



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED CHAMBER EVENT TASTE OF PALMYRA

This October event is an evening of great food, mixed in with offerings from craft vendors, musical entertainment, children's activities, a car and tractor show and just plain old-fashioned fun! The goals of the event are to bring people from the community and outlying areas to downtown Palmyra so they can see what goods, services, and "uniqueness" the people, businesses and organizations of Palmyra have to offer.

This year, the 8th annual Taste of Palmyra, held on Monday October 20 from 5 – 9 p.m. in downtown Palmyra had a very successful year. The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce began planning for the event months earlier, and the Committee was out on the street marking vendor locations and setting up both Sunday and Monday. The crowd, estimated at 1,000, began to arrive early and lingered later than in past years. "God blessed us with wonderful weather, and I truly could not be more thankful for that," said Michelle Merkel, Event Coordinator and Palmyra Chamber of Commerce President. "Having such a great and supportive community here in Palmyra made it even better."

The evening kicked off with a line of excited trick-or-treaters at Palmyra's fire station at 5 p.m. Several Palmyra Chamber members, some not located on Main Street, joined in by opening their trunks to fill treat bags: Exchange Bank, HOMEBANK, Jones Construction, Missouri REC, Roland Machinery, United Community Bank and United Community Credit Union. There were also children's games provided for preschoolers by PAT, a pedal pull sponsored by B&S Insurance which drew over 80 active youngsters, a basket throw to appeal

to older kids run by Farmers Mutual, and more activities with Palmyra United Methodist Church. Children's author Kelly Milner Halls was at the Palmyra Library and brought some of her friends from her book, *Ghostly Evidence*. A vendor bounce house and carnival games offered even more choices. Kindergarten and 2nd grade art was on display in businesses, and windows were painted throughout town by Palmyra High School students!

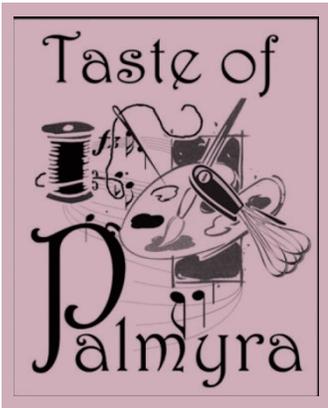
The Antique Tractor Show sponsored by B&S Insurance and the Antique/Classic Car Show sponsored by Bud's Paint & Body Shop brought a number of exhibitors and a lot of "lookers." Of the eighteen entries, Pat Barnes won the award for Sexiest Tractor. Meredith Witt won Best of Show with a 1948 IH MV; Don Porter, 1st Place with a 1953 Oliver 99, and Danny Perry, 2nd place with a 1952 John Deere G. Craig Foster won the \$100 and People's Choice Award in the Car Show with his 1959 International 190. With 27 total entries, the top five winners were Ferris Stenemeyer - 1962 Olds Starfire, Jack Sill - 1950 Ford F2, Dale Jones - 1936 Chrysler Airstream C8, Ken Crawford - 1950 Ford F-1, and Scott Boyer - 1970 Chevy C10.

The Entertainment Stages drew their fair share of spectators as well. Entertainment included Judge Rachel Bringer Shepherd, the Mission Hillers, the Palmyra High School Pom Pon Squad, the Palmyra United Methodist Church Praise Band, and Burnt Toast featuring Zach Lewis, John Fohey and Kelton Wilt. Away from the action, but also drawing its share of interested individuals, was the Old Marion County Jail. Heritage Seekers were on hand to hear locals' stories and memories of the jail and give impromptu tours when asked.

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Taste of
Palmyra



2014

First year vendor Erin Johnson responded to our Facebook poll and had this to say, "It was an awesome experience! Michelle Merkel was so helpful and even came around to check on me. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for all their hard work and for making this newcomer's experience a great one!" Veteran vendor, Mary Schaible, also loves this event, "Thank you for the opportunity to set up my crafts in our hometown."

It seems to be getting bigger and better! We heard this from Palmyra resident Ellen Taylor and several others. "We always enjoy the event. It was so crowded (great turnout!). Maybe you should add another block or side street." Come back next October to find out!



It was a great night! Perfect weather and huge crowds filled the Palmyra streets.



Author Kelly Milner Halls with a Ghostly admirer.



Kurt Hillman, Stage MC and Taste Committee Member.



Sheila Scholl trying out a turkey leg from the Booster Club booth.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHAMBER EVENT

The band, Burnt Toast, performed for a crowd.

Antique tractors lined the courthouse square.



The PHS Pom Squad performed.



Rachel Bringer Shepherd delighted the audience with her musical talents.

Fair Queens: Destiny Reed, Amanda Lewis, and Madison Cardwell.



SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR AT THE T.O.P.

Chamber Briefs...

MARION COUNTY FAIR UPDATE

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting at the VFW Hall Tuesday, October 14. President Michelle Merkel welcomed everyone including FBLA members Hailey Fohey and Hannah Lochman.

The Taste of Palmyra Planning Committee has been working hard to make this year's event more successful than ever. Ginny Kuntemeyer has volunteered to chair the Christmas in Palmyra Committee and Jerri Johnston of United Community Credit Union has already agreed to help. Anyone interested in joining the Christmas in Palmyra Committee may contact Ginny or President Merkel.

Because of Veteran's Day, the November Chamber Monthly Meeting will be moving to Wednesday, November 12. Eddie Bogue, Chief of the Palmyra Police Department, will speak about the need for a new police station. The public is invited.

January 8, 2015 will be the date for the Annual Chamber Banquet Meeting. Nominations for the following awards are being solicited and should be sent to the Chamber office (P.O. Box 446, Palmyra, MO 63461; palmyrachamber@gmail.com): Citizen of the Year, Educator of the Year, Paint Brush Award, Volunteer of the Year, and the Business Hall of Fame. The Paint Brush Award is for a business that has really improved its looks and added that "something extra" to our community. Nominations for Educator of the Year don't have to be for a teacher but may be for any individual who positively guides youth or trains others. Nomination letters should not only explain why a person is qualified but also contain a brief history of an individual's work background and involvement in civic and social organizations. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, December 17.

The VFW will be putting up new flags next Spring and is accepting donations for replacements.

Chamber members and Fair chairpersons, Michele and Randy Hopson, presented a brief update on the 2014 Marion County Fair and Fall Festival. "We had a hugely successful year," said Randy. "We couldn't have asked for better weather. It was a time of fellowship and community." The Marion County Fair is ranked 5th in the state with regard to size. The Hopsons credited organizations, the park district and the city working together with the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce and individuals for the achievement of such a high level of success. They thanked Doug Meyers, Parks & Recreation Director for coordination efforts, 4H for cleaning, and Larry Kaden and the Old Iron Club for transporting Fair visitors to and from remote parking sites. The additional seating in the Arena purchased just this year by the Palmyra Jaycees, Palmyra Young Farmers and the Chamber was completely filled for the Demolition Derby.

Most Marion County Fair committee chairs plan to return next year, but an extra individual will be needed to serve on the Queen Contest Committee. The Hopsons have chaired the event the past four years and plan on doing so again in 2015. They welcome any newcomers who would like to "learn the ropes" and move into that leadership position in the future. They are open to ideas to making the Marion County Fair bigger and better.

ANNUAL CHAMBER AWARDS

The Chamber wants your nominations for the following awards: Citizen of the Year, Educator of the Year, Paint Brush Award, Volunteer of the Year, and the Business Hall of Fame. The Paint Brush Award is for a business that has really improved its looks and added that "something extra" to our community. Nominations for Educator of the Year don't have to be for a teacher but may be for any individual who positively guides youth or trains others. Nomination letters should not only explain why a person is qualified but also contain a brief history of an individual's work background and involvement in civic and social organizations. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, December 17. Send your nominations to the Chamber office at P.O. Box 446, Palmyra, MO 63461 or palmyrachamber@gmail.com.

Welcome to new Chamber Member

Wil-Do Deals had a frightfully memorable Chamber ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 31. The business at 120 West Main Cross in Palmyra is owned and operated by Doug and Ashley Drebenstedt. The couple buy, sell and trade furniture, electronics, appliances and more. Visit them at the store or on Facebook at Wil-Do Deals to view some of what they have to offer.

upcoming events CALENDAR

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Savings Time Ends; at 2 a.m. turn your clocks back to 1 a.m.

Tuesday, November 4
Election Day

Saturday, November 8
BLP Holiday Gift Show

Palmyra High School, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 9
Veterans Brick Ceremony

Marion County Courthouse Lawn 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 11
Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 27
Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015
Annual Chamber Meeting

WANTED:

Elves to assist Ginny Kuntemeyer of the Old Stone House Inn in organizing Christmas in Palmyra 2014! Jerri Johnston with United Community Credit Union has already agreed to help make the event a success. Please add your talents to the Committee by contacting President Merkel at HOMEBANK (573.769.2001) or the Chamber Office (573.769.0777; palmyrachamber@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Wed. Nov. 12, 2014 • VFW Hall

(Note date change due to Veteran's Day Holiday)

Guest Speaker: Eddie Bogue, Chief of Police of the Palmyra Police Department will speak about the need for a new police station. The public is invited.

Tues. Dec. 9, 2014 • VFW Hall

Guest Speaker: Chris Hull, Officer in Charge of the Palmyra Post Office, will present a program on Every Door Direct Mail and how it can help your business. The public is invited.

Thursday, January 8, 2015

*Annual Chamber Meeting & Banquet
Social - 6 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m.*

Msgsr. Farischon Hall

Chamber Email Address:
palmyrachamber@gmail.com

 Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce