



PDR Chamber Chatter

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Upcoming Events

August

- 1- St. Leo's Church Picnic
- 3- Village Board Meeting
- 4- Website Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm in school computer lab
Networking Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm in school cafeteria
- 5- Fire Board Meeting
- 5- Party at the Park featuring The Michael Lacy Band (New Orleans Swing Music)
- 10- Fire Department Meeting
- 10- Public Relations Committee Mtg at 6:00 pm at Village hall
Fundraiser & Community Events Committee Mtg at 7:00 pm at Village Hall
- 12- American Legion Meeting
- 13- PDR Chamber Meeting at the Creole House at 7:00 pm
- 19- School Board Meeting
- 19- Party at the Park featuring George Portz and the "Friends of Bluegrass" (variety of foot-tappin' hits)
- 24- Fire Department Meeting
- 27- Sportsman's Club Meeting

PDR Vintage Rendezvous Mugs

Are still available...Get yours before they're gone

Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meetings

Group Meeting:
Second Thursday of each month at the Am Legion at 7:00pm

Committee Meetings:
Second Monday of each month at the Village Hall
Public Relations at 6:00 pm
Fundraising & Community Events at 7:00
Youth Programs at 8:00 pm

First Tuesday of each month
In the Computer Lab at the School
Website Development at 6:00 pm
Networking at 7:00 pm

More committee meetings will be added later

If you haven't had a chance to sign up for any committees yet and would like to, please do!

Business of the Month

Vern's Automotive



This month's business of the month is Vern's Automotive. Owned and operated by Vernon Mollet, the business has been in operation since March 1982 and had offered Napa parts for 16 years. Services offered include general mechanic work such as turning rotor and drums, oil changes, tires and repair, computer balancing, and brake work. Vern's is open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 PM.

"We have had a great clientele for many years, and I appreciate everyone's continued support for me and my business." Vern stated. When asked about how he felt the Chamber of Commerce was of benefit to the town, Vern said "having the newly formed Chamber of Commerce will draw people from other communities, which will help bring tourism to our town as well as the Fort."

Please remember to keep Chamber member Vern's Automotive in mind for all your automotive needs. It is great to have a local automotive service available in our community!



Chamber Meeting Highlights

Last month's meeting was held at Southwestern Illinois College, Red Bud Campus. Thanks to the generosity of Karen Stallman we were able to utilize the auditorium for our meeting as well as view a film on Lincoln's years as a lawyer, in conjunction with his 200th birthday this year. She also provided us with a tour of the facility and explained some of the programs the college has to offer for adults returning to school. Stallman mentioned that the average age of students attending the school is 28 and that many adults return to school for a variety of reasons including changing jobs, moving up the corporate ladder, or searching for a new field or more qualifications after being laid off during this difficult economy. The cost to attend SWIC is much more affordable as a community college than that which would be paid at a four year university, so it is often a good fit for both returning adult students as well as students just beginning their academic career.

Other than the traditional degree programs and classes that correspond with those, the college also offers a broad variety of community education courses on many topics that may be of interest to people of all ages. A listing of these courses is available in a booklet that has just been released for the fall semester. Copies of this booklet and the schedule for all fall classes at the Red Bud location is now available at the Prairie du Rocher post office for those who are interested.

In other Chamber news, it was reported that the new Prairie du Rocher brochure is days away from being sent to press. Copies of this brochure listing all the Chamber members as well as activities and festivals offered in Prairie du Rocher will be available in many locations throughout the county and in neighboring communities.

The community website, www.visitprairiedurocher.com continues to undergo changes and improvements. Keep checking this website for all the current and up to date news of happenings in the community.

Work continues on securing a grant for the development and improvement of the Creole House in Prairie du Rocher. More news on this topic as it becomes available.

A commitment has been made to secure a 4x8 sign for the Ferry including the visit Prairie du Rocher slogan and a listing of businesses helping to pay for the sign. Final drafts of the sign will be made shortly. Any businesses that wish to be included on the sign, please contact the Chamber at 284-7308 or by emailing pdrchamber@htc.net. All chamber business members will soon be receiving a letter explaining the costs of this project and inviting them to participate.

Winning this month's attendance prize was Evelyn Marquardt who will receive an item of her choice from the Lia Sophia jewelry catalog from Chamber member Amy Barbeau, Lia Sophia jewelry advisor.

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Apple Festival

The second annual Apple Festival is being planned for Sunday, September 20 from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm. There are many events that come together to make this a very successful event. Plans include apple butter making, live music, a refreshment stand serving apple treats of all kinds, kettle korn, an apple pie baking contest, craft fair (handmade items only), a petting zoo for the kids, horse and buggy rides, a vintage photo stand, games for young and old and much more. To make this a successful event we will need lots of help. We will need pint size jars and apples, if you have any you would like to donate that would be great! Please contact Amy or Dawn if you have any you would like to donate. We will be purchasing the lids and rings.

In order to have a pie baking contest, **we need pie bakers.** So get out your recipes for apple pie and see if your pie has what it takes to win!! The entry fee for the pie contest is \$2 and can be paid at the Apple Festival when you register your pie. What would a craft fair be without crafters? We want to fill the yard of the Creole house with lots of homemade crafts for the shoppers to browse. Please pass the word to anyone you know what makes handcrafted items. There will be a charge of \$10 to set up a booth (\$5 for Chamber Members). If you are interested or know someone that is, please use the attached crafter form. We will also need workers...people to help with stirring, working the refreshment stand, running the games, etc., etc.

If you are able to help out with any of these items, or if you would like to enter a pie in the contest, or if you are a crafty crafter, then contact us to let us know. You can email us at pdrchamber@htc.net or call at Amy at 284-7308 or Dawn at 284-1709.

We appreciate everyone's help the make this a HUGE, successful event!!!!

Want to Join the
Prairie du Rocher
Chamber of Commerce..

It's easy, you can email pdrchamber@htc.net or call Amy at 284-7308 or just come to a meeting on the second Thursday of every month.

Annual Membership Fees
Business: \$25.00
Individual: \$15.00
Non-for-Profit: Free

The General Store The 'Prairie du Rocher General Store' that will soon become a part of the Chambers website. This project is nearing completion. When finished it will be a free service for our website users to use, by completing an online form and uploading a picture.

There are few items posted already, please check those out!!

Thanks Daryl for all your hard work!



NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

The next Chamber meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13th at the Creole House at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Alicia Guebert of Modoc, who has prepared a dissertation on the history of the Creole House as part of a school project she has been working on. She has generously agreed to share her story with members of the Chamber. Please plan to attend and enjoy this special presentation. As always, everyone is welcome to join in Chamber meetings and events. You don't have to be a business to participate. There are also individual and not for profit memberships available. The Chamber would love to have you get involved!



We gathered a lot of pictures for the Prairie du Rocher video project. We can always use more. There will be more picture days in the future.

Apple Butter Making

What would the Apple Festival be without the APPLE BUTTER!!! As we learned last year this is a huge task and it takes a lot of help to get it done. We will be making the bulk of the apple butter (3 kettles) on Saturday, September 12. And we will be making 1 small kettle during the Apple Festival. Below is the schedule for making apple butter, if you are able to help any day, it would be greatly appreciated. Even if you're not able to stay all day, whatever you can do would be a big help.

Friday, September 11 at 6 p.m.
Apple peeling at the school cafeteria for first batch of apple butter.

Saturday, September 12 at 7 a.m.
Making 3 kettles of Apple Butter location to be announced soon

Friday, September 18 at 6 p.m.
Apple peeling at the school cafeteria for second batch of apple butter.

Sunday, September 20 at 6 a.m.
Making the final kettle of apple butter during the Apple Festival

"Scenes of PDR" Calendars

The second edition of the PDR calendars is being made. If you would like to pre-order the calendars to be sure you don't miss out, please email Amy at pdrchamber@htc.net or call at 284-7308.

These calendars make great gifts!!!

If your business has any events or specials that you would like to include in the newsletter or calendar, email Dawn at walker2@htc.net. Also, let us know you have a particular month you would like to be featured as the Chamber Business of the Month.