



Chamber Connection

January 2017

THE 93RD ANNUAL LAWRENCE COUNTY SOILS & CROPS CONFERENCE COMING RIGHT UP

THINGS TO KNOW

RESOLVE

Resolve can be defined as: v. find a solution; v. decide firmly on a course of action; n. firm determination to do something.

I think this will be our word for the Chamber for 2017, **RESOLVE**. It just sounds like Mt. Vernon for the upcoming year. We have all put the time in to our community, businesses and charitable giving. We are a neighborhood that will, as the **Community Betterment Council's** motto reflects, **Lend a Hand, Touch a Heart**. Let us decide our course.

We resolve to support a vision of community enhancement, so reads our Mission Statement. The **City** has joined Drury University in collaboration for a visioning project to take place during the spring semester. Architecture students will be tasked with studying our area and making suggestions for a 20-year plan. The Chamber will be represented on the advisory committee, we hope you will also participate throughout the process.

We resolve to dedicate ourselves to the achievement of increased prosperity of local business and economic development. To do this we will encourage existing business expansion and welcome new faces. We are seeking the "what's next" for Mt. Vernon. In conjunction with EDC, the **City** and Buxton,

we are determined to offer an environment that welcomes growth.

We resolve to nurture educational opportunities to promote value, character and success. Throughout the upcoming year, we hope to partner with groups like **Rotary** to promote our youth and other organizations to enhance learning new topics and keeping up with new ideas, technology and issues that face our community.

We also resolve to have fun while doing these things. Through the Banquet, Business Expo, Apple Butter Makin' Days, Village of Lights and anything else we can come up with this year, we want this to be a community of life and our inalienable right to happiness. Mt. Vernon is, after all, a great place to call home.

We thank our **Chamber Champions Blevins Asphalt, Mid-America Dental and Hearing Center** and the **City of Mt. Vernon** along with all our Chamber Membership for their support of the Mission Statement and our Chamber.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Mike Tebow – President; David Gregersen – Vice-President; Brian George, Katie Powell, Ryan Squibb, Darren Selvidge, Nick Curl, Dianna Ross, Paula Parker. Director Pam Dudley.



Annual Members Banquet

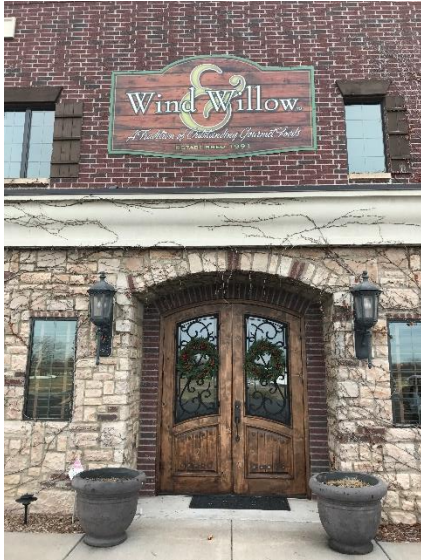
Save the date! On Saturday, February 18th at 6pm Chamber of Commerce members are invited to attend the **Passport to Success Banquet**. We will be sending out invitations soon and start selling tickets. You will not want to miss this event. Prepare for a night filled with fun, dining and entertainment.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

Local Flair



Wind & Willow is one of the most beautiful buildings in our community. They make mixes for cheeseballs, dips and soups. You can go on-line to find additional recipes as I discovered on Christmas Eve. And over the summer I made some of the best refrigerator dill pickles with my own cucumbers from their **Farm Stand** collection. They have too many different things to name them

all. These are not just local favorites but their fine products can be found at over 6,000 retailers nationwide. If you have not tried one of these, please, I encourage you to sample a soup, mix up a dip or pickle that fresh produce with the help of our friends at **Wind & Willow**.



We had a fun time visiting 50 Chamber members before Christmas at our first **Pop-In** event. We had no idea it would take so long but truthfully, 50 stops in a 5-hour window was pretty good (if you know me I like to talk). The picture above was at **Relics Antique Mall**. My helpers for the day were Lorena and Adriana Farrell, they kept me moving along. If we didn't make it to your business we apologize. We have our list and intend to keep going through it as time permits so everyone can enjoy a **Chamber Pop-In**.



GHF REFRESH FOR THE NEW YEAR

86. That's how many doors, cabinet and drawer fronts are in the Mt. Vernon Area Chamber of Commerce office. Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteer Liliana Farrell, the cabinets are shiny and bright. Mike & Josh Tebow cleaned the carpets and **Green's Hotel Furniture** brought a new professional look to the Board Room. Don't forget membership entitles use of the Chamber office for meetings. Call today to check the calendar.



Eggs & Issues – Winter Edition

Please Join us for breakfast at the west entrance of the MARC with featured speaker Shannon Scott, Family Resource Specialist with OACAC, discussing Vocational Opportunities Inspiring Children in Elementary (VOICE) as they request community input. You can also go to www.oac.ac for additional information. \$5 per person at the door.

Calendar of Events

Lawrence County Soils & Crops Conference, 6-9 pm, Thursday, January 5, 2017 at Southwest Research Center, 14548 Hwy. H, Mt. Vernon, \$5 early registration, \$10 after January 3rd, call 417-466-3102 for details.

ABMD Committee Meeting, 7 am, Tue. Jan 10th, CoC Office, please join us, we are looking for more volunteers with strong backs (I mean great ideas).

Chamber Board Meeting, noon, Thur. Jan. 19th, CoC Office.

Eggs & Issues, 7 am, Friday Jan. 27th at the MARC west entrance, \$5 per person, request advance registration.

Annual Chamber of Commerce Members Banquet, 6 pm Saturday, February 18th, 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, @the MARC register in advance.