



NEW MEMBER THE CUTTING EDGE OFFERS LOCAL CNC MACHINING

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Education to Improve

Last week I traveled to Jefferson City for the **Chamber Management Academy** to brush up on existing skills and learn how Chamber life differs from every other workplace in which I've been associated. While networking with 30+ Chamber professionals from all over the state with varying years of experience, I discovered we all are facing the same issues and problems no matter the size of our community or number of members in our ranks.

Strained economic times have added pressure to retain members and grow new prospects. We are salespeople but on a different level. We should really care about our communities and the businesses and people that thrive there, not just whether an event or project can bring in funds or be a hit with attendees. Without that sense of belonging I would say we would be in the wrong business. We are wholeheartedly vested in people and relationships.

We investigated growing our town through **Economic Development**. Right now the **City of Mt. Vernon** is inching ever closer to a long term plan with the assistance of **Buxton**, Site Selection and Revenue Forecasting group. Knowing who you are

and where you want to be is critical, so we are on the right track. And the information they will provide to all of our local businesses will be welcomed. There are many other topics we covered, each one deserving of a future in-depth look.

Another important event that took place here in July was our first **SCORE** training seminar. Our **Lunch 2 Learn** series kicked off with **"How to Start a Business in Missouri."** While time was short, the free course was getting us acquainted with a valuable tool we can utilize to help our local entrepreneurs. I think all who attended will be back for future topics to help them start or grow a business.

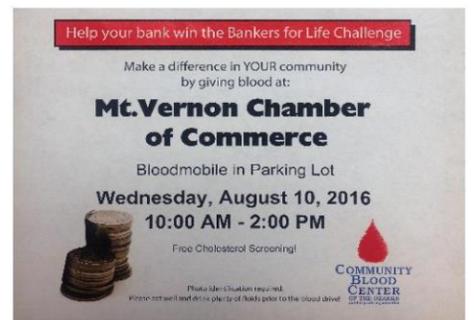
Our goal at the Chamber is to provide you with the most current information and best support available. We seek to educate as part of our mission statement. When in need just call on us, we are your **Chamber Connection**.

BOARD MEMBERS: Ellen Rice – President; Darren Selvidge – Vice-President; Mike Tebow, Brian George, Katie Powell, Joey Orr, Kitty Crider, Ryan Squibb, and David Gregersen. Director, Pam Dudley.



Beautification Award

You may not remember the eye sore of a dilapidated old convenience store but this ugly duckling turned into a gorgeous swan and has been selected to receive the Beautification Award by the Community Betterment Council. A big shout out to Derek and Terri Stokes of **Fancy Pants** for making Mt. Vernon more beautiful.



Bloodmobile Bankers Challenge

Wednesday, August 10 from 10 am to 2 pm, stop in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot and make a difference. Vote for your favorite bank while you are here, everybody wins.

New Members

Summertime is heating up at the CoC:

- **The Cutting Edge Precision Machining Services** is a staple in the local revenue stream. We are so glad **Shane & Tracey Estes** have joined our ranks. Located at 1150 Progress St. in the Northwest Industrial Park, they offer CNC machining services. **Make Local!**
- **S&P Defense LLC**, held their Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on Friday, July 8th. Owners **Sean and Pam Dudley** (yes that's me) were excited to invite the community in to see their retail firearms business offering low prices and a nice selection of guns, ammo & accessories. You can find them at **755 Kelsey Drive**, open weeknight evenings 5 pm to 8 pm, 9 am to 8 pm Friday and 9 am to 5 pm Saturday or call 417-316-3121. **Buy Local!**
- **That Crazy Red Head's Catering** will be opening soon.



Owners **Heather and Ted Scharbach** will continue to offer the excellent pastries and cakes they are known for but switch from the restaurant format to catering. Stay tuned for more details. **Eat Local!**

- **Bethurem Electric LLC** is a welcome addition to our Chamber and city. **Ben Bethurem** is a great choice to call for all of your electrical needs. He offers repair and service, residential and commercial applications. Call Ben at 417-830-5164. **Services Local!**

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Members **Mediacom** and **Keen Bean** joined forces for the July edition of **Business After Hours**. We had a great food spread by Tracy with Keen Bean featuring her catering menu items. And David with Mediacom had gifts for all in attendance and brought the big prize, 2 sets of 4 tickets to Springfield Cardinals, won by Sabina Chapman and Gerry Springer. Don't miss the next **Business After Hours**.

Words of Wisdom: The secret of getting ahead is getting started – Mark Twain, fellow Missourian.



Remember to Shop Local, you can make a difference.

Mt. Vernon Arts Council to Receive Ozzie Award

In nine short years, Mt. Vernon Arts Regional Arts transformed the arts community through festivals, community theatre, a new arts center and amphitheater, and extensive programs. They will receive the Organization Ozzie on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Springfield/Branson Airport. It is very exciting that our local council is winning this award. If you would like to attend and show support, tickets are available at <http://www.springfielddarts.org/ozzieawards>.

Calendar of Events

Ribbon Cutting and Remodel Reveal, Mt. Vernon Greenhouse, 448 W. Mt. Vernon Blvd., 10 a.m. Friday, August 5th, snacks and drinks until 2 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting and Radio Live Remote, Green's Hotel Furniture, 570 N. Spring Park Blvd., starting at noon Friday, August 5th.

Blood Drive, Bankers for Life, Wednesday, August 10th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the CoC parking lot.

Chamber Board Meeting, CoC Office, Thursday, August 18th, at noon.

Mt. Vernon Community Day of Service, gather at Spirit of '76 Park then groups will disperse all over to mow, trim, plant and paint for local residents in need of help, Saturday Sept. 24th, 7:30 am to noon, lunch to be served for all volunteers.