

# Buffalo Area Chamber Of Commerce

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## The Members' Messenger

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### **Character Ed Word For August: *Accountable***

**Cooperation:** subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something; responsible; answerable. **Character Ed** is a Chamber-led community wide initiative working to create a "culture of character" by focusing on a new word each month. **Please include the monthly *Character Ed* word in any media opportunities.**

### **August Meeting At Maple Street Grill**

The August membership meeting for the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce will be **Wednesday, August 06**, at **Maple Street Grill**. The guest speaker will discuss the YMCA project.

The lunch specials for **Wednesday, August 06** will be: (1) **Sliders** ~ 3 sliders -- 2 oz. certified Angus beef patties topped with American cheese, special sauce, onion and pickle on a mini bun, served with fries, plantation beans or slaw. (any other substitutions will be extra) \$6.99, (2) **Summer Lite** ~ mandarin oranges, dried cranberries & mixed greens all tossed in a raspberry vinaigrette and finished with gorgonzola cheese and candied pecans. (add chicken or steak for \$3.00). \$5.99, (3) **Bacon Cheese Burger** ~ 1/2lb. char-broiled burger topped with American cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato, onion and pickle chips, served with fries. \$6.99, (4) **Fettuccine Alfredo with Chicken** ~ fettuccine served with a rich creamy alfredo sauce and topped with a char-broiled chicken breast, served with garlic toast. \$6.99, (5) **Chicken Fried Steak** ~ breaded cube steak, fried and topped with country gravy and served with mashed potatoes and corn and a biscuit. \$6.99. **Please call orders in prior to the meeting for faster service. Maple Street's phone number is 345-5045.**

### **08 ~ 09 Fiscal Year ~ May 01 through April 30 ~ Membership Renewals**

Membership investment renewal requests and information update forms have been sent out. Several have renewed their investment, but approximately half have not. Please take a moment to update your information and send in, or drop off, your investment. The more support the Chamber has, the more we can accomplish in promoting Dallas County businesses. Membership investment amounts are based on the number of employees: 1-10 at \$125, 11-30 at \$150, and more than 31 at \$200. Individuals (non-business), Civic Clubs and Churches are \$50.

### **New Member ~ Fashion Flip Boutique**

**Fashion Flip Boutique**, located at **116 South Cedar** in Buffalo, is a new consignment shop that carries name brand clothing, shoes, designer handbags, furniture and antiques. **The Boutique's** atmosphere is clean and classy with high end items, not high prices. In fact, nothing is priced over \$12.

Owner, **Tammy Billings** says, "With today's economy, it's important to look for value. People paid good money for these items. They're in excellent condition; they're just not worn or used anymore. There's a double benefit here. The owner recycles and earns money for their consignments and the consumer gets name brand items at prices they can afford."

More consignments are needed, especially junior sizes and boys and girls. **Fashion Flip Boutique** also accepts donations and recyclables. Items not used in the **Boutique** are given to homeless shelters throughout the United States.

A Super Sale will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 1 through 3. Everything in the store will be 25% off and items tagged with the #1 will be 50% off. A "**Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting**" is scheduled for Friday, August 08, at noon and Chamber members are invited to enjoy a light lunch during the celebration. For more information, contact **Tammy** at **733-2249** or stop by the store and visit with her while checking it out.

### **Celtic Festival Receives MAC Grant Award**

The Southwest Missouri Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games received a Missouri Arts Council Folk Arts Grant award of \$8,265 for this year's Festival, which will take place on September 5 and 6, 2008, in the Old City Park and Fairgrounds in Buffalo. The grant will help fund Festival expenses of more the \$25,000 for entertainment, advertising and marketing. This year is the 6<sup>th</sup> year for the event, sponsored by the Chamber with support from the Dallas County Betterment Association.

The mission of the Festival is to provide authentic traditional Celtic music, dance and culture to the people of Southwest Missouri, most of whom have Celtic roots, but no outlet to learn and explore those roots. The Festival serves to expand the artistic horizons and to educate the cultural aesthetics for the entire area. Traditional foods will provide a culinary glimpse into Celtic cultures, Clans people will explore ancestries, and

the ancient athletic games, various vendors and demonstrations will round out the experience. The event helps children and adults alike from across the United States by expanding access to the arts by paying recognition to the seven Celtic nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany and Galicia.

Corporate and individual donations are being accepted by the Dallas County Betterment Association and should be earmarked for the Celtic Festival. For more information, contact Kathy Kesler, Executive Director of the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, by telephone at 417-345-2852, by e-mail at [chamber@buffalococ.com](mailto:chamber@buffalococ.com), or by postal mail at P.O. Box 258, Buffalo, MO 65622.

### **New Member ~ Missouri Career Center**

The **Ozark Region Missouri Career Center** is a full service One-Stop Center for business and employment needs. They are part of the Ozark Region Workforce Investment Board. The Ozark Region is comprised of Polk, Dallas, Greene, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney counties in Southwest Missouri.

With locations in Springfield and Branson, they are able to provide an array of services to their customers, both job seekers and businesses. Whether the need is to look for work or find employees, they have a network of partners that will facilitate the process and answer questions.

**Missouri Career Center** can assist job seekers with job search, labor market trends, direct placement, job clubs, and various types of training. Additionally, they collaborate with a variety of partners that offer additional intensive programs and services including Missouri Division of Workforce Development, the City of Springfield Workforce Development Department, AO/Lakes Country Resource Center, Experience Works, Mayors Commission on Human Rights, Vocational Rehabilitation and Parents Fair Share.

For business customers, whether needing qualified job seekers, tax credit information or a location to host a recruitment event, they and assist with a complete Business Services Center. The **Springfield Career Center** hosts a job posting system which showcases a job matching website, [www.missouricareersource.com](http://www.missouricareersource.com) and helps employers find qualified workers and job seekers find suitable employment. [Missouricareersource.com](http://Missouricareersource.com) offers access to Missouri's largest hiring pool of applicants, with a process that includes controls to ensure qualified matches with the skills and experience specified by each employer. A key feature of this system is easy internet access throughout the region. Best of all, this is provided at no cost to the business or the job seeking customers!

**Missouri Career Center's** website is [www.ozarksjobpath.org](http://www.ozarksjobpath.org) which details services and resources and is an excellent way to find up-to-date information about the job clubs, workshops and job fairs in the Ozark Region.

### **Habitat For Humanity Seeking Applicants**

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian housing ministry financed through private donations and utilizing volunteer labor. Their purpose is to build homes with families and sell the houses at no profit and no interest to families who could not otherwise afford a home.

To qualify, applicants must have housing needs, have lived in the area for a year, have a steady income of \$16,000 to \$21,000 per year, be willing to join in programs to learn and practice budgeting, home repair and maintenance, and be willing to participate in meeting their sweat equity hours.

Applications are being accepted and can be picked up at the Dallas County Health Department, OACAC and the New To You store. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested. For more information, contact Habitat For Humanity at 417-345-5086.

### **August Events**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Ice Cream Social – Buffalo United Methodist Church
- 6<sup>th</sup>** Chamber Membership Meeting – Maple Street Grill – Noon – Main Topic, YMCA Project
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting – Fashion Flip Boutique – 116 South Cedar - Buffalo
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>** Fall Co-Ed Soccer Registration – 4 yrs old through 12<sup>th</sup> grade – Call City Hall – 345-2701
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** Rummage Sale & Bake Sale – DAV Hall – 1100 North Maple Street – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup>** Dallas County Shriners Golf Tournament – 8:30 Shotgun Start – Dream Valley Golf Course
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Gospel Sing – Benefit For Heart 2 Heart Ministries – Calvary Chapel Church – 6:30 p.m.

### **September Events**

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Labor Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** Chamber Membership Meeting – Maple Street Grill - Noon
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Celtic Festival Golf Tournament – Dream Valley Golf Course – All Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>** Celtic Festival & Highland Games – Old City Park & Fair Grounds – East Ramsey Street