

April 14



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

SSDBUILD

Are you planning on building a new home in the near future? Do you have a prospective development in mind but need some insight on property marketing and design? Do you have a building project you're trying to secure and need some help getting it? SSDBUILD can help!

SSDBUILD designs modern, high-performance, sustainable homes. With the cost of living rapidly increasing, SSDBUILD helps families develop a more efficient, self-sustaining lifestyle. Joshua Steffen, Principal, believes this lifestyle "centers around the home: the place where we sleep, eat, and recharge."

Josh grew up in a contracting family, learning residential construction, carpentry, fine wood working, and a strong work ethic. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Architectural Studies from the University of Illinois in 2008. Steffen worked with Architechnics in Quincy Illinois as a lead designer and project manager for 3 years before starting SSDBUILD in 2012.

SSDBUILD's mission is to help design and build the built-environment around us to better sustain the quality of life we expect for ourselves and for our children. Managing costs, lowering stress, and increasing the amount of enjoyable time families spend together are important parts of this equation. "At SSDBUILD, we believe that sustainability should first and foremost be about sustaining our families' quality of life rather than about being "green," shared Josh. He went on, "If we protect ourselves, we will naturally protect our environment."

What is the difference between "sustainability" and "green?" Though both terms refer to human health and environmental impact of products and services, sustainability is a broader term that considers social and financial impacts as well and generally over a longer period of time.

If you are interested in the services of SSDBUILD, the Residential Design/ Building process would begin by sitting down with Josh at a free consultation and telling him about your family, your dreams, your needs, your personal architectural taste, and how you live. Your home can be designed to protect your family against natural and man-made disasters. The company can help you find the perfect property. Taking information from the first meeting, SSDBUILD compiles images and sketches to see if they are on the right track. Later, a floor plan and a computer 3-D Model is developed. You provide feedback all along the way, and the design is tweaked until it is just right. This is followed by a preliminary construction estimate, construction drawings and specifications. SSDBUILD selects reputable, high quality subcontractors to bid on the different aspects of the project.

Once the construction bids are in, SSDBUILD reviews them with you, provides you with a complete construction price and a construction contract outlining what each subcontractor is responsible for and insuring that you will receive the quality, well-designed house that you expect and are paying for. During construction of your new home, SSDBUILD provides complete construction administration and project management services. You get weekly updates, personal meetings as often as you choose, and any interior design services you may require.

SSDBUILD can also provide mixed-use development consulting, offering insight on property marketing and design. They offer affordable development consulting including market studies, income studies, and tenant studies. Design services focus on creating interesting, dynamic spaces that draw tenants and customers, and sell products. SSDBUILD provides 3-D computer models, renderings, and animations to help you sell your development project to bankers, investors, and potential tenants.

If you have a public project, religious project, or development still in the fund-raising process, consider the services of SSDBUILD. The company can provide you with 3-D computer models, renderings, and animations to really sell your project to tax-paying citizens, church members or investors. This affordable service is also available to help contractors or other architects gain a competitive edge over the competition.

You can see some of SSDBUILD's latest homes in the Willow Creek Subdivision in Quincy, Illinois or on the company's extensive website. Stop in Monday –Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 224 S Main St in Palmyra to see how the new Sustainable Home Store and Design Center is coming along!



Top: This house was designed in collaboration with a Quincy IL contractor to be a Show-House for his business and future adjacent development.

Bottom: This home is a French Country Home Design going up on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi in Ursa, IL.



Joshua Steffen, Principal Architect

SSDBUILD

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Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting at the VFW Hall Tuesday, March 11. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone including FBLA members Kaley Augspurg and Shelby Cunningham. As there were two guest speakers a business meeting was not held.

REC'S EFFORT TO KEEP ENERGY BILLS AFFORDABLE

Rich Donelson, General Manager and CEO of Missouri Rural Electrical Cooperative (REC), shared information about how citizens can help keep electric bills affordable. Electric cooperatives believe in and advocate for a strategy to our nation's energy policy which includes renewable energy, nuclear power, natural gas and clean coal. New federal regulations target coal-fired power plants, which account for 70 percent of the electricity used by electric cooperative members in Missouri. Coal is the least expensive option for generating electricity. When the coal-fired plants were built, they were equipped with the best available technology for emission reduction. Since 1994, more than \$1.1 billion more was spent to reduce emissions.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued proposed regulations putting stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants. These regulations are reported to require technology that's not commercially available and prohibitively expensive. Mr. Donelson reported that the proposed rules could increase the cost of electricity by as much as 75%. These rules would not only affect REC members but also city residents.

What can you do to make a difference? Tell the EPA to reconsider this proposal and work with electrical cooperatives to reduce power plant emissions, increase efficiency and develop affordable new technologies. Go to www.action.coop to add your voice. If you don't have Internet access, you can sign a Cooperative Action Network postcard available at the REC office, 975 W. Ross, or at City Hall, 301 S. Main. You do not have to be a Co-op member to be part of this initiative.

PALMYRA R-1'S NO-TAX-INCREASE BOND ISSUE

Eric Churchwell, Superintendent of Palmyra R-1 Schools, was the second speaker. He told Chamber members about Proposition 2, a no-tax-increase bond issue that will be on the April 8 ballot. The voters are being asked to allow the district to borrow six million dollars to fund much needed safety improvements, additions and renovations at all three facilities. Even though there will be no tax increase, voter approval is needed for the School District to sell bonds to generate revenue to pay the debt that will enable upgrades.

Planned renovations include moving Early Childhood and the PAT Program to the Elementary School, a building at which security and energy efficiency upgrades would also be made. Electrical and flooring upgrades as well as additional parking are part of the improvements planned for the Elementary facility. At the Middle School, security and energy efficiency upgrades will be foremost. The South Wing of the building will also get HVAC modifications, ADA compliant restrooms, fire-rated doors, and a much needed update of the FACS and band rooms. Lastly, replacement of the deteriorated High School parking lot is required.

Mr. Churchwell and the Palmyra R-1 School Board urge Chamber members and the public to vote yes on April 8.

upcoming events **CALENDAR**

Saturday, April 5

Race for H.O.P.E.

5K Run/Walk to raise funds for awareness about suicide and self-injury. Registration 8 a.m., Race 9 a.m., Flower City Park

Saturday, April 26

Flower Children's Spring Fling Dinner/Auction

To benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Marion County. American Legion Hall, 5 p.m. Social Hr., 6 p.m. Dinner, 7:15 p.m. Auction.

Saturday, May 10

City Wide Garage Sale

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAM

REMINDERS

YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues., April 8, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speaker: Stacey Blomberg, Outreach Coordinator, with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry will address the topic "Why Missouri Needs Medicaid Transformation." The public is invited.

Tues., May 13, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speaker: Todd Ahrens, President and CEO Hannibal Regional Healthcare System.

Tues., June 10, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speaker: Irene Meyers on the Community Foundation which builds charitable funds that support community needs and opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kerley's is now open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Chamber Email Address:
palmyrachamber@gmail.com

Don't Forget to Renew Your Chamber Membership for 2014!

A membership form can be downloaded from the Chamber of Commerce Website at www.showmepalmyra.com/chamber.html