

April 2004

# Chamber Chatter

Kearney Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 242, Kearney, MO (816) 628-4229

## Changes for Jesse Games Corral?

### **The Chamber Board:**

#### **President:**

Kent Scheible

#### **President Elect:**

Phyllis Strobel

#### **Directors:**

Randy Smith

Joan Updike

Jared Wolters

Joe Wilmes

Beverly Taylor

Dennis Devoy

#### **Treasurer:**

Joe Wilmes

#### **Ex. Officio:**

Eric Hopkins

### **Calendar Of Events**

#### **April**

8 – 4:00-7:00 p.m. – MoDOT Public Hearing on the reconstruction of bridge on Hwy 92. Will be held at City Hall.

29 – 1:00-2:00 p.m. “Mobile Office” Matt Berry, representative from Congressman Sam Grave’s office will be at the Kearney Chamber of Commerce to listen to questions and concerns from the Kearney Community.

#### **May**

8 – 12:00-4:00 Watkins Woolen Mill Spring on the Farm. You can see brick-making, heirloom garden & orchard, taste goodies from the wood stove and many other activities. For more information please call 816-580-3387.

Hello Chamber members, As you know, every year the Kearney Chamber sponsors the Jesse Games Corral - a booth at the Jesse James Festival that provides free toys and games for the children. While this has been enjoyed by many children and parents, we often have trouble obtaining sponsors to help cover the cost of the booth as well as volunteers who can help plan this two-day event. So we are wondering...should we have the booth this year? Or perhaps we should be doing something different? We will be taking a vote today at the Chamber’s General Meeting but you can still make your opinion known should you have not attended! If your vote is No - do you have any other ideas of what the Chamber can do for the children at the Jesse James festival?

If your vote is Yes - would you be willing to be a sponsor (cost: \$25) or be on the Planning Committee for this event?

We appreciate each and every reply we get back...your information is critical to what we will be doing in the coming years.

Remember - it's YOU who makes our Chamber and all our events successful!

Thank you in advance,  
The Jesse Games Committee  
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### **Business of the Month – Performance Truck and SUV**



Our company was formed August 2001, in Kearney's new Innovation Business Park which is behind the Clay-Platte Electric Cooperative. We are a retailer of light truck, Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), and Automobile accessories and equipment. We sell and install all types of interior and exterior aftermarket accessories, trailer hitches and towing equipment, tool boxes, ladder racks, and van storage equipment, tires, shocks, wheels, and Diesel engine performance enhancements.

Linda, my wife of nearly 42 years, and I moved to Kearney in 1997 and live in Jamestown. We grew up and lived in Liberty and the Northland and had friends and relatives in Kearney. Our two children are married and we have two grand-children. Linda's mother, Nancy Stuedle, has lived in the Kearney Senior Citizen's Village for 18 years. Our hobbies are camping in our restored 1977 Airstream travel trailer when we can find time. I am a Charter Member of the Kearney Rotary Club.

After early retiring with 30-years with Kenworth Truck Company in 2001, I decided that at 56 I wasn't ready to quit working. I always dressed up my own pickups, and we always towed a boat or camper. So, we decided our business should be something of our knowledge, interest, and enjoyment.

We wanted our business to be near home and thought being on the fringes of KC would offer opportunity, and it has! We used to think our market was from Liberty to Cameron and from Excelsior Springs to Smithville. But after marketing our business and the KC RV and Farm Shows the past two years, we have found new customers driving 70 - 100 miles for our services. Our next competitor to the North on I-35 is in Des Moines.



Our location in Innovation Park is a bit of a challenge for some to find, but our new 6000 sq. ft. building has proven to be an excellent facility for us. We compensate by advertising in five local newspapers, suppliers list us on their web sites, and we have a billboard on I-35 just south of 92.



Our business is unique in that we have a very diverse consumer group. We cater to the pickup and SUV owners who often use their vehicle as a second car, the contractor who needs to carry tools and ladders, the farmer and ranchers who need grille guards, gooseneck hitches, or those who

# Jesse Games Corral Ballot

Do you think the Chamber should have the Jesse Games Corral again this year?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

\_\_\_\_ I would be willing to be on the Planning Committee for the Jesse Games Corral.

Suggestions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and mail your answer to:

Kearney Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 242  
Kearney, MO 64060

Thank you in advance for your votes and suggestions!

have a need to tow their boat, camper, or utility trailer. We are open 8:00-6:00 Monday - Thursday, Friday 8:00-5:00, and Saturday 8:00-2:00.

##

## UPS Store Holds Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting



The weather was great, we had a great turn-out of Chamber members and many were rewarded with some great door prizes, and the refreshments were delicious! The UPS Store held their ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 24 at 11:00 a.m. If you haven't already done so, please stop in and welcome them to our community and congratulate them on their new business!



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## Kearney Chamber and Rotary to Host Casino Night

The Kearney Chamber of Commerce and the Kearney Rotary Club have teamed up for the first annual Casino Night and Auction. This event will be held Saturday, May 1, 2004, from 6:30 p.m. until???? at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

There will be Black Jack, Craps, Roulette, Beat the Dealer, Mouse Races and Bingo. Food and drinks will be available for purchase and there will also be a silent auction which will begin at 9:15. Advance purchase of tickets is \$10.00 and will be \$15.00 at the door. For Group Sales please contact the Kearney Chamber. Tickets may also be purchased at Kearney Trust Company, Kearney Commercial Bank and Citizens Bank. All proceeds to benefit Scholarship Funds. You must be over 21 to attend. We hope to see you there!

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## Stonehaven Guest House Attends Business Fair 2004

Dave and Jo Fulton (Stonehaven Guest House) attended the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Fair 2004, which was Wednesday, March 24, 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the KCI Expo Center. The purpose of this fair is to encourage business-to-business and business-to-consumer commerce in a festive exposition-style environment.

It provides an innovative approach to help businesses reach new and repeat customers by promoting your products and services face to face. Jo Fulton said Stonehaven Guest House rented 1/2 of an 8' table, made up a display and handed out brochures. Kearney's Platte-Clay Electric also attended. Jo reports that this is a great networking opportunity and they got several good business leads. She encourages other Kearney businesses to look for this event and attend next year. Thank you for the report and picture, Jo!



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## Congressman Graves' Office to Visit Kearney

On Thursday, April 29, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Matthew Berry, a representative from Congressman Sam Graves' office, will be holding a "mobile office" at the Kearney Chamber of Commerce. He'll be here to take back questions and concerns the Kearney community may have. Please mark your calendars and plan on stopping in!

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