



Bryant Business Chronicle



A Bryant Chamber of Commerce Publication

Feb. 2009

Welcome New Members

Mid State Transmission

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Transmissions and full auto repair.

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Midtowne Church

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We exist to help people find & experience God's best for their life.

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General/laparoscopic surgery, endoscopic procedures & Vnus closure. Specializing in breast, colorectal, hernia, gastrointestinal, thyroid disease & varicose veins. Board certified.

Morning Glory Donuts

Mike and Christy Durham
4430 Highway 5 North, #8
Bryant, AR 72022 ♦ 653-2829
cndurham@baptist-health.org
Open 6 days a week, 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. Purchased from Strawn's in Oct. 2007.

Bruce Pennington, Sheriff

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303-5609 ♦ bpenningtonscso@mail.com
Sheriff of Saline County.

Steve Brawner Communications

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Freelance writer & publisher of books, personal & business histories, new articles, speeches & press releases, magazines & newsletters.

Law Office of Jeffrey Weber

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The practice of law. The practice is primarily criminal & personal injury law.

Ludwig Home Exteriors

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Home exterior work. Everything for the outside of a house (examples: pressure cleaning, painting, etc.)

Bryantdaily.com

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Full tax & accounting, 22 yrs. experience. Business consulting (startup), tax planning, contractor's license reviews, financial svcs., mo. financials, Quickbooks & Peachtree consulting.

Bryant 20/20 Action Teams Form

The Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce Civic & Government Affairs Committee in conjunction with Bryant Schools and the City of Bryant will host a Bryant 20/20 Action Team Kick-off and Tailgate Party Monday, March 2, 6 p.m., Bryant High School Cafeteria North, Building 16.

Five teams have been named. The attendance/willingness of volunteers to work on those efforts will determine if the team moves ahead. Teams are Recycling, Beautification & Revitalization, Youth Programs, Welcome and Safety Team.

Initially four town hall meetings were held for public input. Next the 11-pages of items generated at the meetings was added to by input online through the Chamber website. The committee consolidated/categorized the responses and put them on the website for ranking. Once prioritization was complete, the teams were named.

Recycling Team could potentially address new recycling programs or create guides to current recycling locations and what is recycled there. They might apply for grants or work with current providers to widen recyclables collected.

Beautification & Revitalization might work with the City to apply codes to clean up properties or might make innovative plans for unused properties or could undertake a clean up.

Youth Programs could create activities for youth, children or toddlers. Discussion is expected on drug education/prevention.

The Welcome Team might work to welcome visitors and new residents. This could take a focus such as English as a second language or teaching businesses how to communicate with other language customers or even training to alert our community to an influx of visitors from tournaments or other events.

Safety Team might be concerned with neighborhood watches, abduction prevention or safety planning in the event of a crisis.

"The work of the teams will be decided by the teams and undertaken by the community volunteers on the teams," noted Jim Garland, Chairman. Civic & Government Affairs Committee

Action Teams continued, page 2

FINDS OF THE MONTH

(A "find" is a service or product that a Chamber member offers that is not what they are known for -- or is a special value or brings recognition to Bryant and the area.)

Saline Memorial 5K



"The Beat Goes On" 5K Run/Walk is an event presented by the Saline Memorial Foundation and SMH Heart and Vascular Services on Saturday, Feb. 28 beginning at 8 a.m. The proceeds will go towards the SMH cardiac patients' assistance fund.

"It is critical for patients with a history of heart disease to follow the regimen indicated by their cardiologist. This fund will allow patients in need to receive the appropriate care to prevent future heart disease related illnesses," according to the hospital's registration literature.

Preregistration is \$15 or \$20 day of the event. Start and finish is at Saline Memorial Hospital.

Junior Auxiliary Event



Junior Auxiliary will host "Viva Las Vegas", it's annual children's benefit at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock.

The event features a live and silent auction and dinner with entertainment.

Game tables will be set up for people to making fundraising donations in exchange for not-for-profit plays at the casino style tables.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be obtained by calling 860-7323.

Free Birthday Party

Wadley's Bryant Martial Arts is giving free karate birthday parties to Chamber member's children. You bring the cake. Call 612-9668.

Bethel Holds 3 on 3

March Madness Comes to Bryant : The Bethel Middle School PIE (Partners in Education) will be hosting a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Saturday, March 14, 2009. This tournament is open to boys/girls and men/women of all ages. Registration forms can be downloaded from the Bethel Middle School page on the school web site (Bryantschools.org).

If you would like to volunteer to help with the tournament, please contact Kristen at kkssc@sbcglobal.net See you in March!

Junior Achievement Volunteer Training

Junior Achievement uses hands-on experiences to help young people understand economics. In partnership with businesses and educators, Junior Achievement brings the real world to middle school students.

Training for volunteers to present the prepared materials in 6 weekly 45- minute visits to assigned classes will be held noon Thursday, March 5 at Union Bank, Highway 5.

For more information on the program or volunteering, call Cheli Stafford, at 280-9118.

Friendship Nominated

Friendship Community Care of Bryant has been nominated as one of the top 5 non-profit organizations of 2008 by Arkansas Business.

Action Teams *continued from page 1*

The tailgate party will include chips and dips and other food. The event will be followed by a tour of some of the buildings on the High School Campus which are expected to be replaced if the Bryant millage passes on March 10.

Community Meetings

Bryant School Board

Monday, March 16 • 6:00 p.m.
Professional Development Room

Bryant Water Commission

Tuesday, March 10 • 5:30 p.m.
City Complex, 210 SW 3rd

Bryant Planning Commission

Monday, March 9 • 6:00 p.m.
City Complex, 210 SW 3rd

Bryant Parks Commission

Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.
City Complex, 210 SW 3rd

Bryant City Council

Monday, March 23 • 7:00 p.m.
City Complex, 210 SW 3rd

March Calendar

- 3-2.....Bryant 20/20 Action Team Kickoff & Tailgate Party, 6 p.m. BHS Cafeteria North, Bldg. 16
- 3-3.....Economic Development, noon, Chamber
- 3-3.....Early Voting begins school millage
- 3-4.....Ambassador/Membership Committee, noon, Chamber
- 3-5.....Civic & Government Affairs, 1:30 p.m., Chamber
- 3-6.....Legislative Breakfast, 7 a.m., Saline Memorial Hospital
- 3-9.....Arkansas Scholars Training, noon, Chamber
- 3-10.....Fall Fest Committee, noon, Chamber
- 3-10Vote today on millage
- 3-11.....Board Meeting, noon, Chamber
- 3-12.....Ribbon Cuttings
- 3-12.....Salt Bowl planning meeting, 6 p.m. Western Sizzlin
- 3-18.....Winter Banquet Follow up meeting, noon, Chamber
- 3-19.....Highlight Bryant lunch, noon, Holiday Inn, Wild Wear to speak
- 3-20.....Legislative Breakfast, 7 a.m., Saline Memorial Hospital
- 3-23.....Bryant Schools Spring Break begins

Chamber Works to Defeat EFCOA; Lower Taxes

The Arkansas Chamber of Commerce has asked the support of local Chambers and businesses on two measures -- one on the federal level and one at the state level.

On the federal front, the State Chamber -- and the Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce -- are working to get word to our federal delegation, Sen. Mark Pryor, Sen. Blanche Lincoln, Rep. Vic Snyder, Rep. Mike Ross, Rep. Marion Berry, and Rep. John Boozman to oppose the so-called Employee Free Choice Act. The measure would enable unions to form with the simple signing of a card. Currently the decision is by secret ballot and the Chambers want to preserve the integrity of the private ballot.

The State Chamber of Commerce is working hard for a reduction of taxes on utilities by manufacturers. This effort is intended to help to keep businesses here that are currently in the state and to bring new business to the state.

"Arkansas is out of step with all surrounding states in taxing utilities for manufacturers. Arkansas charges 4%. Mississippi is the only other surrounding state that charges tax on utilities and they charge 1.5%. Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and Louisiana charge nothing." said the State chamber.

"All Arkansas manufacturers need cost relief **now** to continue to provide good, family-wage jobs," the State Chamber contends.

The state Chamber is urging all businesses to contact the local delegation to support the measure.

State legislators from Saline County are Sen. Shane Broadway, Rep. Ann Clemmer, Rep. Dan Greenberg, Rep. Dawn Creekmore, Rep. Barbara Nix.

Arkansas Scholars Presentation Training is March 9, noon, at the Chamber

Website Advertising Renewals in March

Chamber members currently reap the benefits of an online presence through the ChamberMaster program on our Website, www.bryant-ar.com.

The Chamber and the City of Bryant are currently heavily advertising that site.

ChamberMaster representatives will be here in March to tell members how other advertising on the site might benefit your company.

Currently Chamber members are in the searchable business directory. Members can enter a description of the business, hours of operation and 8 key words by which a customer can search and find them.

For a charge of \$5 each, members may post online coupons in "Hot Deals". Job openings can be posted free of charge.

Enhanced listings begin as low as \$29 a month which will place your

logo next to your listing in the business directory. This level also allows you to place 8 photos on site in addition to expanding other features.

A category leader sponsor in the next level at \$69. This gives your company top placement in your category or fields of business.

A premium visibility sponsor adds Google search optimization and map upgrades for \$129 a month.

A complete website sponsorship is very limited in availability but is a presence on the premier page of the business directory. Banner ads are available there.

All of the features and availabilities will be explained by the ChamberMaster representative. If you would like an appointment, call the Chamber or respond to an e-mail you will be receiving soon to schedule your appointment.

Scholarship Drive Begins

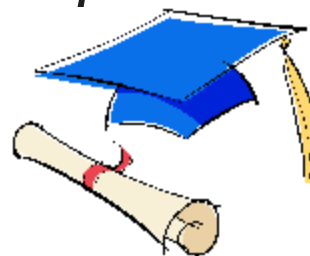
Fifteen \$500 scholarships for graduating seniors is again the goal of the Bryant Area Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Chamber members should have received a letter inviting them to participate in giving our seniors extra incentive to continue their education.

Businesses are asked to support at the \$50, \$250 or \$500 level.

Chamber scholarship are selected by a three member committee appointed by the Education Committee.

The selection criteria is a 2.75 grade point average, financial need, evidence of community service, a desire to further their education in Ar-



kansas and residency in the Bryant School District.

Those who sponsor the scholarships will be invited to the awarding of the scholarships at Bryant High School the first Friday in May which is May 1 this year. If you are unable to attend, Rae Ann Fields will present for your company.

Your company name will also appear on congratulatory certificates for award winners at the Middle Schools. Those certificates will be given out by school officials or by the Chamber staff if invited.

"Every little bit of financial support helps. \$500 might not pay tuition, but it could pay for fees or books," said Joe Fisher, co-chairperson for the committee.

Fall Fest Planning Includes Outdoor Adventure

Fall Fest Committee is already hard at work on planning for the 2009 Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 26. One major focus is to grow the Outdoor Adventure Area and make it bigger and better.

The committee will mark booth spaces under the pavilion at the Outdoor Adventure Area. Previously this area was set up as a stage with various presentations. More interest was shown for booth spaces than demonstrations, so the committee has decided to convert the area to booths that will be under a roof and out of the sun. Additional space for booths will surround the pavilion and be covered with camouflage netting for shade.

Some suggestions for businesses that would be a natural for the outdoor area:

Archery
 ATV dealers
 Biking
 Canoeing
 Camping
 Farmer's market
 Fishing
 Gardening
 Golf
 Hiking
 Hunting goods stores
 Kite Flying
 Outdoor cooking
 Paintball
 Running
 Skateboarding
 Yard ornaments



Bryant Chamber of Commerce

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