

Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce

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The Members' Messenger

Volume 66 ~ April, 2009

Character Ed Word For April: Trustworthy

Trustworthy: (1) worthy of trust or confidence, (2) reliable, (3) dependable, (4) ethical. **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.**

April Meeting Will Be At Hip Pocket Pizza

The April membership meeting for the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce will be at **noon** on **Wednesday, April 1, at Hip Pocket Pizza**. This meeting will end the Chamber's 2008-2009 fiscal year and will include the election of officers for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Buffalo City Mayor Jerry Hardesty will speak about the Chamber's role in the community. Dominic Santomassimo, Director, will update everyone on the status of Dallas County's YMCA.

Hip Pocket Pizza specials will include their \$5 (includes drink and tax) Menu: Mini 1 Topping Pizza, Small Taco Salad or Deluxe Grilled Cheese with Bacon and Tomato and choice of Side. Other lunch specials (drink included) are: (1) Turkey Lite Sandwich w/choice of Side - \$5.99, (2) Small Tropical Salad - \$5.79, (3) Chicken Quesadilla - \$6.09, (4) Mini 1 Topping Pizza and Salad - \$6.19. Please call ahead for faster service. **Hip Pocket's phone number is 417-345-8649.**

Business Spotlight ~ Tracy-Lane Insurance

Tracy-Lane Insurance Agency was established in 1907 by William Ransom Tracy. In July of 2007 the agency celebrated a century of doing business in Dallas County. Furthermore, the company is believed to be the first insurance agency in the county.

The agency is currently owned and operated by **Dale and Katie Lane**. They purchased the agency in 1991. Both **Dale and Katie** are life long residents of Dallas County. They are graduates of Buffalo High School and **Dale** graduated from Southwest Missouri State College. **Dale** previously worked at O'Bannon Bank and **Katie** worked at Southwestern Bell. They both enjoyed working with the public so the transition was an easy one for both of them. They're both licensed agents and sell all lines of insurance. They both like the insurance business, but what they enjoy the most is helping their customers with their insurance needs. It's very gratifying to help customers with their claims at a time of loss. It's devastating for a customer to lose their home or be injured in an accident, but it's a great feeling to have them insured properly so they have the coverage when they really need it. **Dale and Katie** take pride in owning and operating a home owned, home town business.

Tracy-Lane Insurance has three other agents. **Beverly Sanderson** has been an employee for 10 years. Beverly does customer service work and writes auto and property insurance. She originally moved here from Kansas City in 1992, but has Dallas County roots. **Lisle Berry** is also a licensed agent in the office. She has lived in the Dallas County area for 20 years. She's new to insurance, but not new to customer service or the business world. She worked at Lakeway Trading Post before joining **Tracy-Lane Insurance**. Lisle is licensed to write auto and property and also does customer service work. **Nathan Lane**, son of **Dale and Katie Lane**, works part time. He is also a licensed agent, but does the outside work of taking pictures and doing inspections. **Judy O'Bannon** has worked part-time in the agency for 6 years. She's originally from Springfield. She worked at SMSU and Green Thumb prior to joining the staff at **Tracy-Lane**. Judy helps manage the customer files and paper flow in the office.

Tracy-Lane Insurance is an independent agency. They write all lines of insurance: auto, home, farm, commercial, annuities, life, health and senior products. As an independent agency, they tailor the best insurance protection at competitive prices. They represent only the finest insurance companies. To the insured, there are many advantages to doing business with independent agents, they can shop your business within their own agency for the best product and the best price.

Business Spotlight - Comfort Inn

Dan and Carey Smith bought the **Comfort Inn** in June of 2008. **Comfort Inn** is scheduled to become an Econo Lodge Inn & Suites in the future, but will maintain the same quality of service. They have wonderful employees that have gone through the transition with them.

Comfort Inn has a meeting room available for small get togethers. They have a saltwater indoor pool and hot tub and an excellent free continental breakfast. When you have company arriving for special events or for the Holidays give them a call. When you need a relaxing break and want to get away for the weekend, give them a call. Call **Comfort Inn** at 345-400 for pricing and for all your hospitality needs, or stop in to see the remodeling that's been done and meet their extraordinary staff.

New Member - Chuck's Drywall & Painting

Chuck Worley has been painting and doing drywall for several years for family and friends. After having heart surgery three years ago, he had trouble finding a job, so he helped an old friend with his home remodeling company. Then **Chuck** decided it was time to start his own business, like he had always wanted. Painting and drywall is something **Chuck** can do himself or he has people that can help whenever he needs them. He can also do it around his church work, as he is also an ordained minister with a small church.

When **Chuck** lived in the Kansas City area, he did jobs that included an apartment complex and houses. Since moving to Dallas County, he has started advertising the business on Ozarksfirst.com, craigslist and yahoo local. He also has pages on myspace, myyearbook and yahoo 360. **Chuck's Drywall & Painting** will be listed in the yellow pages of the phone books that will come out in July.

Chuck's Drywall & Painting is licensed in Buffalo and is insured by **American Family Insurance**. **Chuck** provides warranties for his work, to make his customers feel more comfortable with his services. Contact **Chuck's Drywall and Painting** at 345-9400 or chuckdrywallandpainting@yahoo.com. The web site address is www.myspace.com/chuckdrywallandpainting.

New Member - Saltbox

Launa Still, owner of **Saltbox**, invites everyone to come by, have lunch and browse through the gift shop, which offers a variety of teas, candles, miscellaneous gifts and home décor in keeping with the primitive look. **Saltbox** has one of a kind pictures by local artists and both large and small furniture. The restaurant features a variety of sandwiches, soups, salads and desserts, as well as daily specials and healthy options. Saltbox is open from 9 am to 3 p.m. Sunday through Friday and is closed on Saturdays. Lunch is served from 10:30 am to 2 p.m. **Saltbox** is located at **1126 South Ash** in the Kay Courtyard complex.

New Member Oak Inn

Tom and Colby Hosick are the new owners of **Oak Inn**, formerly known as the Family Inn, located at **901 Apple Drive**, behind Dairy Queen in Buffalo. The rooms have been completely renovated with refrigerator, microwave, 42" flat screen television, orthopedic beds and free WIFI. The exterior of the motel has not been updated yet, but the rooms are a must see. Check out their web site at www.theoakinn.com to get a look at how much the rooms have changed. They guarantee that they have the nicest \$49.95 rooms in the state of Missouri. That \$49.95 covers everyone; there's no extra charge for extra people. Stop by to visit with **Tom and Colby** and their children **Lilly and Trenton** and don't leave without looking inside the rooms.

A **Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting** is scheduled for **Friday, April 10**, from noon to 1:00. Please join us in welcoming **Tom and Colby** and their family to Buffalo and help show them how much we appreciate their investment in the Dallas County economy and our community.

New Member - Quik Cash

Your local **Quik Cash** is proud to be a new member of the Chamber. Manager **Trish Warford** and Customer Service Representative **Melissa Dixon** staff the branch located at **810 South Ash** in Buffalo. **Erin Riddle** is the Area Manager.

Quik Cash is part of QC Holdings, celebrating its 25th year as an industry-leading provider of convenient financial solutions for hard-working Americans. Based in Overland Park, Kansas, and publicly traded on NASDAQ (QCCO), QC delivers short-term consumer loans and other financial solutions through a network of nearly 600 locations in 24 states.

QC's customer-focused culture extends to the company's community outreach, which strives to make a difference in the neighborhoods where employees live and work. It includes programs such as Financial First Aid, a partnership with non-profit organizations to deliver practical financial education workshops to teen parents, working adults, couples organizations and a variety of other low and moderate income audiences.

New Member - Simple*Organized*Sanity

You will soon be seeing a familiar face at the Chamber meetings, but in a new capacity. **Christie Love**, formerly Christie Stuehmer, is rejoining the Chamber as a business owner. In 2007, **Christie** was the representative for Dave Willingham's American Family Insurance office and attended many of the Chamber's activities. She is now pursuing a longtime goal of launching her own professional organization business.

For years, **Christie** has been working on this business as a sidebar to her busy family life. Despite keeping up with three young children, she made time for reading, studying, and volunteering to help friends and family with organizational issues to prepare herself for the right time for her passion to become a full-time career. That time came in the early months of 2009 and the long envisioned company, **Simple*Organized*Sanity**, is now officially open for business and serving the Southwest Missouri area.

In this economy, **Christie** has often been asked if this is the right time and the right market for her business to launch. Her answer is simple; "The market and the economy are the very thing that make this the perfect time. Families and businesses have to learn to get by with less money, less space, and fewer luxuries. To make that mental shift successfully, you must be organized. Getting rid of clutter and making the most of the space you have is now vital to a business or family that have had to place expansion plans on pause. Learning better time-management is critical when every sale and every activity is significantly important for a business's success. My services are needed now, for local businesses and families, more than ever before."

That need is great and well documented by many studies and reports. A 2004 Newsweek article cited, "According to a study conducted by a Boston marketing firm, the average American burns 55 minutes a day, roughly 12 weeks a year, looking for things they know they own but can't find." The cost of disorganization has also been studied for business owners. The Wall Street Journal recently ran a story stating, "Disorganization costs businesses valuable time and money. According to a recent study, the average U.S. executive wastes six weeks, annually, searching for important documents lost in clutter, according to a recent Esselte study. In fact, for an employee who earns \$60,000, that time lost costs the company a staggering \$6,290"

Simple*Organized*Sanity's mission statement is, "Time and energy are limited resources that we want to help you make the most of. We strive, through our services, to help you save time and frustration by helping you get more organized." Business services include helping clients with office organization, paperwork management, time management, staff training, office efficiency, business management organization, and organizational coaching. Residential services include in home organization, garages, storage solutions, home inventories for insurance purposes, photo organization, time management, specialized mom organization classes, organizational coaching, estate organization, relocation and moving, downsizing assistance, and much more. For a comprehensive list and description of services visit www.simpleorganizedsanity.com. **Christie** and her family are excited to be a part of Buffalo and strive to serve it to the best of their abilities. She looks forward to meeting all of her fellow Chamber of Commerce members at upcoming meetings as well as helping you address any organizational concerns that you have. Contact **Simple*Organized*Sanity** at 417-733-2089 or via email at christie@simpleorganizedsanity.com.

Dallas County Fair Sponsorships

The Dallas County Fair & Jr. Livestock Show would not be possible without continual support from the community. Thanks to that support, the Fair Board has added some new buildings in the past two years. This year is no different. They are adding a new restroom and shower facility, which will help those who camp out at the fair grounds with their animals. Consider supporting this year's Fair by making a financial contribution to

the restroom project, sponsoring an award division, volunteering, and by attending the events and activities. For more information or to volunteer your help, call **John Crawford, Fair Board President**, at **417-327-2311**.

Branson Ticket Give Away

Four Branson ticket packages have been donated to help in raising funds for this year's Celtic Festival:

- #1 Dinosaur Museum & Haunted House (2), Veterans Memorial Museum (2), World's Largest Toy Museum (2)
- #2 Titanic Museum (2), Great Passion Play (2), IMAX Theater & Entertainment Complex (2)
- #3 Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theater (2), Branson Variety Theater (2), Wild Animal Safari (4)
- #4 Grand Country Music Hall (2), Dutton Family Theater (2), World's Largest Toy Museum (2)

Tickets for the drawing are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. They are available at the Chamber office and from planning committee members. Winners will be drawn for each of the four packages on June 1.

City Wide Garage Sale

Start planning now for this year's City Wide Garage Sale in Buffalo, which will be June 6. This is an excellent opportunity for not-for-profit, civic and social entities to raise funds. While sales will be held throughout the entire community, a large concentration will be around the courthouse. Those spaces can be reserved for \$10 each through the Chamber office beginning May 4.

Free Advertising Opportunity

The City of Buffalo and the Chamber are working together in promoting a free advertising opportunity for Dallas County businesses on the City's web site, in conjunction with the "**Local Makes Cents**" campaign. The ad listing offered will display the business, explain what is offered, address and hours, etc. Pictures will be allowed, limit of 2 and in .jpg format. No specials, weekly or otherwise, will be published as this is a one time graphic listing and is **free**. Submit listing via email to bmhp.mo@gmail.com with the subject LMC page.

April Events

- 1st Chamber Membership Meeting** – Hip Pocket Pizza – Noon
- 2 – 3 Habitat For Humanity Garage Sale Fundraiser** – O'Bannon Community Center
- 4th Easter Egg Hunt** - Grace Community United Methodist Church - 11:00 a.m.
- 4th PTO Easter Egg Hunt** - Old City Park - East Ramsey Street - 2:00
- 7th Rotary Fish Fry Fundraiser** – Maple Street Grill – 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- 7th Election Day** – Buffalo City Mayor & Aldermen – Dallas County R1 School Board
- 10th Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting** - Oak Inn - 901 Apple Drive (behind Dairy Queen) - Noon
- 12-18 National Telecommunicator Week** – Say Thank You To A Dallas County 911 Emergency Dispatcher!
- 16th Dallas County Betterment Association Meeting** – Maple Street Grill – 11:30 a.m.
- 17-18 Gong Show & Spaghetti Dinner** - Optimist Club Fundraiser - O'Bannon Center - 6:00 p.m.
- 18th YMCA Grand Opening** - North End of Woods Shopping Center
- 18th Relay For Life Trail Ride** – Leadmine Conservation Area – 733-2897
- 21st Dallas County Resource Group Meeting** - Colonial Springs Healthcare Center - 11:30 a.m.

May Events

- 2nd Master Gardeners' Plant Sale** - Save-A-Lot Parking Lot
- 6th Chamber Membership Meeting** – Location TBA
- 10th Mother's Day**
- 15th Buffalo High School Graduation**
- 23rd Relay For Life Garage Sale & Bake Sale** – Lakeside Assembly of God – Pittsburg, MO
- 25th Memorial Day**