact and procedures as about 10,000 "baby boomers" become eligible for Social Security benefits each day.

The Networking programs are designed to provide Chamber community updates as well as opportunities for Chamber members to mix and mingle with potential customers and suppliers. Lunch may be ordered from the menu at the Benjamin's II Restaurant although advance reservations are encouraged by calling the Chamber office at 569-5565 no later than Monday morning, April 25th or by e-mail to:

parkecountychamber@sbcglobal.net

If you have a professional name badge from your business, please wear it to the luncheon. We will also have stick-on name badges you can use. The badges will help other Chamber members relate to you and your business.



April/May, 2011

- Directors**
 Dr. Randy Kerkhoff
 President
 Dan Overpeck
 Vice-President
 Karen Durr
 Treasurer
 Cahty Harkrider
 Secretary
- Dan Collom
 Gayle Cole
 Ronja Branson
 Brad Hartman
 Vic Fields
 Kristin Clary
 Debbie Skelton
 Greg Ternet
 Mike Sasin
- Alan Ader
 Executive Director
 Diana Ader
 Adm. Assistant

Next Chamber Board Meeting Thurs., May 12, 11 a.m. at the Old Jail Coffee House
 All Chamber members welcome to attend.

MISSION STATEMENT

Uniting Businesses
 For
Economic Growth
 And
Vitality

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PARKE COUNTY
 CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE

Next Chamber Networking @ Noon is Tuesday, April 26th, 12 noon at the Benjamin's II Restaurant in Rockville.
 Guest speaker: Brian Hewitt from the Social Security Adm.

Are your 2011 Chamber Dues Paid??
 New website coming soon with many business photos. Look for yours.

Chamber Office Hours
 Tues Wed Thurs
 10 am—2 pm
 Other hours by appointment.
 Be sure to check out the Chamber website at:
www.parkecountychamber.com

Chamber President's Message

Spring is here and there are many activities going on in the county. Our membership continues to grow and as a result we have expanded our Chamber board by four to 13 in order to better represent an organization with over 150 members. We welcome Ronja Branson, Brad Hartman, Dan Collom and Mike Sasin to the Board.

The Chamber has finalized plans for the next Networking at Noon program on April 26 and the annual golf classic is teeing up on June 8th. It is great to see we have two sponsors offering cars this year that can be won with a hole in one at the Golf Classic. Be sure to get a team together and hope it does not rain on the primary play date as it has the last couple years.

Please let us know if there is a special event or events you would like to have posted on the new Chamber website that is being launched this week. One of the new features allows on the website allows us to announce events for our Chamber members. Please visit the website and see all the new business photos and features. We extend our gratitude to Jennifer Wakolbinger from the Rockville Public Library for the superb work in launching the new website for the Chamber.

Randy Kerkhoff

Upcoming Events

Chamber Meetings

Networking @ Noon—April 26th, 12 noon at the Benjamin's II Family Restaurant in Rockville.

Membership Committee—May 4th, 1 p.m. in Chamber Office (Debbie Skelton, Chr., Cathy Harkrider, Kim Nicholas, Mary Helen Weisheit, Kande Cook, Kim White & Nancy Eldridge)

Chamber Board of Directors—Thurs., May 12th, 11 a.m., at the Old Jail Coffee House

Golf Classic Committee—May 19, 1:00 p.m. in Chamber Office (Bill Becker, Chr., Gary Nicola, Jim Bosley, Jason Stewart, Brad Buchanan and Dan Overpeck)

11th Annual Chamber Golf Classic

Wednesday, June 8th, 2011

Parke Co. Golf Course & Fairgrounds Commercial Bldg.

Registration & Lunch begins at 11 am— Shotgun start at 12 noon

Rain Date: Wed., June 22nd

(A Golf Classic flyer is included with this mailing)

This & That

Apparently the second **Cracker Barrel** session we hoped to schedule this year will not happen due to the busy schedule for the remaining days of this year's state legislature. We have twice attempted to set another cracker barrel date with our legislators prior to their April 29th adjournment without success.

Rockville Survey Results

We have a copy of the results from the survey many of you completed for Luke Waltz's class at Ball State. It is fully illustrated with graphs and many community comments. If you would like to see a copy send an e-mail request to the Chamber office and we will forward to you or leave us a message at the Chamber Office. Luke extends his appreciation to all that completed his survey.



Welcome New Members

Affordable Auto Care, Rockville

The Secret—Myrtle, Maude & Mabel's Olde Friends, Rockville

Covered Bridge Gateway Trails Association

Parke County Family Health & Help Center, Rockville

We are pleased that most of last year's 150 members have renewed their memberships. Our goal is at least 10 more members by the end of 2011. You'll be seeing more good things happening as we continue to grow. We look forward to working with additional businesses as well as the public in our effort to bring vitality and economic growth to our community. Any business wanting to be part of a progressive organization working for a better future in Parke County can call us at 569-5565 or check out our website at www.parkecountychamber.com. Never underestimate the power of the Internet!

All Chamber business members are listed with their contact details on our website and we get 20-50 hits on it daily often along with follow-up posted requests for more information about local businesses. So please ask businesses to join.

A Chamber membership is a statement of who you are and your commitment to providing the highest quality products and service to the community.

Chamber and local Purdue Extension Board Host Cracker Barrel



In early March almost 80 people were at the Parke Co. Extension Office Conference Room for the annual Cracker Barrel session sponsored by the Chamber and the Extension Board. Two of the four legislators that serve portions of Parke Co. participated in the update and discussions with constituents.

(Seated L-R are Sen. Tim Skinner and Rep. Jim Baird and standing is County Extension Director Mark Spelbring who moderated the program.

2011 Chamber Committees

For the Chamber to be successful it must have functioning volunteer committees. So far the following individuals have offered to give of their time and talent to help the Chamber continue to be a vital part of our business and county community. The committee and their duties are as follows:

Membership—recruiting and retention of members, assist with annual meeting & networking at noon meetings survey members to see where assistance is needed.

Ambassadors—Host grand openings/ribbon cuttings ceremonies for businesses, assist with Covered Bridge Festival cobbler shack and annual Food Dive.

Government Relations—A voice for business in the community, assist with Cracker Barrel and Meet the Candidate sessions.

Finance—Prepare budget, monitor income and expenses, audit books and recommend investments.

Golf Classic—Plan, promote and conduct annual Golf Classic.

Here are volunteers on the 2011 committees thus far with additional volunteers still accepted:

Ambassadors

John Brattain—Brattain's Small Engines

Brad Buchanan—Tiki Hut

Kim White—Parke County Sentinel

Miriam Blane—Superior Lithoplate

Jessica Lynk—Edward Jones

Mike Sasin—G&M Ace Hardware

Ronja Branson—Bloomington Home Telephone

Keith Fischer—Parke County REMC

Membership

Debbie Skelton—Old National Bank

Kim White—Parke County Sentinel

Kim Nicholas—Old National Bank

Nancy Eldridge—Fifth Third Bank

Kande Cook—Crossroads Communications

Cathy Harkrider—PCI

Mary Helen Weisheit—C.A.R.S.

Nominations

Dan Overpeck—Overpeck Gas

Karen Durr—Russell & Durr, CPA's

Vic Fields—Parke County Learning Center/Ivy Tech

Government Relations

Kristin Clary—County Redevelopment Office

Mary Jo Harney—Parke County Sentinel

Mark Spelbring—Purdue Extension Office

Marjorie Hays—Individual

Dan Overpeck—Overpeck Gas

Dan Collom—Collom's General Store

Mary Alice Gregg—County Treasurer

Finance

Karen Durr—Russell & Durr, CPS's

Kristin Clary—County Redevelopment Office

Debbie Skelton—Old National Bank

Randy Kerkhoff—Rockville Community Schools

Golf Classic

Bill Becker—G & M Ace Hardware

Jason Stewart—Parke County REMC

Dan Overpeck—Overpeck Gas

Gary Nicola—G & M Variety

Jim Bosley—First Financial Bank

Brad Buchanan—Tiki Hut

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