

August 2006

Chamber Chatter

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

Volunteers Needed At Festival

The Chamber Board:

President:

Rue Lovett

President Elect:

Joanna Willams

Directors:

Randy Smith

Lisa Bowman

Jared Wolters

Lucinda Butler

Cathy Canterbury

Treasurer:

Joan Updike

Ex. Officio:

Scott Smith

Executive

Director:

Siouxsan Eisen

Calendar of Events

August

5 - 11th annual Kidfest, Lions Park, 10:00-2:00. LifeFlight will land in the park at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Sandi Rogers, Kearney Commercial Bank (816) 628-6050, for more information.

September -

15-17 – Jesse James Festival. Too many activities to list here! Please visit www.jessejamesfestiv.com for a full listing!

As you know the Jesse James Festival is rapidly approaching. This year, the Kearney Chamber of Commerce will NOT be having the Jesse Games Corral. Instead, we will be doing something different and we are in need of volunteers. The Chamber will be working the parking area, collecting the parking fee as you come into the Festival grounds. We need four people in two-hour shifts from about 9:00 am to dusk Saturday and Sunday, and the more volunteers the merrier! If you are able to donate 2 hours of your time it would be greatly appreciated. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at the General Meeting and in case you didn't attend and would like to help, you can call me at the Chamber office at 816-628-4229. Thank you in advance for your help!

##

Business of the Month – David Levaton, Old Church Plaza



1). Tell us how you came to

be the new owner of Old Church Plaza.

I am always looking for commercial real estate. Since moving to Kearney a couple of years ago, I was impressed with the look and tenant mix at OCP. I was in negotiations on another piece of commercial property in Kearney, when my Real Estate agent, Kathy Ousley of Prudential Snook, told me DEW may be interested in selling, but had not officially put the center on the market. I asked her to approach them, and a meeting was set up between Charles Small and myself, soon thereafter a deal was struck.

2). *What are some of your duties as owner of the plaza?*

It's my job to make sure the tenants are happy and are in an environment to give them the maximum opportunity for success. I set and put in place long term strategies or vision for how the center and tenant mix should be to insure we have the right "feel" to those visiting, this includes making sure I optimize traffic flow and exposure to consumers. I also act as property manager of the premises, making sure all our vendors such as landscaping, trash removal etc., are doing their job keeping the plaza in tip top shape. And above all else, I am the rent collector, a dirty job but someone has to do it.

3). *What is your vision for the*

shopping center?

To become, if we are not already, the downtown destination for residents and visitors to Kearney for commercial, retail and restaurant services and products. When you think of going out in Kearney, I want you to think of Old Church Plaza. When you want to eat or shop in Kearney, I want you to think Old Church Plaza. An important part of my vision is the expansion of Old Church Plaza South, into the second phase which was anticipated when the original center was established, insuring that Old Church Plaza will remain synonymous with the best Kearney has to offer.

4). *Please tell us a bit about yourself.*

I was born and raised in Los Angeles, and attended the University of Southern California for both undergrad and graduate school. I travel to Los Angeles every other week to visit my children and check on other properties I own. Besides being an attorney, which now is just a hobby, (actually I have some large clients that refuse to allow me to fully retire from the practice) my focus and

Charity Golf Tournament

The Benedictine Sisters, Queen of Angels Monastery have been providing aid and comfort to those less fortunate in our communities in the Northland for many years. Two of the Sisters' primary responsibilities are managing the Mission Thrift Store and the St. Benedict Food Pantry. The Mission Thrift Store provides clothing, furniture, and other necessary items to those who are poor or who have special needs. The St. Benedict Food Pantry, which opened in March 2005, provides food to many needy families. Both are a small part of their Outreach to the Poor and Hospitality programs. Aside from the Thrift Store and the Food Pantry, the Sisters also financially support four foreign missions. What little time the sisters can spare is also devoted to companionship with the elderly, teaching Vacation Bible School, and Prison Ministry. By supporting the Sisters in the Charity Golf Tournament you support them and the many causes they are devoted to.

Date: September 16, 2006

Where: Excelsior Springs Golf Course

Tee Time: 1:00 p.m., shot gun start

Dinner: 5:00 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Center in Excelsior Springs

Cost: \$125/golfer, \$400/team

For questions about the tournament, hole sponsorship, or registration please call Mike Hand at 816-868-7134.

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passion is real estate investment and development. While practicing law in the 90's, I also owned and operated a multi-unit Midas franchise operation in Los Angeles, my goal was to buy all the real estate under the shops, sell the shops and retain the real estate, collect rent and retire. I achieved that after 11 years of operation, but retirement was short lived, I hated having nothing to do, so I began expanding my commercial property portfolio. While practicing law, I traveled to Kansas City quite a bit, and fell in love with the city, traveling back and forth between here and LA provides me the opportunity to enjoy the best both cities have to offer. I now own two houses in Kearney, in addition to Old Church Plaza and a large farm up north, I'm about as local as a foreigner can get. I was drawn to Kearney for many reasons, but mostly it was because of how being here made me feel, it is a warm city with a rich history that has maintained the integrity of small town values, but is reaching the economy and infrastructure of an emerging destination location.

5). What, if any, office spaces are available and what is their size?

Presently there is only one space available, it is approximately 1200 square feet. Leasing that space is my current project.

6). I noticed your are also

an Attorney At Law. Can you share a bit of what you do at that profession?

I represent large international franchisee associations, as well as large multi-unit individual franchisees, in all aspects of their business relationship, the largest part of which is real estate investment, development and leasing.

##

New Doctor Coming to Excelsior Springs!



Robert Buzard, MD, has announced that Erin Schreier, DO, will be joining him in his medical practice in July 2006.

Dr. Schreier is a graduate of Orrick High School. After graduating from William Jewell College with honors in 1999, Dr. Schreier received her medical degree from the University of Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003. She will complete her residency in Family Practice at Baptist-Lutheran Medical Center, Kansas City, Mo, in June. She joined the Emergency Room staff at Excelsior Springs Medical Center in January 2006.

"We are very excited to have Dr. Schreier join our

medical staff," explains ESMC CEO Sally Nance. "Growing up in the area and being our first female family practice physician in years, I believe gives Dr. Schreier a unique perspective."

Dr. Schreier, her husband, Chris, and stepson, Logan, reside in Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Dr. Schreier's office will be located at 1006 N. Jesse James Rd. in Excelsior Springs, Mo, (816) 630-6722.

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Shop For A Cause

Holiday Helpers, a local not-for profit organization, has joined Macy's Shop for a Cause. Coldwell Banker Glennon-Weber will be selling \$5.00 tickets and the tickets can be used on Saturday, September 16, 2006 for a special day of celebration and savings at Macy's. The tickets can be used for 20% off fashion and accessory items, 10% off furniture and home store items, coupon for \$10 off any one purchase, and an opportunity to register to win a \$500 Macy's shopping spree. All \$5.00 from the sale of the tickets will stay with Holiday Helpers. Tickets sold in the store service departments will be divided among all organizations participating. Call Coldwell Banker Glennon-Weber office for more details. (816) 628-6060. Thank you!

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