



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

LEWIS BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPEL

-Since 1917-

When a loved one dies, everyone likes to know that there is someone reliable to help them through the stressful time. Palmyra has been blessed with competent, empathetic funeral directors to fulfill this need for over 95 years.

In August of 1917, J. Best and George B. Lewis, brothers returning home from WWI, purchased the Quest Undertaking Company. It was located on the corner of Church and Main Streets directly south of the Post Office. The original business had livery stables and horse drawn carriages. They also operated a furniture business in addition to the mortuary which Steve Lewis, one of the third generation current owners, explained was fairly typical of the times. After all, furniture makers made caskets. During that time, the Lewis Brothers also introduced the first motorized funeral coach in Marion County. In 1929 the partnership was moved across the street to the south end of the Savoy Building, a structure razed in the late 70's to make way for the new Palmyra State Bank.

Sons of the founders, John B. "Jack" and George "Gadget" M. Lewis, constructed the current building located on the corner of Hamilton and Main Streets in 1964. For those who may not remember or not know, a house currently on the site was transformed into the building that now houses Lewis Brothers Funeral Chapel with wings being added on both sides of the original structure. An addition and complete renovation of the current building was completed just a few years ago. Both Jack and George have served for over 50 years in the funeral industry. They are both retired.

Lewis Brothers also operated ambulance service in Palmyra and Philadelphia until the Marion County Ambulance District was formed in 1974. Dave Lewis remembered that their grandfathers had started this service because originally funeral coaches were the only vehicles large enough to transport bodies in a prone position,

and funeral directors also had cots. He recalled how some of their vehicles had space to ride next to the



Grandsons of the founders, Cousins, David and Steve Lewis, continue to operate the family business.

person on the cot, just like in a regular ambulance. "I remember driving the ambulance when I was in high school," shared Dave.

Today, the grandsons of the founders, David and Steve Lewis, continue to operate the family business. Both have degrees in Mortuary Science and are licensed insurance agents so that they are able to help process all the required government forms. Both worked in larger communities until their fathers retired before returning home to Palmyra. Dave worked in funeral homes in Kansas City, Houston, and St. Louis while Steve worked in funeral homes in Raytown near Kansas City. They both were glad to return home and have the opportunity to serve in their home town.



1950 Cadillac Funeral Coach also used as an ambulance.



Pictured from left to right are Joe Rothweiler, Charles Grace & George B. Lewis in front of Lewis Brothers Furniture & Undertaking during Palmyra's Centennial Celebration.

Each Christmas season, the funeral home hosts a Holiday Remembrance Program and invites the public to help decorate their Tree of Memories in honor and remembrance of loved ones. Since 1994, the event has given people another way to help cope with the loss of loved ones during what may be the hardest time of the year to do so.

In a Palmyra Spectator article for Lewis Brothers' 85th anniversary, Steve Lewis shared the secret of Lewis Brothers' longevity, "We have been in business for so long because we treat people the way we would like to be treated...Making plans that are appropriate gives everyone the opportunity to say goodbye and to honor the life of that person."

May it be our good fortune that the Lewis families continue to serve Palmyra and the surrounding communities with caring, dignified funeral services for generations to come!

BUSINESS INFO

Lewis Brothers Funeral Chapel
 424 South Main • Palmyra, MO 63461
 573-769-2233 www.lewisbrothersfuneralchapel.com

Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its first monthly meeting of 2013 at the VFW Hall Tuesday, February 12. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone including new Chamber members who were present: John Mullhatten of Midwest Safety & Training and Gene Ash, Commander of the local VFW Post. To date, thirty-seven Chamber of Commerce businesses have renewed their memberships or joined as new members. (If you are a Chamber business and need to renew, you can download a membership form from the Chamber link at www.showmepalmyra.com, stop by the Gardner House between 10 -2 p.m. on Tuesday or Thursday, or call 769-0777.) Other new Chamber members include the Division #3 Highway Credit Union, and Marion County Library Sub District 1. As the Knights of Columbus will no longer host Flag Day, the Chamber is considering taking on this event if chairperson(s) will come forward. Chamber members should mark their calendars for two upcoming events: April 13th is the date for the Business Expo, and June 15th for the Hannibal Chamber Steak Fry.

PIPELINE PROJECT

Informational sheets on Enbridge's Flanagan South Pipeline Project were made available to all. According to Chamber member Gordon Ipson, local construction on the pipeline should begin in August. Construction workers will need housing, camping, supplies, places to eat, etc. Our local economy will benefit greatly during construction from the purchase of local products and materials and as workers use local hotels, restaurants, and services. Businesses may log on to www.enbridge.com/FlanaganSouthPipeline and click on Working with Enbridge to register as a Vendor/Supplier. One Chamber member has already taken advantage of this opportunity. A long term benefit of the project will be increased property values.

COUPON PAGES OFFERED

President Merkel reminded members to consider adding to the Coupon Page included in the Welcome to Palmyra folders distributed at City Hall and REC compiled by Character Plus. This will be updated soon and in light of newcomers to the area could get more use.

"FALL IN LOVE..."

Gordon Ipson, Manager of Economic Development at Northeast Power, updated the group on "Fall in Love With Northeast Missouri" taking place February 13th in Jefferson City. Fourteen communities will be showcased at the event, and representatives from those communities will have the chance to showcase what their communities offer to Missouri legislators and discuss legislative priorities as they relate to economic development in our area. Booth space is full at the event, which will showcase a number of businesses from counties including Scotland, Schuyler, Clark, Adair, Knox, Lewis, Macon, Marion, Randolph, Chariton, Ralls, Monroe and Montgomery counties.

THE MAIN HANGOUT UPDATE

Ron Kraft and Jacob Voepel of The Main Hangout were the guest speakers. Ron said he got the idea for the teen center from his son. With some renovations to his former NAPA Auto Parts building, there is now room to shoot pool, play ping pong and a variety of arcade and video games, visit with friends, and now take dance lessons as well! An Adult Board of Directors and a Youth Board of Directors work together to make decisions. Generous donations have made much of this possible, and continued donations are welcome. The Main Hangout has partnered with Families and Communities Together (F.A.C.T.) in Hannibal as their fiscal agent. To help raise funds, the center is booking birthday parties and charges a small fee for the dance lessons. On their current wish list are a projector, full length mirrors for the dance lessons, and an instructor for paramedic training. Hours of operation are M-Th 3-7p.m., F 3 - 9p.m., Sat. 12p.m. - lights out, and Sun. 1-4 p.m.



upcoming events **CALENDAR**

Tuesday, March 12th

Honor Flight

\$7 - Includes Lunch! Noon - 1:00 pm

Neil Maune will be the featured speaker for the March Chamber meeting. His topic: National Honor Flight.

Saturday, April 13
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Palmyra Chamber of Commerce Business Expo

The Palmyra Chamber is hosting a Business Expo at the Sesquicentennial Building featuring Palmyra Chamber Members. Experience a great networking opportunity while gathering information about products and services from many different businesses. There is no cost to exhibit for 2013 Chamber Members. Please call the Chamber Office at 573-769-0777 or Michelle Merkel at 573-769-2001 if you are interested in participating as space is limited. Donations of items for door prize drawings will be greatly appreciated.

REMINDER *It's Time To Renew Your Chamber Dues!*

**2013 Chamber of
Commerce Membership
forms can be downloaded at
showmepalmyra.com**

**YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013**

**VFW Hall, Palmyra • Guest Speaker:
Neil Maune (National Honor Flight)**