



Jared Murphy

Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

MURPHY LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING

Meet Jared Murphy, entrepreneur. Jared started Murphy Lawn Care LLC while still in high school, because, he said, as a senior, "I was hiring so many of my classmates to help me with my mowing jobs." He actually started mowing for Bill Andresen with Marion County Implement as a 9th grader because his dad did the family lawn by choice!

Jared attended Moberly Community College for two years and received an Associate's Degree in Business. He then attended John Wood for a second degree, this one in Horticulture. While in college, Murphy kept his business running, mowing about fifty lawns himself during the first two years and hiring a full time employee the last two. He moved the business from his parents' home to 116 West Church during this time.

Upon graduating from John Wood Community College, Jared added landscaping and snow removal to the services provided by his growing business. Equipment storage at the Church Street location became an impossibility, but an opportunity to exchange mowing services for Virgil Lackey's storage space proved to be a creative solution.

About six years ago, Murphy bought the building adjacent to Lackey Auto Body that serves as his current business location; it formerly housed a farm store. He has added an office to the interior space, but there is plenty of room for equipment both indoors and out. Trees, shrubs, and flowering plants are kept on the grounds as well. Additional space has been purchased to the north for possible future expansion. Jared also owns twenty acres near his private residence that he someday hopes to develop into a tree nursery.

Murphy Lawn Care currently employs about twenty individuals. With a business so dependent on weather, it's probably not surprising that turnover is higher than Jared would like it to be. "Last February, staff put in 130 hours of overtime because of the snow we had," he shared. But just two years prior, there was nothing to do. Summer drought also affects his ability to keep workers busy.

The business has grown from "a few lawns" to 3600 commercial and residential accounts. About 60% of the customer base is residential, and a greater percentage of Murphy's business is actually in the Hannibal market. In 2011, Jared hired Steven Eger, another local lawn care professional, to help with management and sales. Eger oversees all landscaping design, plants and trees. Lance Dorhn and Dustin Meyers, landscape foremen, have over thirty years experience in their field; their abilities are unrivaled in the tri-state area. In 2012, Jared hired Dave Goodin to administer the chemical side of the business. Goodin is locally known for his reputation in the turf management area with over thirty-three years experience as a golf course superintendent and lawn care specialist. Dave handles lawn treatments such as spraying, weed control, mole infestations, etc.; he manages about 350 locations, visiting them 4-5 times a year. In 2014, Murphy promoted Jordan Shuck to mowing coordinator; Jordan oversees 290 properties on a weekly basis. Who knows if one day in the not so distant future, Jared's son, Parker, won't be promoted to Chief Mower?

Murphy Lawn Care & Landscaping would love to help you with your lawn needs! Give them a call.



Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting at the VFW Hall Tuesday, June 10. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone and shared updates. Political candidates on the August 5 Marion County Primary Ballot have been invited to the July 8th Monthly Chamber Meeting and five have already agreed to attend to introduce themselves and make a brief statement. Taste of Palmyra 2014 will be held Monday, October 20 and will be held the third Monday of October in future years, barring any major conflict.

Nancy Goellner updated members on plans for Flag Day. A parade, flag ceremonies, and food vendors will all be part of the celebration on Saturday, June 14, beginning at 10 a.m.

Chad Englehardt and Kelly Porter of Bud's Paint & Body Shop announced that they would be offering car detailing on a trial basis. Since the service is new, a minimal number of appointments can be accommodated in one week. For rates and to schedule an appointment, call Bud's at 573-769-2310.

Irene Meyers, Council member with the Marion County Endowment Fund, was the guest speaker. Once established, the Marion County Endowment Fund will exist into perpetuity, meaning forever. Annual earnings on the fund's principal will be used to provide charitable support within the county. These earnings will be able to fund worthy projects to non-profit organizations, with applications being approved by a board.

Right now, we have the opportunity to establish such a fund, bringing people together to support local charitable needs and opportunities. By pulling together to pool financial resources, we can create the Marion County Endowment Fund and get a match of up to \$15,000 for our permanent fund.

The only requirement before the Community Foundation of the Quincy Area will release its \$15,000 match is that the participating county raise at least \$15,000 initially to get the fund started. After that, more tax-deductible donations can be made into the county's fund at any time in the future to benefit charitable causes within the county. Marion County is one of only two area counties that has even more incentive to meet the \$15,000 match: HomeBank has also announced a \$15,000 pledge. That essentially becomes a two-to-one opportunity for us.

The new initiative is designed to make it easier for area residents to support charitable causes within the counties where they live. It is possible to leave an amount, such as 5% of one's estate, to the Marion County Endowment Fund in the form of agricultural property, as an IRA beneficiary, stock appreciation, cash, etc.

Mrs. Meyers, who has been working with foundations and charitable giving for 18 years, commented on the transfer of wealth north of I-70. Statistically, the largest single economic driver is currently retirees. The Marion County Endowment Fund can be a way to build up businesses and make our community a more attractive place for commerce to return.

The next Chamber of Commerce Meeting will be Tuesday, July 8. All political candidates on the August 5 Marion County Primary Ballot are invited to introduce themselves and make a brief statement. Candidates who have not yet contacted the Chamber Office can call 573-769-0777 or email palmyrachamber@gmail.com. The public is encouraged to attend and familiarize themselves with those running for office.

upcoming events **CALENDAR**

Saturday, July 5

Chamber-Sponsored Fireworks
Flower City Park at Dusk

July 26-August 2

Marion County Fair

Fair Schedule at www.showmepalmyra.com

Tuesday, August 5

Primary Election Day (Marion County)

Monday, October 20

Taste of Palmyra

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAM **REMINDERS**

YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues., July 8, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speakers:

Most Candidates for offices in Marion County on the August 5 Primary Ballot will be joining us for lunch. Get to know who's on the ballot! The public is welcome to attend and also purchase lunch for only \$7; call 573-769-0777 or email palmyrachamber@gmail.com.



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

AUTO DETAILING **OFFERED!**

Bud's Paint & Body Shop offers car detailing!
For rates and to schedule an appointment,
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Chamber Email Address:
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