

Chamber Chatter

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

McDonalds Sponsors Chamber Breakfast

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 February

4 – First General Meeting of 2004!

March

3 – General Meeting, 12:00-1:00, Knight of Columbus Hall.

17 11:00-1:00 – Teacher's Luncheon. We're always looking for an extra pair of hands to help us as we serve lunch as a "thank you" to our wonderful Kearney teachers. Please contact the Chamber for more information if you'd like to help.

We'd like to thank the Essigs for sponsoring our Chamber Breakfast, which was held this past Tuesday. In spite of the weather, we had a fairly nice turnout and were treated to their newest breakfast – a sausage biscuit! Now you may say there is already a sausage biscuit on their breakfast menu, but nothing like this one! They are one of just a few stores testing out this new biscuit. What is different about it is: it's larger, and the biscuit itself has butter baked right into it. These were all quickly gobbled down by Chamber members and we heartily recommend you visit McDonalds and try one for yourself! Thank you so much for this opportunity and we all had a great time!

##

Business of the Month – Shelter Insurance, Gene Baker



Gene Baker has been an agent for Shelter Insurance since 1969. Actually, he started out as an agent for MFA Insurance. In 1980, MFA changed the name to Shelter Insurance. How did he get started in the business? Gene was working

for Kenworth Truck Company in the 60s. He was at home when two representatives from MFA came to the door. Apparently, he was recommended for the agent position by Bob Rice, a part-time agent for MFA at that time. Bob wanted to continue his job with TWA and to devote more time to his taxidermy business. In 1969 after much discussion and after taking an aptitude test, Gene decided to give it a try. Gene kept his Kenworth job until 1973 when MFA requested that he become a full-time agent.

Gene's first agency was located in the building that now houses Unite—or was formerly the Kearney Library. He moved to various locations, but he built an office on West 3rd Street in 1980. In 1996 he sold that office and moved to his current location at 301 South Jefferson. His office is across the hall from Dr. Reed and Dr. Allman's dental office. He specializes in auto, homeowners, and life insurance.



Gene is assisted by Marcella (Ragsdale) Babcock, a long-time Kearney resident, who works part time filing, answering the phone, and handling other clerical duties. She has worked with Gene for five years, and she also works at Parents Day Out at Chandler Baptist Church. Terry Reno, a retired KHS Business Teacher, has worked

with Gene for three years. She is licensed and has truly enjoyed working with Gene. "I am amazed by how much is involved in the insurance business," she says, "and I'm impressed by Gene's genuine care/concern for his customers." Terry works part time assisting with nearly all computer projects. She likes meeting/assisting former students/parents and particularly likes the flexibility of the hours. Gene has been married to Lora for 43 years, and they have two grown children. They are active members of Kearney First Baptist Church, and Gene has attended Sunday School for 34 years, never missing a Sunday. Lora retired as cafeteria manager from Kearney Elementary School in 2003 and keeps busy cleaning houses. They enjoy attending car shows and attending gospel music concerts. Gene likes to garden and to rebuild older cars— He is currently working on restoring a 1951 Ford Club Coupe and a 1991 S15 GMC Sonoma pickup. As well as the Chamber of Commerce, he is a long-time member of NAIFA—National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. Gene has enjoyed being a part of the Kearney community and sincerely appreciates his loyal customers--He thinks Kearney has been and will continue to be a growing community with a bit of small-town charm. Although retirement sounds wonderful to him, he anticipates remaining with Shelter for several more years. Shelter is indeed encouraging its insureds to raise their deductibles on both home and autos to keep their premium rates down. Life insurance should be a big priority for families with children—Call Gene for information on the

NEW MEMBERS!

The Kearney Chamber of Commerce welcomes the following new members:

The UPS Store

Robert & Sharon Tate
105 S. Jefferson, Suite C-3
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-4UPS
fax: 816-903-4880
Email: store4799@theupsstore.com

First United Methodist Church

Rev. Brad Reed
100 E. 92 Highway
Kearney, MO 64060
816-628-5560
email:
firmethodist@aol.com

Ernzen & Ernzen, CPA

Justin Ernzen
15607 NE 176th
Holt, MO 64048
816-320-2183
fax: 816-320-2183
Email:
jbernzen@lvnworth.com

Tinnen Publishing

Kimberly Mercer
102 E. Maple
Plattsburg, MO 64477
816-539-2111
Fax: 816-539-3530
Email: leader@ccp.com

USA Mortgage

Mike Clewell
105 S. Jefferson, Suite B-6A
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-4872
fax: 816-903-1600
email: mclewell@usa-mortgage.com

ALSO.....

Citizens Bank and Trust is looking forward to its first full year in Kearney. The community has been very receptive to us becoming a local business partner. We have a new line of deposit and loan products that will be introduced in February. With these new products there should be an account to fit any individual's needs. At Citizens Bank and Trust we have the products you need and the service you deserve!

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Junior Life Special for young children. Recently Shelter has started applying a 10 percent Safe Driver Discount on certain rate classes for new insureds with no chargeable accidents and violations in the past 36 months. Shelter's new advertising slogan is "Seek Shelter First." Call Gene today!

##

A New Director of Public Health



The Clay County Public Health Center Board of Trustees announces the selection of Gary E. Zaborac as the new Director of Public Health. As the Health Director, Zaborac will administer a \$5.1 million budget with a staff of 66 employees. Through its nine departments, The Clay County Public Health Center implements population based programs on a daily basis that promote and protect the health and wellness of all Clay County residents. He began his duties on January 2, 2004.

Zaborac said, "My family and I are grateful for the opportunity given to us by the Board of Trustees. We were impressed with all of the resources Clay County has to offer families." Zaborac went on to say, "Today's dynamic public health environment requires a public health department capable of responding to community concerns such as West Nile Virus, SARS, or bioterrorism preparedness and response. The agency must be flexible when handling these types of emerging health issues in addition to managing the day to day responsibilities we have to protect the public's health. The continued economic development and population growth occurring in Clay County increases the challenges we face in accomplishing our mission. I

believe our staff at CCPHC has done an outstanding job. I am looking forward to not only maintaining our existing programs but also developing community partnerships to enhance the services provided to the residents of Clay County" Zaborac has been in public health for more than 19 years. For the last nine years he has served as the Public Health Administrator for the Fulton County Health Department in Canton, Illinois. He holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and a master's degree in Health Services Administration. Zaborac is married and has two children. For more information on The Clay County Public Health Center, please visit our website at www.clayhealth.com.

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Prudential Real Estate Prepares for Change

Eric Hopkins, Broker of Prudential Snook Realtors, has accepted a position with Prudential Carter-Duffey managing their Liberty office. Steve Snook, owner of Prudential Snook, will assume management responsibilities for the Kearney office. "Both the Kearney location and the Liberty location are among the fastest growing in the Prudential Real Estate Network, and the relationship between our companies has always been excellent. Steve and I intend to increase this synergy even further to benefit the Prudential real estate presence in the Northland."

Eric and his family will remain in Kearney, and he intends remain active in the Chamber as well as fulfill his current board position as president ex-officio.

##

Kearney Commercial Bank Announcements

Dave Hinck took the helm as President of the bank effective the first of the year. Bob Kelly announced his retirement effective 12/31/04. He will

continue working at the bank and serve as Chairman of the Board until that time. At retirement, he and his wife plan on moving to Florida and enjoying the good life. He will remain on the bank's Board after his retirement. Also, on January 26, Lisa Bowman joined the bank as a mortgage loan officer. Lisa has several years of mortgage lending experience, most recently with First Horizon.

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H&R Block Employee Promoted

H&R Block is pleased to announce the promotion of Glenna Brush to Office Manager at its Kearney office, effective January 3, 2004. Glenna has served the past year with H&R Block as Tax Specialist at the Excelsior Springs location. "Glenna has demonstrated a tireless commitment to putting the needs of our clients first and working to meet their needs in every way possible," said Jerry Smith, District Manager. "H&R Block is fortunate to have Glenna in her new role."

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Free On-Line Services for Kearney

InfoKwik Free On Line Classified Ads – place your garage sales, sell your car or place your business ads for free. Use the following link to place your ads:

<http://libertymo.com/cgi-bin/suite/classifieds/classifieds.cgi>

InfoKwik Metro Calendar of Events. Let the people know what's happening with your church, club or school. Use the following link to place your events: <http://www.libertymo.com/cgi-bin/suite/calendar/calendar.cgi>

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