

Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce

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The Members' Messenger

Volume 73 ~ November, 2009

Character Ed Word For November: Caring

Caring: (1) liking or regard for, (2) protective, (3) responsible, (4) to feel concern for, (5) to look after, provide for, (6) to feel concern about or interest in. **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.**

November Meeting Hosted By Coffee Buzz

The November membership meeting for the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce will be at **noon on Wednesday, November 4, at Coffee Buzz**. Wes Powell, Legal Advocate Volunteer for COPE, will be the guest speaker. **Coffee Buzz** (formerly Saltbox) is located at **1126 South Ash (Hwy 65)** in Buffalo, in the Kay Courtyard complex. The lunch special will be their Spicy Chicken Pannini (chicken breast, provolone cheese, tomato and onion with chipotle spread on toasted flatbread), served with choice of pasta salad, side salad, chips, cottage cheese or soup for \$5.95. The phone number for **Coffee Buzz** is **417-345-7667**. Please call orders in prior to the meeting for faster service.

Toys For Tots & Motorcycle Toy Run

The 2009 Dallas County Toys for Tots (DCTT) program is underway. The date for families to call for their appointments to register their families has been set, and a local business has started the ball rolling with a generous donation of toys.

Judy Hargis, OACAC Neighborhood Center Supervisor, says families may start calling 417-345-7964 on Monday, November 2nd to make their appointments to register to receive DCTT's help with toys for their children. Families are reminded that it is important to keep the appointment and to bring all the necessary documentation. That includes a social security card for each and every member of the family, proof of income and proof of expenses. Hargis stresses that those things are essential for filling out the application. She says, "If you don't bring everything the first time, you will have to make another appointment. If you don't keep an appointment, you go to the end of the line." The "first-to-register-first-to-shop" policy, which has worked so well in the past, will continue to be the rule again this year. It rewards those who follow the guidelines by letting them shop first, when the selection of toys is best.

Hargis reminds everyone that this is not an OACAC program. It is a community-based program that depends on volunteers. And volunteers are needed for the registration process. Hargis invites anyone who can spare a day or two a week and would like to help, to please call her for more information.

Buffalo's Dollar General Store has donated 9 boxes of toys with a value of nearly \$500. Store manager, Tammy Sims, says, "We'll continue to encourage people to put toys in the Marines' barrel, and to help them select toys that fit DCTT's value ranges." Local businesses have been very supportive in the past, planning activities that helped to bring in the money to buy the toys. Look for more information as they come on board with ideas for this year.

The **10th Annual Motorcycle Toy Run** will be held on **November 22nd**, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, at the DAV building on North Maple Street in Buffalo. Riders say that the homemade chili and desserts have earned a good reputation for Dallas County. If the weather cooperates, there could be as many as 250 bikes. Volunteers are needed for this event, too.

DCTT organizers are confident that the community's support will be there again this year, so that Dallas County kids who would have had little or nothing to look forward to, will instead, be assured of gifts at Christmas. Last year DCTT, with everyone's help, provided for 502 children, an 38% increase over the previous year. Volunteers are always needed, and there's plenty of work to go around. Please call **Jennifer Berry at 345-7785** or **Rosie Troutman at 345-2080** for more information or to volunteer.

Veterans Parade ~ November 14

Dallas County Sheriff's Posse will again coordinate this year's Veterans Parade, which will be held on Saturday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. Line-up for the parade will begin at 8 a.m. in the Superior Gear Box parking lot. All entries that wish to be judged must be in place and ready to be judged by 9:00. The parade will follow the same route as last year. **Judges are still needed.** To volunteer, call the **Chamber Office at 417-345-2852**.

YMCA Update

Dallas County YMCA will have several new programs starting in November. One is for parents interested in coaching basketball, either for the city or the YMCA. The city and the YMCA will both have basketball programs starting this January, so this program is geared for new or return coaches interested in learning something new for the new season. The best news yet is, the class will be FREE! The second program is for kids interested in improving their basketball skills for the new season or just the winter pickup games. The cost is \$5 and will be taught by several SBU students.

Group exercise classes will start November 16. **Cardio Mix** will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. This is a high energy, fat-burning workout incorporating traditional high and low impact moves with athletic aerobic movements. **Core Challenge** will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. These exercises will work the entire abdominal area, building muscles while developing core strength. **Tai Chi** will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Tai Chi strengthens and relaxes the body, relieves mental stress and physical tension, greatly increases body awareness and balance

and is an amazingly effective exercise for better health. Activity cards can be purchased at the YMCA for \$25 and can be used at any class. Pre-registration is recommended. Walk-ins are always welcome, but space is limited.

For more information about the YMCA and their programs call **Dominic Santomassimo, Center Director, at 345-1116** or by e-mail at dsantomassimo@dallascoymca.org.

“Bison Bits” - Dallas County R-1 Schools Update

Have questions for Dallas County Schools administration? Contact the Chamber office via e-mail at chamber@buffalococ.com or by telephone at 417-345-2852. The answers will be included in upcoming newsletters. Questions will remain anonymous.

Question: “I notice that the Bison sport scores are rarely included on the Springfield News-Leader sports page. I recall that the News-Leader staff implemented a new policy on reporting event results and has frequently reminded coaches to take the necessary steps to get signed up. For some reason, apparently Buffalo has declined to participate. Why?”

Answer: The first thing we would like to express is our appreciation for concern about the media coverage that Buffalo schools receive. We feel the same way and want nothing more than for our kids and our school district to receive as much media coverage as possible.

About two years ago the Springfield News-Leader was bought by a large, outside company. High School sports coverage began to change almost immediately in this area. The reason for this is because the News-Leader is no longer locally owned. Articles about local teams and even the number of simple box scores began to drop off drastically. The News-Leader did put a website in place but it is not an efficient system for reporting the volume of scores on a nightly basis. We attended the training sessions for their website. Then, we had training sessions of our own to show our people how to use the system. But, when trying to use their system it would either take so long to download (sometimes up to 45 minutes) that you missed the deadline, or if you were one of the lucky ones that got online in time and got your material into their website, many times it still would not show up in the paper the next day. Schools across the entire southwest Missouri area were experiencing the same problems. We had several meetings at the regional level with the News-Leader. Each school was having the same types of problems with their website yet the schools were told that they weren't doing it right or it must be the computers at each respective school. After several meetings and several failed attempts to work with the News-Leader the Central Ozark Conference decided to boycott the News-Leader and pursue a different avenue of coverage. A formal letter was sent from the COC schools to the News-Leader to inform them of the COC's intent. At the present time we are pursuing a COC website through the Branson newspaper: this website would be data driven and would be available in a timely manner for all the schools and activities involved.

2010-2011 Official Dallas County Map

At last publication, the Chamber produced 5000 copies of the official Dallas County map that were distributed through all of the City and County offices, Dallas County 911, the Chamber office, and included in information packets that have been mailed to across the United States. Volunteer firefighters, medical responders and ambulance personnel also use them when responding to emergencies. It is time to produce an update.

Rebecca Lynch Thompson, previously employed by Bryant Business Graphics, is currently contacting local with this advertising opportunity. Ad costs will remain the same. For more information, contact the Chamber office.

November Events

- 3rd Rotary Fish Dinner - 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. - Maple Street Grill**
- Project Graduation Donkey Basketball Game & Chili Supper - Buffalo High School - 5:00 Dinner - 7:00 Game**
- 4th Chamber Membership Meeting - Coffee Buzz - Noon**
- 5th 1st Christian Church Chili & Soup Luncheon - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- 5 - 7 Calvary Chapel Church Wide Garage Sale - 8 to 5 Thursday & Friday - 8 to Noon Saturday**
- 7th Community Craft Show - O'Bannon Community Center - Contact: Vicky Stepp - 345-7006**
- Grace Community United Methodist Church Chili Dinner - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**
- 7 - 8 Buffalo Rural Fire Department Turkey Shoot - 10 to 4 Saturday - 12:30 to 4 Sunday**
- 11th Veterans Day - Celebrate Our Freedoms - Honor A Veteran**
- 13-14 Optimist Club Dinner Theater - 6:00 p.m. - O'Bannon Center**
- 14th Veterans Day Parade - Line Up 8:00 - Kick Off 10:00**
- 26th Optimist Club & Habitat For Humanity Community Thanksgiving Dinner - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Maple Street Grill**
- 29th Buffalo United Methodist Church Soup & Chili Luncheon & Bake Sale - Noon to 2:00**

December Events

- 2nd Chamber Membership Meeting - Maple Street Grill - Noon**
- 5th Relay For Life Chili Cook-Off - Location TBA**
- 12th Buffalo Christmas Parade - 10:00 a.m.**
- 16th Toys For Tots Distribution**