



PDR Chamber Chatter

January 2009

Volume 2

Upcoming Events

January

- 21- School Board Meeting
- 26- Fire Department Meeting
- 29- Sportsman's Club Meeting
- 31- Save IL History Trivia Night
Am. Legion at 7:00 p.m.
- 31- DJ Joe at Lisa's

February

- 2- Village Board Meeting
- 3- Committee Mtg-School
Website @ 6:00 pm
Networking @ 7:00 pm
- 3- PTO Meeting in School Cafeteria @
7:00 pm
- 4- Fire Board Meeting
- 8- Meat Raffle at Rudy's
- 9- Committee Mtg -Village Hall
Public Relations @ 6:00 pm
Fundraising @ 7:00 pm
Youth Programs @ 8:00 pm
- 9- Fire Dept. Meeting
- 11- American Legion Meeting
- 12- Chamber Meeting at
Legion @ 7:00 pm
- 14- Steak Special & Backwoods
Valentine's Dance at Lisa's
- 18- School Board Meeting
- 21- Fireman's Smoker at Legion
- 23- Fire Dept. Meeting
- 26- Sportsman's Club Meeting

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

R & R Country Care



The Prairie du Rocher Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce a new feature to our monthly newsletter! In each edition we will be bringing you a "Featured Business of the Month" along with a little history of how that business came to be and what it has to offer. Our first business to be recognized is Chamber member R&R Country Care in Ruma owned by Mike and Phyllis Reinhold.

The Reinhold's, who have over 23 years of experience in the health care industry, opened their Senior Living facility in 2004 with accommodations for nine spacious bedrooms, a community living room, kitchen and sunroom. Their business was able to fill a much needed service in the area and they are pleased to announce that they have now expanded and opened a new addition!

An open house was held on January 11th to acquaint the public with the newest part of their business which includes six mini apartments, allowing more independent residents to have a private kitchen and bath of their own. The facility also features a large community dining area and kitchen, and many beautiful paintings throughout the building all done by the very artistically talented owner, Phyllis Reinhold.

R&R Country Care offers their residents many services including 24 hour staff care, assistance with bathing and personal care, three home cooked meals daily, housekeeping, weekly laundry service and transportation to local doctor visits. Many socially interactive activities are provided at the facility as well as participation in local community activities. For more information about this business, please contact R&R Country Care at 618-282-8585.



Chamber Meeting Highlights

Here is a recap of what was discussed at the past Chamber meeting. Darrell Duensing was on hand to bring the group up to date on the status of the Fort. "As it stands now", Duensing stated, "the Fort is still closed. However, with the continuing situation with our Governor still unfolding, there is a chance that could change."

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn has publicly gone on record as saying that if assumes the leadership role in Illinois government, he is committed to reopening the parks closed by Governor Blagojevich. Depending on whether that happens and how soon it all might take place, there is a chance that the Fort's spring and summer events could take place after all. Depending on the timing, the events might be on a reduced scale for this year simply due to the time factor, but that all remains to be seen. Everyone remains cautiously optimistic.

Sarah Schatte of Save Illinois History also addressed the group and brought everyone up to date on their activities. See reverse for details of upcoming events they are planning.

The main speaker for the evening was Lynn Anderson Lindberg of the Illinois Small Business Development Center, who, along the the help of her team, put together a very informative and helpful presentation on what really needs to be done if you are considering opening a small business of your own or expanding an existing business. She listed suggested types of businesses that would be suitable to the specific nature of Prairie du Rocher, and explained what services her office provides to help begin the process. Lindberg also mentioned grant funding that is currently available to specific business types as well as additional resources that are available to potential business owners.

Responding to interest from the crowd, Ms. Lindberg's group will be back in Prairie du Rocher soon for a Saturday workshop geared towards people who are ready to get started, and help with their individual needs regarding setting up an actual business plan and working with financing opportunities. The date of this workshop will be announced as soon as that information becomes available.

Another of Ms. Lindbergs coworkers presented an offer to the community. He teaches an entrepreneurship class at SIU-Carbondale and has agreed to take on Prairie du Rocher as his class project. Students will contact area representatives to gather information and learn as much as possible about Prairie du Rocher's history and potential for the future. The class will then make a presentation to the community at the end of their program outlining their thoughts and ideas for the development of business and growth throughout the town. Chamber members welcomed the offer and thanked the group for their interest in the community, looking forward to continued work with them.

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The General Store

Daryl Clerc continues work on the development of the 'Prairie du Rocher General Store' that will soon become a part of the Chambers website at www.visitprairiedurocher.com Watch for more details, as they become available.

Scenes of PDR

The 2009 edition of "Scenes of Prairie du Rocher" Calendar is officially sold out. Thanks to everyone who bought one. Be thinking of dates you would like to include in next years edition.

PDR Vintage

Rendezvous Mugs

There is a limited number left...
Get yours before they're gone

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

La Fête de Noël

The first annual La Fête de Noël was a huge success. We had 30 vendors setup selling their items. Everyone really enjoyed the home tours as well. There was around 50 tickets sold for the home tour. A BIG thank you goes out to those who opened up their homes for this event, Ernest & Jane Peiffer, Terry & Tania Barbeau, Ernie & Ina Doiron, Betty Schneider and The Creole House.



Remembering Prairie du Rocher Video

Tim Durbin will soon begin work on creating a revised version of the "Remembering Prairie du Rocher" video that was created in 1995. Community members who have old photos or stories they would like to share for possible inclusion on the DVD are asked to email them to Tim at timfran@htc.net as soon as possible.

SAVE ILLINOIS HISTORY



Save Illinois History has been created as a non-profit foundation to support The Illinois Historic French District. This includes – Fort de Chartres, The Cahokia Courthouse, The Menard Home and Old Fort Kaskaskia. Their goal is to raise money for the re-opening and operational budgets of the sites in the Historic French District.

The group is currently planning a trivia night to be held at the American Legion Hall in Prairie du Rocher on January 31st at 7:00 p.m. Tables are available for 8 person teams at \$10 per person. You may bring your own snacks, cash bar will be available. There will be cash prizes for the winning teams as well as door prizes will be given out. To reserve your table call Sarah at (618)334-2741. Be sure to sign up for yours, as seating is limited.



Lighting Contest Winners

1st Place

Ernest & Jane Peiffer

2nd Place

Danny Davis

3rd Place

Kathy Franklin & Melanie Green

Thanks to everyone that participated!!