



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND SO ARE GREAT PRESENTS FOR YOUR LIST!

Chamber Connection

December 2016

THINGS TO KNOW

Remember When . . .

We have had quite the year here in Mt. Vernon. There seems to be an energy for community and renewed interest in what it means to be us, small-town America. We know that taking a break from busyness is a positive thing to do. We have our deadlines and rush to get things taken care of, but I know making a nice meal for my family, inviting the neighbors over for popcorn and a movie or just kicking back refresh my soul and recharge my batteries.

Do you remember when an old worn out building was refreshed into **Fancy Pants and A Beautiful Mess Boutique**? Do you remember when the blank walls stood behind the Ben Franklin lot? What about the empty Pamida building, now home to **Green's Hotel Furniture**? We are looking good my friends.

And the **Mt. Vernon Greenhouse** got a big makeover, **Carol Jones Realtors** put up a new sign, **Sonic** got a facelift, **Best Western** is completely renovated, **Price Cutter** became **King Cash Saver**, **Ingles** became **Hills Automotive**, **S&P Defense** was born and **Super Lube** has new owners. We have new construction in **Born Again Remodeling**, pest control with **Gunnel's** and electrician services with **Bethurem Electric**, pies at **Red Barn Café** and **Hen House Bakery**, too many to name. Whew! All good business.

We can't forget our old friends either! **Blevins Asphalt**, **Mid-America Dental and Hearing**, **Mid-Missouri Bank**, **Edward Jones**, **American Family Insurance**, **L&M Tire**, **Reyco Granning**, **McDonald's**, **America's Best Value Inn**, **Keen Bean**, **Sani-Kleen**, and the list goes on.

The **City of Mt. Vernon** hired Buxton to direct us to future growth along with beautiful new sidewalks, newly paved streets and a bright path down Hickory Street. The **Veteran's Way**, **EDC**, **Community Betterment Council**, **Mt. Vernon Community Foundation & Mt. Vernon Regional Arts Council** all made numerous contributions to a successful year. Our schools, bands and athletic teams make us beam with **Mountaineer** pride, along with academic achievement by our students. Plays, musicals and all types of entertainment have graced us at the **MARC**. Folks, it's been a great year.

So when you gather around for a Christmas meal with your family & friends, I ask you to think back and remember when. We have a lot to be thankful for here in Mt. Vernon, MO.

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.



Annual Members Banquet

Save the date! On Saturday, February 18th at 6pm Chamber of Commerce members are invited to attend the **Passport to Success Banquet**. We will be sending out invitations soon and start selling tickets. You will not want to miss this event. Prepare for a night filled with fun, dining and entertainment. We hope you plan to join us.



Chamber Annual Gun Raffle

It's that time of year and we have a revolver up for grabs if you hold the winning raffle ticket. This is a Heritage Rough Rider 22LR with 22MAG cylinder included. Tickets available at the Chamber and at The Record. Best of Luck!

Local Flair



Mt. Vernon Greenhouse has outdone themselves with creative décor for your holiday home.



Miss Maddy's Floral and Gifts is dressing up the season in bows and unique designs.

Without a doubt, **Susie's Timeless Treasures** will take you back to your grandma's house and we all know what is old is new again.



Don't forget Susie's offers estate sale planning for your convenience.

There are many local shopping opportunities to fill your stockings, decorate your homes and gift to your hearts content. We appreciate your commitment to shop local first. We have some talented folks, artist, floral designers and retail shops owners that know you are looking for those items that don't break the bank.



NEW DECALS ON THE WAY

Welcome the new year with a Chamber of Commerce sticker to identify your membership with the premier business organization in our community. We are unveiling the new and improved window decal for 2017. The best way to be recognized as a member is to proudly display this at the entrance of your business. They are coming soon so don't forget to tell us how many you need.



Village of Lights Celebrates Large Crowd

Who doesn't love a parade? This year hundreds of people gathered around the square to see the floats, hear the bands and drum corps and enjoy Santa lighting the courthouse. Volunteers from several organizations made food, drinks and snacks available and pics with Santa were a big hit.

SHOP
SMALL
SHOP
LOCAL

Calendar of Events

Chamber Board Meeting, CoC Office, Thursday, Dec. 15, noon. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of what we do as Board elections will be here soon.

Annual Chamber of Commerce Members Banquet, Saturday, February 18th, 6 pm at the MARC. The evening will feature a **Passport to Success** theme, we will enjoy a great meal, awards, entertainment and networking with our neighbors. Plan to attend, invitations will go out soon!

Business Expo, Home and Garden Show and Taste of the Town, 9-2 Saturday, April 1st, some of these are new categories, we will send out a brochure explaining the event. **Business After Hours** will be held on set-up night, **Friday, March 31st.** We want to showcase the many trades, talents and products available in our hometown. **Shop Local!**

