



Palmyra Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

Your Daily Dose is Served...

FEATURED CHAMBER BUSINESS

PALMYRA PARKS & RECREATION

Palmyra's first established community park was the city park a half block northwest of the Marion County Courthouse Square on Main Cross Street. The Palmyra Women's Civic League undertook the project to beautify and establish the site as a historical park and to mark it as the site of the Big Spring where in 1818 the first log cabin was built by Mr. Benjamin Van Landingham.

On May 14, 1968, the Palmyra Jaycees broke ground on a recreation and natural park facility. At the time, the site at the north end of Breckenridge Avenue under development consisted of 13 acres with plans for expansion to 80 acres in a few short years. This is what became known as Flower City Park.

Flower City Park has grown with the support of the Palmyra community and surrounding area and the help of generous donations from individuals and local organizations. It now encompasses almost 300 acres. Grants from the Department of Natural Resources, the Marion County Health Department and Home Health Agency, and the Missouri Department of Conservation have also enabled growth and improvements to the park. The fairgrounds became a part of Flower City Park in the 90's with the establishment of the Parks and Recreation Board.

In 2007, the park again expanded north and east nearly 200 acres through a generous gift of the J.W. Well family, and Well Nature Park was added to the community's park system. A road near the swimming pool in Flower City Park leads to a Nature Trail, Well Lake, a shelter house, a 4-H shooting range, and Akerson Access on the North River. From here, fishing, kayaking and canoeing are all options.

Recently, the Palmyra Parks & Recreation Department added another non-adjacent park to its acreage. Retired Palmyra veterinarian and former Marion County commissioner Eugene "Doc" Hinds and his family donated



10 acres on the northeast side of town, near the intersection of U.S. 61 and MO 168 in December, 2013. Hinds Park will feature walking trails and a public playground in a part of town that lacks one.

Palmyra Parks & Recreation Director Doug Meyers shared some of the wide variety of events, and activities available. Perhaps one of the most noticeable summer activities is the large number of ball tournaments held at Flower City Park. Palmyra R-1 School District utilizes the ball fields in the park, and recreational and competitive baseball and softball are also offered. "Our facilities began to bring in competitive leagues in 2008. It really took off, and we're now turning tournaments away. We draw leagues from Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. They even come on week nights to play." Of course, visitors buy food and gas and shop in Palmyra. The Lucille Foster family has donated \$50,000 to build a new ballfield, which Meyers sees as helping tournament play

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**Doug Meyers, Director
Palmyra Parks & Recreation**

grow a lot. Ground for the new field has been broken, and it is hoped that work will be completed in time for play next season. The Boys Field is also undergoing renovation and more parking is planned to accommodate parking for games. Businesses can advertise on signage posted around the ballfields; contact Parks & Rec for details.

Flower City Park has more to offer in addition to its ball fields! The 5,500 square foot Sesquicentennial Building in

Flower City Park may be rented for wedding receptions, banquets, or company functions. Palmyra Parks & Recreation will also rent the outdoor arena with bleacher seating, the Saddle Club building, historic Floral Hall, the large livestock barns, and the midway area. Recreational rentals also include the large swimming pool for parties in the evening or Saturday morning.

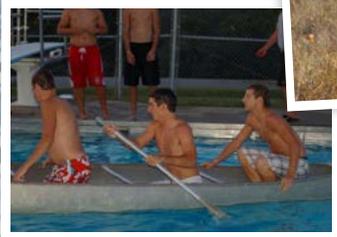
Shelter houses for family picnics or reunions may be reserved for a small fee. Flower City Park features five large shelters. Three have water, electricity, and playground equipment nearby, and close access to restrooms. All reservations and rentals can be made by contacting the Palmyra Parks & Recreation Office in the Sesquicentennial Building.

Palmyra Community Pool, opened in 1992, is located in Flower City Park. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, it offers a respite from the summer heat...and swimming lessons! An 18-Hole Disc Golf Course with concrete pads is available for enthusiasts of the sport. Meyers shared that it is used daily in fair weather and gets a lot of weekend use from out-of-town players who praise it for its level of difficulty. The park features a number of walking trails. Some are on paved/graveled roadways and some are through meadows and wooded areas. Trails are open to walkers, hikers, and non-motorized bikes all year-round. "Bikers have made some of these into mountain bike trails," shared Meyers. Flower City Park is even known in the geo-caching world: á real-world outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices; there are three geocaches (containers) hidden in our park! You can plan your outdoor wedding at Flower City Park or plant a tree as a living memorial or in honor of a special occasion.

Palmyra Parks & Recreation hosts several events throughout the year and provides a venue for many others: the Daddy-Daughter Dance in February, the Easter Egg Hunt, Mommy-Son Night in Spring, Youth Soccer, Sand Volleyball, Cardio Tennis, Summer Boot Camp, Zumba, the Palmyra Chamber of Commerce's Independence Day Fireworks' Display, the Marion County Fair and Palmyra R-1's Cross Country Meets.



2015 Summer Lifeguard Staff



The city's parks and facilities are administered by a nine-member board made up of Palmyra citizens who are appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the City Council, for three year terms. The park is operated through funds generated by rental fees, donations, grants, and a city-wide sales tax. The Parks and Recreation Board meets on the third Monday of each month.

Chamber Briefs...

PALMYRA CHAMBER MEETING

The Palmyra Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting Tuesday, October 13, at HATS. President Rodney Kuntmeyer welcomed Chamber members, Palmyra High School Principal Jared Pontius, newcomer Mason Owen with Exchange Bank, and FBLA members David Bross and Ben Cheffey.

Kuntmeyer updated members on the Taste of Palmyra, chaired by Michelle Merkel. He reminded all to come out and enjoy an evening of fun and food in our hometown on Monday, October 19 from 5 – 9 p.m.

Palmyra Chamber of Commerce Membership Dues for 2016 will be restructured to encourage small businesses to join. Dues for businesses with 1-3 employees will be reduced from \$125 to \$75. All other amounts and categories will remain the same.

The Lieutenant Governor of Missouri's office is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Veterans Service Awards. Nominees must have served or be currently serving in any branch of the US Armed Forces and volunteer 25 hours per year in their communities. The deadline to submit a nomination is October 31. The Chamber has nomination forms or you may download one by searching for 2015 Veterans Service Award Nomination Form at <http://ltgov.mo.gov>.

Nancy Speak will chair Christmas in Palmyra with Heather McChristian as her co-chair. Planning will begin soon. You can help make this holiday event a bigger success by serving on the committee. Contact the Chamber office today!

The guest speaker was Jared Pontius, Palmyra R-1's new high school principal, himself a 1998 Palmyra graduate. "It's interesting to come full circle," shared Pontius, an administrator who "got into education in a roundabout way." Transferring from Truman to Culver-Stockton and then to the University of Missouri, Pontius graduated with a degree in biochemistry. He found himself intrigued by the Missouri Department of Higher Education's commitment to improving education and supporting development of industry in the critical mathematics, engineering, technology, and science (STEM) fields. He found it an eye-opening opportunity to do his student observation and student teaching in larger school districts, respectively Columbia and Moberly. Pontius taught in Van Far before joining the staff at Palmyra R-1 and accrued eleven years classroom experience before taking on his role as an administrator.

Pontius' passion and enthusiasm for his profession are evident. He feels that parental support in the Palmyra community is outstanding. He finds relationships with Palmyra R-1 former principals, under whom he taught, to be invaluable, as well as advice from a mentor principal and his own brother Corey Pontius who is an Elementary School Principal in the South Callaway R-II District. Current challenges include a new set of state standards recently released and the Top 10 by 20 initiative launched by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that aims for student achievement in Missouri to rank among the top 10 states by 2020. "We're slowly getting where we want to be. We're a work in progress."

The next Palmyra Chamber lunch meeting will be held at noon, November 10, at the Old Stone House Inn. Representatives from the Palmyra City Council will present the program, and a tour of the new police department will be available to interested parties after the meeting if the facility is completed by this time. The public is invited.

upcoming events CALENDAR

October 31

Happy Halloween! (Daylight Savings Time Ends. Remember to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed!)

November 11

6 – 8:30 pm: Honoring Our Veterans Banquet & Program, Cornerstone Church of Marion (doors open 5 pm)

November 12

1 pm: Drawings for Thanksgiving Turkeys, \$100 Palmyra Chamber Gift Certificate & \$100 C&R Gift Certificate in Palmyra Spectator Great Turkey Give Away

November 14

10 am – 3pm: BLP Holiday Gift Show, PHS

November 26

Happy Thanksgiving!

January 7

Annual Banquet Meeting

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS YOUR NEXT CHAMBER MEETING IS NOON

Tues. November 10th

Tu. November 10th: Luncheon will be held at the Old Stone House Inn. Our guest speakers will be representatives from the Palmyra City Council.

Tues. December 8th

Luncheon will be held at the Palmyra Nutrition Center. Our guest speaker will be John Hale, the Director of Investor Education in the Securities Division of the Missouri Secretary of State's Office. He will be sharing information on investment fraud.

Chamber Email Address:
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 **Palmyra MO Chamber of Commerce**

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP:

You can always join or renew your Chamber Membership by downloading the application by clicking [here!](#)

You can follow Miss Missouri State Fair 2015, **Destiny Reed** on Facebook by clicking [here](#). Support our local winner!

Best of luck to Raj Kshirsagar on his Budget Inn expansion project! He is adding eleven new rooms to the motel as business has been solid, and he wants to be prepared for Palmyra's bicentennial in 2019. Although Kshirsagar has only owned the Budget Inn for five years, he has done extensive remodeling, and this addition will only make the motel bigger and better. Thank you for your contributions to our community, Raj!

KUDOS!

Palmyra Area Community Betterment (PACB) has found a permanent location for current and future veteran bricks, and work has already begun outside the Marion County Courthouse for their placement. Each year, on a date near Veteran's Day, PACB holds a memorial ceremony to place newly purchased bricks honoring Marion County war veterans. The new location, in a landscaped area around the memorial commemorating the Palmyra massacre, lends itself to expansion and less chance of damage. This year 32 new bricks will be added. What a beautiful tribute.

Hats off to 2011 Palmyra Hall of Fame Award Recipient, Bob Powell, who, with his wife, Keitha, marked 50 years as sole owners and operators of NEMO Cleaners on Main Street! Unfortunately, a medical emergency interfered with their planned 50th year celebration, and Bob is still recuperating. He can't wait to walk through those front doors at 310 S. Main and serve you again. All our best on a complete recovery!