

July 2005

Chamber Chatter

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

Kearney Fire & Rescue Receives New Classification

The Chamber Board:

President:

Scott Smith

President Elect:

Rue Lovett

Directors:

Randy Smith

Lisa Bowman

Jared Wolters

Joe Wilmes

Cathy Canterbury

Dennis Devoy

Treasurer:

Joan Updike

Ex. Officio:

Phyllis Strobel

Check out Ingram's Magazine!

In the June issue of Ingram's magazine, one of our own is mentioned! MIDWEST GAME SUPPLY is listed as one of the fastest growing WBE organizations (Women's Business Enterprises). This was their first year, and they were #20 out of 25!

Congratulations to Linda Sohm!!

##

The Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District and the City of Kearney have been notified by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) that effective October 1, 2005 the City's classification is improving from a Class 5 to a Class 4. The city received the Class 5 in April 2003.

This means the community's fire suppression services and the City's water distribution system is improving in the face of the demands of a changing environment. The breakdown for the grading schedule is 10% for receiving and handling of fire alarms, 50% for fire department and 40% for water supply and a divergence factor is applied if there is a difference in the fire department and water supply.

In addition, the rural area of the fire district will improve to a Class 4 that previously received a Class 5 in October of 2004. Since the district's water shuttle in the rural area received a Class 5, the entire district including the rural area will receive the Class 4 water hydrants in the rural area to allow more tanker fill sites will continue to help us improve in upgrading the classifications.

The six additional career personnel that begin with the district in January also contributed to the improved classification, which according to Chief Larry Pratt is an ongoing process to keep up with the growth.

##

Business of the Month – The UPS Store



Tell us all about the UPS Store and all the services you offer.

The UPS Store has been open eighteen months and we think of ourselves as Kearney's full service business center. Although our initial contact with most customers is through our Gold Shield (UPS) shipping services, many are impressed with the wide range of business services that we offer. Our store has two black & white copiers and one color copier. We can fold, staple, punch holes, make booklets and sort your documents on b&w or colored paper up to 11"x 17". We can copy a document or picture from a hard copy or receive/retrieve it from email, a CD, thumb drive, floppy disk, or digital camera card. We can comb bind your project up to 2" thick or laminate from wallet size cards up to 18"x 24" maps. Specialty services include business cards, rubber stamps, copying blueprints, notary services, greeting cards, and office supplies. We also offer mail box services, providing customers with a real street address where they can receive packages from all shippers. It has been and continues to be our goal to provide Kearney with this wide

array of business services and of course our world class customer service.

Our primary shipping means is UPS, but we can provide US Postal Services (stamps, metered mail, letters and packages) and pack and ship freight. Yes, we can get those packages to APO and FPO addresses. Our staff is ready to pack whatever you have to ship. We also maintain a variety of packing & shipping supplies and also moving boxes. We accept "Authorized Return Shipments" and other drop off packages at no charge to customers. Our evening pickup is 5:45PM, so if you have packages outbound please have them here by 5:30PM to insure time for processing. For next day air packages and letters please call us if you are running late. We will make every attempt to accommodate your needs.

Congratulations on publishing the Chamber of Commerce Directory! What will be special about this Sesquicentennial Edition?

The Kearney Museum is letting us use some vintage pictures of Kearney. The map is also being updated. There are more advertisers than last year. And, we want to get more directories in the hands of the public earlier this year. I know that we have given out dozens at our store and citizens really like the booklet. Since we will probably be the first publication with a sesquicentennial theme, there is potentially a lot of attention for the Chamber. For all members and particularly advertisers, this is a chance for people to recognize and shop local businesses.

New Members!

K.C. Nails

Anh-Le
710 Regency Unit #8
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-5200

R.J. Wholesale

Barney Hite
1067 W. Innovation Drive
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-4414 Fax: 816-903-4413
email: bhite816@aol.com

International Beanery

Jennifer Downer
105 S. Jefferson Suite B-7
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-BEAN
email:
Jennifer@internationalbeanery.com
web:
www.internationalbeanery.com

Dollar Discovery

Kim & Tony Abbott
643 W. 92 Highway
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-4386 Fax: 816-902-2200
email: dollar-discovery@uniteone.net

Allstate Insurance Company

Michael A. Hand
710 Regency Drive Ste. 1
Kearney, MO 64060
816-903-2000 Fax: 816-903-2006
email:
a005992@allstate.com
web:
<http://agent.allstate.com/MichaelHand/Welcome/>

Mary Gaull

Prudential Snook, Realtors Associate
178 N. 92 Highway
Kearney, MO 64060
816-628-4830 Fax: 816-628-2755
email:
marygaull@yahoo.com
web: thegaullteam.com

WELCOME!!!!

Why did you decide to open this business in Kearney?

Sharon and I looked at home businesses and franchises for several years trying to find just the right fit for us and for Kearney. When we looked at The UPS Store it was obvious early on that this was going to be the right one. It is a good blend of retail and service, which we both enjoy, and offers many services that customers had been driving out of town for. And Sharon only has to drive five minutes to work. As Kearney continues to grow and we continue to work toward the profitability we hope for we are still convinced that locating in Kearney was a sound business decision.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your staff.

Sharon and I have been married for thirty-five years. I am a retired Marine jet pilot. We both worked full time for Ball's Foods before opening The UPS Store. We have lived in Kearney since 1990 and both of our children graduated from Kearney High School and still live in the area. We presently have two employees. Cheryl Palmer and her husband are long time Kearney residents. Cheryl has been with us since the store opened. Her son Matt graduated from Kearney High School this year. We have been acquainted with our other employee, Marsha Pelter, since shortly after the store opened when she and her husband moved here from Denver and rented a mailbox. She mentioned that she was looking for employment just when we were looking for someone. Both Cheryl and Marsha are great with customers and enjoy helping solve their problems.

Aside from the Directory, what other offers and specials do you currently have?

Our moving boxes and supplies are 15% off until the end of July. We also have a coupon on the register tape at Big-V for color copies, b&w copies, and shipping. We also mailed postcards early in June to Kearney residents for mailbox services, color copies and fax services. We will make the same mailing to Holt, Lawson, and Liberty rural routes in the future.

Has your business benefited from being a Chamber of Commerce member and if so, how?

Being a member of the Chamber of Commerce is always a win-win scenario in our opinion. Each day decisions are made concerning your business. The more informed you are the better these decisions will be. As a Chamber you are not operating in a vacuum, you only need to call other members to find solutions or answers to questions. You get to meet with other business leaders and owners every month to network and prospect, find out what is working and what isn't in the community and listen to great guest speakers. As a new business, talking to members at luncheons about services and getting referrals is just great. You also tend to try and do business with other members when looking for goods and services. As the city grows the Chamber will only get larger and more effective at promoting our city and businesses. The

possibilities are only as limited as our energy!



##

Ribbon Cutting Party!

On Friday, July 1st at 11:00, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at International Beanery, located in the Old Church Plaza. The event was very well-attended and we all enjoyed their delicious coffee, teas and treats. Cake was served by K's Celebrations. Be sure to stop in sometime to tell them congratulations and show your support for this new business!

