



VETERAN'S WAY UNITY WALK INVITES AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS TO DEDICATE THE MURAL

Chamber Connection

November 2016

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Dear 45-Letter to the Next POTUS

Here we are, smack dab in the middle of the good ole' U S of A. Often we see the larger populations of big cities getting all the attention, some positive, some negative and we feel forgotten. We are small town America. We are the back-bone of society. When everything else seems to run amok, we can rely on our faith, family and friends to see us through. So, what would you say to the next President of the United States?

Dear 45, from an economic standpoint, we want jobs, and well-equipped employees ready to fill them. We want to see growth potential, but maintain our identity as a quaint small town in the Midwest. We want to have options to shop local which requires a plan for entrepreneurs to make a living at small business and not be crushed by regulation and taxation. Give us a chance to prove that we have what it takes to do the job well.

From an education standpoint, we want our children to have more opportunity than we had to earn degrees or learn a trade. We desire quality education that, when paired with our hometown values, will create an employable adult. It can't be handed over on a platter, we insist our students work for their education so they will value the lessons.

We ask for a transparent government that doesn't outgrow "We The People". Smaller is

better. If we look back to the vision of our forefathers, it was worth fighting the battles.

As citizens, we pledge to support our law enforcement, honor our elders and veterans, and stand up for our beliefs. We cannot let our guard down against enemies, foreign or domestic. We want to be productive citizens that contribute to the well-being of this great nation.

As a Chamber of Commerce, we pledge our support to our community. We ask that the office of President and our government honor our commitment to the Mission Statement that prepares us for the future.

These are challenging yet exciting times to become our country's leader. If the administration embraces smart policies, and the public and private sectors work together, we can help power our economy for decades to come. We stand ready to ensure our way of life continues to thrive and have an overwhelmingly positive effect on our economy and country. Sincerely, CoC

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.



Recognizing Veterans

Our town has placed a great emphasis on honoring veterans. The Veteran's Way Committee is hard at work to raise the final funds to complete payment on the murals. Artist Raine Clotfelter will be on hand for the dedication on Saturday, November 5th at 2 pm on the square.



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. Chances are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Get your tickets from any Board member, at the Chamber and at The Record. Best of Luck!

Staying Competitive

Visiting with our friends in the real estate industry recently has provided quite an insight into new ways to stay competitive. I know it may not be your cup of tea but if you are not seeking business on the internet, you are behind the times. As we are finding here in the Chamber it is so important to stay visible to your clients/customers/members. A simple sponsored ad on Facebook is driving people to our businesses for a low investment. If you have heard the news, Facebook is rolling in the dough so maybe it's worth \$5 to give it a try. And there are free things also. The Apple Butter Makin' Days page recently hit 10,000 following, it just took a little of our time to promote it. If you have questions, stop by the Chamber, we can provide a quick tutorial.

New Member

Thank you for your membership **Mt. Vernon Lodge #99**. We appreciate your commitment to **Masonic Lodge** tradition and our community. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, dinner at 6:30 with the meeting following at 7:30. Lodge #99 is located on the corner of Dallas and Market at **201 S. Market Street. Serve Local!**



Vaughn residence, Beautification Award winner for November.



BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

The **Community Betterment Council** has selected a couple of recipients for the Beautification Award. Who is not in love with the center median on Hickory? If you haven't driven down after dark, add it to your to-do list. It's a lovely addition to our quaint hometown. Also selected at the south end of main, a beautiful craftsment style home owned by Keith and Barbara Vaughn decorated in fine fall fashion. This home offers curb appeal galore. Neighbors are sprucing up their exteriors, will you be the next winner? **Lend a Hand, Touch a Heart.**



Moonlight Madness Coming Soon!

Shop Local, Shop Late! In an effort to keep the dollars local, some of our friends will offer longer hours to accommodate your shopping needs. On Friday these stores plan to stay open late, until 8 and until at least 4 on Saturday. Get in on the fun and show the love to our local business owners!

Calendar of Events

Chamber Board Meeting, CoC Office, Thursday, Nov. 17th, noon. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of what we do as Board elections will be here soon.

Moonlight Madness, Shop Local, Shop Late, Nov. 18, 19

Mountaineer Turkey Strut 5K, Thursday Nov. 24th 8:30 am, start at the Courthouse, \$20 entry fee per person.

Neighbors Blessing Neighbors feast noon-4, Thursday Nov. 24th at the MARC, no cost, call for reservations, 417-461-0823.

Village of Lights Home Tour, Saturday, November 26th noon to 4 pm, tickets will be available soon at the Chamber office.

Village of Lights Parade, on a new night, Tuesday, November 29th, at 6 pm. We have confirmed with several bands so get your float ready to join us. Light up the courthouse and Santa will be on site, with prizes to be given away, must be present to win.