



Clay Center Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Clay Center Area Chamber of Commerce is to work in partnership with businesses and professionals to build a healthy economy and improve the quality of life.

Shop Local

62 Years - January - February 2010

M O V I N G F O R W A R D

CLAY CENTER AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Moving Forward

Beginning year 62 and we are Moving Forward. Last year the Chamber's theme was "A New Chapter". Under the direction of Monte Green, we wanted to close the book on the past and begin a new Chapter for the Chamber. In doing so, we set three goals.

- A Clear Vision -
- Increase Communication -
- To Be Inclusive -

We set a clear direction by developing a road map for success. This vision was to educate our board to better understand the services the Chamber provides - The more informed the better they can represent our membership.

Second, our goal was to increase our communication efforts. Many people had asked, "What does the Chamber do?" To accomplish this we began a newsletter, weekly E-News and became more visible in the media. By the end of 2009, we finally put the question to rest.

Last, we wanted to be more inclusive. Our first step was to make a clear effort to represent our name. We are the Clay Center AREA Chamber of Commerce so we began recruiting board members who represented the Clay Center AREA. Janet Clark joined our board to represent Morganville. We have made many

attempts and continue trying to recruit members from Longford, Oak Hill, Green, Wakefield, and Clifton but have not been successful. We also recruited various volunteers to help in Chamber Events. As a result, we re-instituted the Piotique 10K/2Mile Run and we had a successful Chamber Golf Classic. We believe by including more people this will help people understand the impact the Chamber has on our community.

We believe 2009 was very successful and has created the momentum for us to **MOVE FORWARD** in 2010.

The gavel was passed at our Annual Meeting and now Jared Hopper - The Citizens National Bank is taking the helm.

- 2010 GOALS**
- Stay focused -
- Build our Membership -
- Better Service -

Jared has set our 2010 goal to stay focused on our mission. To do this, we will measure everything we do to ensure it falls in line with our mission. While the Chamber would like to be everything for everyone, to be effective, we have to stay true to who we are. This means we will evaluate everything we do by asking "Does this meet the parameters of our mission?" If it doesn't we will remove all things that are not aligned

with our mission. Second, we will build our membership. The membership committee met and found our Chamber membership dues are less than surrounding communities. Nevertheless, we decided to keep our dues where they are and work on recruiting new members. There's an estimated 483 businesses in the Clay Center Area. Despite a scary economic year, the Chamber increased its membership from previous years. We now have 122 members and we know we have more room to grow. Recruiting new members will help share the cost to help us better serve our members.

It is all about service. The chamber has received many accolades about our Shop Local Campaign and its effectiveness. The Department of Revenue reported a 4.81% drop in sales in Clay County from previous years. However, our Chamber members, on the whole, have reported an INCREASE from last year. We believe this is due to the constant efforts to encourage people to Shop Local and more specifically to support our Chamber members.

We are very proud of where we are today and excited about where we are heading. We encourage all of you to join us as we **MOVE FORWARD** in 2010.

MOVING FORWARD



WELCOME OUR 2010 CHAMBER BOARD of DIRECTORS

2010 Officers

Jared Hopper	Chairperson
Greg Richardson	Chair - Elect
Jim Brinkman	Treasurer
Darla Brown	Secretary
Monte Green	Past Chair

2010 New Board Members

Greg Richardson	Hutchinson/Mayrath
Jim Brinkman	Clay County Medical Center
Maria Pfizenmaier	United Bank & Trust
Jessica Herron	Early Head Start
Brandy Younkin	US Cellular

2009 Terming Board Members

Tom Kirchner
Jayson Hood
Chris Matteson
Jill Pfizenmaier

Alicia Beaver	Union State Bank
Jim Brinkman	Clay County Medical Center
Darla Brown	Individual Member
Janet Clark	MasterCarved Memorials
Monte Green	Ryan & Mullin
Jessica Herron	Early Head Start
Jared Hopper	The Citizens National Bank
Jeff Newell	Farm Bureau Financial Services
Maria Pfizenmaier	United Bank & Trust
Greg Richardson	Hutchinson/Mayrath
Jesse Spivey	State Farm Financial Services
Christine Swaim	County
Brandy Younkin	US Cellular

2010 COMMITTEES

A sign of a strong community is measured by the number of volunteers participating in community events. There are many opportunities for people to volunteer. You can help the Chamber by calling 632-5674. We will help you find a place that best fits your interest and time constraints. Here is a list of the Chamber's Events. I am sure we have something that is right up your alley.

- Easter Eggstravaganza
- City-Wide Garage Sale
- Chamber Golf Classic
- Independence Day Celebration
- Piotique Festival
- Piotique Run
- Halloween Howl
- Santa's Visit
- Christmas Promotion

FOUR PEOPLE

This is a story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody
There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

WORKING FOR YOU - OUR MEMBERS!

The Chamber works for YOU, our members and we want to do a better job. As mentioned on page one, our goal is to align everything we do according to our mission. This will free us up so we can dedicate more time and energy to our members

The Chamber for some reason some time in the past became the umbrella of many things. One example is the keeper of available rental property in the Clay Center Area. After speaking to our member Real Estate companies, we agreed to properly align this information under their care. We will continue to list and promote all companies who are members of the Chamber. Other listings can be requested from Barbara Guldner Real Estate and/or Gary Case Realty/Carol Worley. I want to thank Blue Sky Properties and Eleven State LLC, rental property owners who

have recently joined the Chamber.

Another realignment will be the benefit of providing "Certificate of Origination". If your company requires a "Certificate of Origination" and is not a member, we encourage you to join the Chamber.

Imagine how much money you could save with a partner who is committed to making sure your company's name was out there? Imagine someone being able to get information about your company without you being there. Imagine someone constantly reminding shoppers to buy from you, a member of the Chamber. Imagine someone calling to find if you were a member of the Chamber and if so, they want to do business with you. Join the Chamber. For more information, call 632-5674.



Chamber Community Coffee

FEBRUARY

- 3 Chuck Otte, Birding Festival
 - 10 Preston Rook, Trip to Egypt
 - 17 State of the City
 - 24 Community Improvement Foundation
- Sponsors: Eagle Communications and
Clay County Medical Center



MARCH

- 3 Public Utilities
 - 10 Jami Williams, Economic Development
 - 17 Clay County Education Endowment Association
 - 24 Jim Gierhan Clay Center Football Association
 - 31 Clay County Children's Trust
- Sponsors: Clay Center Housing Authority and Clay
County Medical Center



Chamber Community Coffees are every Wednesday beginning at 8:00 AM in the Education Room, Clay County Medical Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and no reservations are necessary. Many people have reported that they have learned so much about the community just by attending. The presenters have all been very informative. The Network Time just before the speaker begins is an opportune time to let the community know what is going on in Clay Center. Business owners, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, community organizers, if you aren't around the table you are missing a huge opportunity to get your message out.

The Chamber Community Coffees would not be possible without our sponsors. Clay County Medical Center provides the location, coffee and materials each week. We could not thank them enough. The donuts are provided by sponsors each month. Thank you Public Utilities Commission, Clay County National Bank, Golden Living Center, US Cellular (2), Citizens National Bank, Long's Ranch & Pet Supply, Heilman Insurance Agency, Braden's Financial Services, City of Clay Center, and Twin Valley Telephone (2) for sponsoring our Chamber Community Coffee.

If you would like to know how to be a Chamber Community Coffee Sponsor, please call 632-5674. Thank you for thinking about the Chamber and Community

**CHAMBER
COMMUNITY COFFEE
SPONSORS**

COUPLE CONNECT - Marriage Retreat

Authentic Connections is pleased to announce a new marriage enrichment opportunity for couples. The Couple Connect Marriage Retreat, led by Amy Wichman, licensed marriage and family therapist, will be held March 12-14, 2010 at Living Water Ranch Camp and Conference Center near Olsburg. Couples attending will have the opportunity to spend a weekend focusing on nurturing their marriages in a peaceful, country setting surrounded by the beautiful Flint Hills overlooking Tuttle Creek Lake. The Couple Connect Marriage Retreat will feature relevant topics for real marriages while offering insights based on research, experience, and scripture. Highlights of the weekend include a romantic candlelight dinner and the "I Still Choose You" culminating event. Private lodging and 6 Meals are included in the \$395/couple registration fee. (Registrations postmarked by February 12 qualify for a \$40 discount.) For more information, to receive a registration packet, or to register by phone; call Amy Wichman at 785-447-2983. Registration form and fee are due by March 1.



Community Events Calendar

LEGISLATIVE COFFEE

February 6
10:00 AM
Education Room, CCMC

FRIENDS OF THE CLAY CENTER LIBRARY

Annual Meeting
Saturday, February 20 - 2:30 PM
Library Community Room



BUSINESS MIXER AFTER HOURS

March 4 - 5:30 PM
Presbyterian Manor

LEGISLATIVE COFFEE

March 27
10:00 AM
Education Room, CCMC

SPRING HEALTH FAIR

March 27
7:00 AM
Covenant Church

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

Leadership Clay Center and The New Comers Dinner

ATTENTION CHAMBER MEMBERS

Let us know the exciting things going on in your world.
The Chamber is here to help you get
the word out!



Clay Center Area
Chamber of Commerce

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Support The Businesses Who Support Clay Center!

A Full House	Clay Center Museum	Ginger's Uptown	Max Weir	Spicer Aircraft
Authentic Connection	Clay County Medical Center	Girton Propane Service, Inc	Mary Weir	State Farm Financial Services
American Pest Management	Clay County National Bank	Golden Living Center	McGee Roofing	Steffen's Floor Covering
Barbara Anderson	Common Ground	Green Team of Clay Center	Meadowlark Hospice	Steve Fox Insurance
Barbara Guldner Real Estate	Community Chamber Orchestra	Hafner Chiropractic	Medicalodge of Clay Center	Subway
Bergstrom's Greenhouses	Country Place Senior Living	Hanson Ford Mercury	Mugler Farms	The Citizens National Bank
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Darla Brown	Heilman Insurance Agency	Neill-Schwensen-Rook Funeral Home	The Clay Gourmet
Blue Sky Properties LLC	Dan Poore	Hess Salvage	Detinger/Lloyd Construction	The Printery
Bluestem Electric Cooperative Inc.	Distinctive Images	Hiesterman Family Eye Care, LLC	Pamida	The Rex Theater
Braden's Financial Services	Donna Long, Attorney	Humana	Patterson Health Mart/Radio Shack	Three Rivers Independent Living
Bruna Implement	Dreams Unlimited Adult Education	Hutchinson-Mayrath	Pawnee Mental Health Services	Thurlow & Associates
Bud's Tire Service	Eagle Communications	Joe Ferguson, DDS	Pizza Hut	Tiffani's Floral Vintage Gardens
C & R Credit Union	Economic & Community Development	KanEquip	Presbyterian Manor	TSI Kansas, Inc.
Cedar Court Motel	Eleven States LLC	Kansas Gas Service	Printz Television Service	Twin Valley Telephone
Central Office Service & Supply	Farm Bureau Insurance, Jeff Newell	KCLY 100.9 FM	Propane Central L.L.C.	Union State Bank
City of Clay Center	Farmer's Union Insurance	Kier's Thriftway	Public Utilities Commission	United Bank & Trust
Clay Center Carnegie Library	Farmway Coop	KJLL--Radio for Life	Ray's Apple Market	US Cellular
Clay Center Floral	Ferguson's Rexall Drug	Kountry Boy Kennel	Reeves & Stoppel, Optometrist	Vern & Susie Swanson
Clay Center Housing Authority	First Baptist Church	Leaving Signs Behind	Republican Valley Title	Wall's True Value
Clay Center Locker	First Presbyterian Church	Leisler Oil Company	Ryan & Mullin, P.A.	Wardcraft Home Store
Clay Center Publishing - Dispatch	Fourth & Pomeroy Associates	Longford Water Company	Shoes Etc...	Wendy's
Clay Center Wesleyah Church	Friday Gang Industries	Long's Ranch & Pet Supply	Sink, Gillmore, and Gordon	Woods & Durham
Clay Counts	Gary Case Realty/Carol Worley	Mary Kay Beauty - Laurisa Condray	Skinner Motor Company	
Clay County Arts Council	Gary & Sally Griffiths	MasterCarved Memorials	Slingsby Insurance	
Clay County Child Care Center, Inc	Gibson's Ace Hardware	Mayo's	Sonic Drive-In	