



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

# Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

## Flower City Florist & Mercantile

Planted in downtown Palmyra, Flower City Florist & Mercantile is in full bloom! It's the beginning of wedding season, the Mother's Day rush has just passed, and beautiful blossoms can be seen both inside and outside the shop.

Just last month Flower City Florist & Mercantile acquired a new owner: Cheryl Neisen of rural Palmyra. Ginny Kuntmeyer had owned the business for seventeen years, since January of 1997. "I loved my job," said Ginny, "but I was ready to slow down." She is thinking about possibly trying to save another old building... but only if she can work less than six or seven days a week!

Irene Riney owned Flower City Florist for twenty-three years prior to Kuntmeyer, and Verna and Gay Smith took over for their son in the first flower shop when he died in an auto accident.

Before the sixty-plus years the current space housed a Flower Shop, it was the Pal Movie Theatre, and prior to that a live theater. What is currently upstairs apartment space once served as a balcony.

Current proprietor Neisen has retail experience and a business degree and has been interested in purchasing the business for some time. She had her own Antiques & Primitives store at the edge of town in the late '90's, worked at T&T Action Sports, served as an administrative secretary at BASF, and has sold Antiques & Primitives online as well as Miche bags at craft shows.

Cheryl is looking forward to cultivating her skills in a new environment. Tom Porter, her sister's husband, is bringing things from Shipshewana and helping remodel. "I'm excited about getting new items in and making some changes," said Neisen. She's giving the interior her personal touch, adding more jewelry and baby items, sunglasses, infinity scarves, and holiday and birthday bears. Cheryl plans to carry a few more items for men like men's sunglasses and rustic décor pieces.

Another unique offering will be barn rentals for weddings and parties. Cheryl has already had out-of-town weddings held in her barns just outside of town, and she'd love to show you photos of how special your one-of-a-kind event could be!

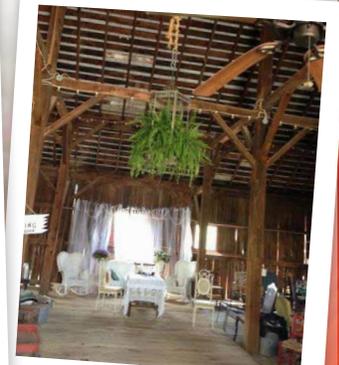
Flower City Florist & Mercantile will still carry fresh and silk flower arrangements, antiques and primitives. And in case you didn't know, tuxedos can be rented for proms and weddings. There are five employees to assist you in addition to the owner, and all have nimble green thumbs and creative minds. Do stop in to browse...and buy!



New owner Cheryl Neisen with some of the new merchandise.

**GRAND OPENING**  
Saturday, June 7th  
9am-1pm  
Chamber Ribbon Cutting  
10am

**Picture your wedding or special gathering in this inviting barn just outside of town. Cheryl Neisen can arrange it for you!**



# Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014**

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting at the VFW Hall Tuesday, May 13. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone including FBLA members Trevor Wheeler and Shelby Cunningham.

A date for the fall Taste of Palmyra will be set at the May Board Meeting. Any Chamber business interested in hosting Business After Hours should contact President Merkel at HomeBank as this is a great time of year to host the event. Jim Boettcher, a lifetime member of the Norfolk-Smith VFW Post 11041, was given a standing ovation for his recent recognition by Lieutenant Governor Peter Kinder as the recipient of one of Missouri's twenty-eight Veterans Service Awards.

Chad Englehardt of Bud's Paint & Body Shop thanked fellow Chamber members for helping make the Grand Opening of their new facility a success. Turnout was exceptional.

C. Todd Ahrens, CEO Hannibal Regional Healthcare System (HRHS), is staying connected with surrounding communities and presented a 2013 Community Benefit of Summary. Not only did HRH receive a healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award for 2013 – ranking HRH among the top 10% in the nation for providing outstanding performance in the delivery of patient care, but it was recently rated as being among the top 10% in the nation for Joint Replacement Care. Healthgrades is a leading national healthcare ratings organization and online resource that helps consumers search, evaluate, compare and connect with physicians and hospitals.

Last year Hannibal Regional Healthcare System provided over \$9.5 million in uncompensated care to the poor in the form of either charity care, Medicaid costs in excess of reimbursement, or bad debt. HRHS also absorbed over \$6 million in uncompensated Medicare costs to provide care to the elderly. Medicare patients comprise 60 -65% of the numbers served and the elderly population is on the rise. Fifteen percent of patients visiting the emergency room are currently without insurance adding to the system's financial debt; with Medicaid expansion, this number could be zero.

Even in difficult economic times charitable giving to HRHS was over \$3 million with more than \$180,000 raised for the Healthy Way Fitness Trail, just over \$1 million in total gifts for the HRH Foundation and the remaining amount part of a 5-year total grant that was secured. Hannibal Regional Healthcare System has also been able to maintain its BBB+ Rating by Fitch with a stable rating outlook. A team of over 900 employees and 275 volunteers work diligently to make the patient experience at HRHS a positive one.

The next Chamber of Commerce Meeting will be Tuesday, June 10. The guest speaker will be Irene Meyers, Investment Representative with F&M Bank. She will be sharing information about the Community Foundation. Community Foundation builds charitable funds that support community needs and opportunities. The funds, mostly permanent endowments, ensure there is support for good, forever, for our region. The public is invited.

## upcoming events **CALENDAR**

**Fri., June 6-Sat., June 7**

**6pm-2am: Relay For Life of Marion County at Flower City Park.**

*Come celebrate cancer survivors, remember those lost to cancer, and celebrate with teams committed to finish the fight against this disease.*

**Saturday, June 7**

**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Grand Opening Flower City Florist & Mercantile;  
Chamber Ribbon-Cutting 10 a.m.**

**Saturday, June 14**

**Flag Day, 10 a.m. Parade**  
*with flag ceremony at the courthouse to follow; possibly a few food vendors. If you would like to participate, the parade line-up for Antique Tractors and Cars will begin at 9 a.m. on Thompson Street. For more information, contact Nancy Goellner at 573-769-4897(work), 573-470-0861 (cell) or ngoellner@bankfm.com.*

**Saturday, June 21**

**First Day of Summer**

**July 26-August 2**

**Marion County Fair**

**Monday, October 20**

**Taste of Palmyra**

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAM

## REMINDERS

YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

**Tues., June 10, 2014 • VFW Hall**

Guest Speaker:

Irene Meyers on the Community Foundation.  
*Community Foundation builds charitable funds that support community needs and opportunities. The funds, mostly permanent endowments, ensure there is support for good, forever, for our region. The public is invited.*

**Tues., July 8, 2014 • VFW Hall**

Guest Speakers:

*Candidates for offices in Marion County on the August 5 Primary Ballot are invited to introduce themselves and make a brief statement. The public is welcome to attend.*

**Farmer's Market – Every Wednesday**  
**11am – 6pm behind the Country**  
**Butcher Shop Pavilion**

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