



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

# Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED CHAMBER MEMBER

## HERITAGE SEEKERS

As many of the stories gathered by the Heritage Seekers themselves, the story I am about to tell you was told to me orally. Since the Gardner House is what prompted the group to organize, the story begins with said building which in 1828 was constructed by Samuel Martin as a dram shop, i.e. a tavern. It was also used as an inn and stagecoach stop between Des Moines, Iowa and St. Charles, Missouri. In 1847 the house was sold to a man named Devereaux and served as a hotel until after the Civil War when, for a brief period, it housed a school for children. Edward Gartner, who moved to Palmyra from Quincy, Illinois, purchased the building in

the 1870's, again opening it as a dram shop. "Perhaps this is from whom the dwelling derived its current name," s p e c u l a t e s former curator and current member, Becky Taylor.

opened only for events to raise money to complete renovations, it was later opened during tourist season and staffed by Mary Jo Ragar with student assistance. Today it continues the tradition of being open during the summer season. Local artifacts and historical items continue to be added to the museum collection.



The past 2 Gardner House curators Becky Taylor and Sharon Harrison with current curator Theresa Kindhart

Other Heritage Seekers' projects include the moving of Floral Hall in 1984, preservation of the Big Spring log cabin, and the Genealogy Resource Center, opened in June 2014, at the Old Marion County Jail which the group acquired after a merger with Landmarks in 2011. Landmarks of Northeast Missouri was organized in 1993 for the specific purpose of saving, restoring and preserving the old Marion County Jail, built in 1858 and in use until 1992 as a jail. A year earlier, the Palmyra Civil War Reenactment Association also merged with Heritage Seekers.

The Heritage Seekers "is a nonprofit organization which derives its revenue from donations, grants and its modest membership fee. We are open to anyone interested in history," shared Christine Crawford, the group's treasurer. Monthly programs highlight topics such as local Civil War remembrances, Palmyra's founding, and stories of the annual commemorative ornament (the CCC Camp for 2015); programs include speakers and displays. Palmyra Elementary 4th graders are annually treated to living history presentations at the Big Spring, the site of the first Palmyra settler's home.

Tours of the Gardner House and the 1858 Marion County Old Jail are available upon request. Heritage Seekers will



Carol Brentlinger, genealogist at the Genealogy Resource Center at the Old Marion County Jail.

The property was sold to bride Sara Lauck in 1889 and remained in the Lauck family until 1959, after which time it fell into disrepair. 1969 marked Palmyra's sesquicentennial, and there were those who considered the building an eyesore and wanted to do something to change that. The following year a group formed, calling themselves "People of Palmyra Interested in the Area's History." Their name was later changed to Heritage Seekers.

On March 4, 1971, the Gardner House at 417 South Main St. was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Heritage Seekers had worked diligently to achieve this designation to obtain grant money toward their purchase of the property from the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce, which was completed in 1972 for a net outlay of \$3000. Initially

# HERITAGE SEEKERS

Continued

also present programs to interested groups. The Gardner House Museum's regular hours are Wednesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day. Watch for the OPEN Flag during the "Off Season" for additional open hours. The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce, located in the Gardner House, maintains Tuesday and Thursday office hours year round. Admission is free; however, donations are always appreciated. Heritage Seekers accepts items for display even if one would only like to loan these.

The Genealogy Resource Center at the Old Marion County Jail on the corner of Lafayette and Dickerson is typically open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and by appointment; call Carol Brentlinger at 573-822-7598 to schedule an appointment outside established hours or during winter.

If you've never been inside the Gardner House, come see what you're missing! Here's what one visitor posted online: "What a hidden jewel this home and museum is. We are so glad we ventured past Hannibal to a little town of Palmyra, Missouri... The historical artifacts there are amazing, and one that really was an interest was an old shoe. Yes, an old button up shoe (c1800's) that was found in the town's courthouse wall in 2007. It seems it was a custom to put a shoe in the wall to ward off evil spirits. I didn't know that, did you?" The visit could even prompt you to join Heritage Seekers!



Sights inside the Gardner House Museum



Eddie Schaeffer presents a program on Schaeffer Blacksmithing established 1890



Old Marion County Jail 1858



Gardner House Museum



Log Cabin at Big Springs Park

# Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 14 at the Old Stone House Inn. President Rodney Kuntmeyer welcomed FBLA members Chloe Churchwell and Trevor Meny, new Chamber business members Bryan Bartz, Farm Bureau Insurance Agent; Brett Hamlin, Assistant Vice-President United State Bank, and U of Missouri Extension's Community Development Manager John Gulick.

## FLAG DAY UPDATE

Nancy Goellner & Jesse Knowles provided updates on the Flag Day Parade and Howdy Neighbor Day coming up June 13. Any group or individual interested in having an entry in the parade may call Nancy Goellner at 573-470-0861. Mailings are going out to vendors this week for Howdy Neighbor Day; others interested may contact Jesse Knowles at 573-769-0404.

## SPRING UPDATE FROM CEO OF HANNIBAL REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Todd Ahrens, President and CEO of Hannibal Regional Healthcare System, the guest speaker, presented a 2014 Hannibal Regional Healthcare System Community Benefit Summary and shared updates on the latest technology and services. The amount of uncompensated care to the poor in the form of either charity care, Medicaid costs in excess of reimbursement, or bad debt increased over \$2 million from 2013 to 2014. They continue to see approximately fifteen percent of patients visiting the emergency room that don't have insurance; with Medicaid expansion, this number could be zero. They also continue to see a decline in inpatient numbers compared to historical highs a few years back. This is partly attributable to the rise in high deductible health plans.

The Cary Cancer Center, part of the Hannibal Regional Healthcare System, recently began using a new linear accelerator which advances cancer care. The \$3 million dollar project was partially funded through the Hannibal Regional Hospital (HRH) Foundation's Believe Campaign. The linear accelerator allows for a quicker and more precise treatment for cancer patients. Seven weeks of treatment for a lung cancer patient can be reduced to one week of often more effective treatment.

Construction for an inpatient rehabilitation unit at HRH is underway. When the unit opens in late September, area residents will no longer need to travel to Columbia or St. Louis for rehabilitation services.

Hannibal Regional Healthcare System has joined forces with five other healthcare providers in adjacent counties throughout central and northeast Missouri forming the Health Network of Missouri. The "goal is to further expand and enhance the exceptional care our patients receive," said Mr. Ahrens. One major initiative is ensuring patient care between providers such as Hannibal Regional and University of Missouri Health Care in Columbia is coordinated flawlessly.

Mark your calendars for the date and place of the next Chamber meeting: the lunch meeting will take place at noon in Kerleys back room and feature guest speakers from Palmyra High School's FCCLA.

## upcoming events CALENDAR

May 2

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Pickle Jog, Flower City Park ~ An event for kids to raise awareness and funds for Childhood Cancer Research

May 2

7 - 11 p.m.: Palmyra R-1 Prom

May 5

5:30 - 7p.m.: Palmyra R-1 PAT Truck Rally, Palmyra HS Parking Lot

May 21

7:30 p.m.: Palmyra R-1 H.S. Graduation

June 5-6

6 p.m. - 2 a.m.: Relay For Life of Marion County, Flower City Park

June 13

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Flag Day Parade and Howdy Neighbor Day, Main Street & around the Courthouse

## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

**Tues. May 12, 2015  
Luncheon at Kerley's**

*Marcy Minnick, FCCLA Sponsor at Palmyra R-1 High School, and some of her students will share all our local Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter has accomplished this school year.*

**Tu. June 9th**

*Luncheon at El Nopal. Nancy Goellner, Jesse Knowles, Ginny Kuntmeyer, & Marita Reiff will update the membership on Howdy Neighbor Day & the Flag Day Parade.*

**Chamber Email Address:  
palmyrachamber@gmail.com**

 **Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce**

**JOIN THE  
CHAMBER!**

## CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't already done  
so, you can join or renew your  
Chamber Membership for 2015!

Application available on the Chamber website.  
Become part of our Business Directory  
on the Chamber website!

[Click here for Membership Form!](#)