



A RIBBON CUTTING WAS HELD IN AUGUST FOR GREEN'S HOTEL FURNITURE

Chamber Connection

September 2016

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE HORIZON

Ahh, just imagine a serene location, the sun is coming up and your day is laid out ahead. Maybe you have made decisions about your plans, maybe not. The start of a new day always fills me with excitement, and if you haven't heard I absolutely love my job. Working at the Chamber guarantees a different view each and every day. I eagerly look ahead to tomorrow and try to look way out to 5 to 10 years and beyond. I look to The Horizon.

I attended a luncheon hosted by the Springfield Regional Economic Partnership that featured a keynote speaker from the ACCE (Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives). The topics we discussed challenged me to reevaluate the role of the Chamber as a partner with our local business owners, city, churches and schools. We must support and develop professionals to lead in business and community. The key to success would be alignment with all levels of public and private entities, we must all be on the same page, working toward the same goal. We all have our own vision of The Horizon.

Many of the points of the luncheon suggest we will have to evolve or prepare to dissolve. We cannot continue as we always have. This

is true for business as well as Chambers of Commerce as well as life. We have to improve and change with the environment to stay viable. The term used was Catalytic Leadership – creating what we want to happen. Now I can't wave a magic wand and you probably cannot either, but we can stretch ourselves to envision the future.

Where do we start? Let's put all of these local groups together that have influence and start a conversation of how we can each play a role, not stepping on one another, but banding together to prepare for the future. We can see we are a web of diverse groups that really are more similar than different. Economic development is a responsibility for all of us. Growing where we are planted just makes sense. Tomorrow morning, I encourage you to look out your window, or windshield, or back door. Check out the view, that is The Horizon. Let's make the most of it. We are the 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.



Business After Hours

Mediacom and Keen Bean teamed up for an evening of networking fun and prizes. We enjoyed a delicious spread set up by Keen Bean and received gifts and a few lucky participants won tickets to a Springfield Cardinals game thanks to our sponsor Mediacom.



ABMD 50th Anniversary Edition

Pictures don't do justice to the amazing design of our hoodies, shirts, hats and pins. Raine Clotfelter the muralist offered up this incredible tribute. Stop by the Chamber and get yours while the selection is at its best. We now accept payment by credit card. Free Cookbook with purchase.

New Members

- Super Lube** 452 W Mt. Vernon Blvd. has joined the ranks of the Chamber. Offering vehicle oil changes, no appointment required, is something we can all appreciate. **Joey and April Orr** recently purchased the oil change facility and have polished the place up a bit adding some Mt. Vernon Green to the interior design, Bleed Green! **Blake Tiller** is the manager. Blake is a Mt. Vernon graduate and has over 13 years of experience. Some of you may recognize him from his years working for his uncles at Tillers Tire. Blake's experience also comes from years of work at Goodyear and most recently Firestone in Springfield. Call 417-466-4848 or just stop in Monday-Friday 8 to 5 and Saturday, 8-noon. **Service Local!**



Remember to Shop Local, you can make a difference.

Mt. Vernon Green House Celebrates Ribbon Cutting
In adorable fashion, **Barbara Allen** hosted a remodel reveal of the renovated floral shop and served up some watermelon and sweet tea to cool off on a hot day. You can always count on this gang to come up with beautiful and fresh ideas in décor and arrangements. **Mt. Vernon Greenhouse** is a staple on the loop and you can visit any time of year and for many occasions. Call the team today at 417-466-2330 or better yet stop in to see the amazing redo for yourself!



- Moments by Mandie Photography** owner **Mandie Dawson** is excited to see what Chamber membership can do for her business. Let's show her by calling on her services. She will work with most any schedule and you can see some of her skills on her website www.momentsbymandie.com. Contact Mandie today at 417-316-0497 and see the moments she can capture for your family. **Create Local!**

*We would love to hear your ideas to make our **Chamber Connection** better, if you have a story idea or would like to write a guest column, contact the CoC.*

COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE

Plan to join Mt. Vernon area civic organizations, churches and youth groups on Saturday, September 24th from 7:30 to noon for the Community Day of Service. We will start at Spirit of '76 Park then fan out to clean up our town. We will mow, trim trees and bushes, weed eat, pick up trash and maybe even paint a porch, then return to the park at noon for a free lunch for all volunteers. Call the Chamber for additional details. **Lend a Hand, Touch a Heart.**

Words of Wisdom : Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right – Henry Ford.

Calendar of Events

Community Betterment Breakfast Fundraiser, Thursday, September 8th, contact Paulette Mobley or Katie Powell at 417-466-7811 or kpowelz@amfam.com to order for your business, will be delivered to your location, tickets are \$6 each

Apple Butter Makin' Days Committee Meeting, every Tuesday morning during September at 7 a.m., at the CoC office, everyone welcome

53rd Annual Field Day, Southwest Research Center, 14548 Hwy H, Saturday, September 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seminars, pumpkin patch, grass maze, and balloons, also offering airplane rides \$15-\$25.

50th Anniversary Lawrence County Manor, Saturday, September 10 starting at 5pm on the front lawn, free food, entertainment and games

Awaken Our Nation, Prayer and Worship service, Sunday, Sept. 11, 6-7 pm at the Square, contact Pastor Steve Lutes at Lifebridge Assembly.

Chamber Board Meeting, CoC Office, Thursday, Sept. 15th, noon.

Mt. Vernon Community Day of Service, Saturday Sept. 24th, 7:30 am to noon, Spirit of '76 park, lunch to be served for all volunteers