

June 2004

Chamber Chatter

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

Fire Department Proposes Levy Increase

The Chamber Board:

President:

Phyllis Strobel

President Elect:

Scott Smith

Directors:

Randy Smith

Joan Updike

Jared Wolters

Joe Wilmes

Beverly Taylor

Dennis Devoy

Treasurer:

Joe Wilmes

Ex. Officio:

Kent Scheible

Calendar Of Events

June

4-5 – Relay for Life in Kearney.

10 – Kearney/Smithville Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament. For details to sign up, please contact Jim Smith at 816-628-6666.

July

3 – Annual Fireworks Celebration, held at the Jesse James Fairgrounds. For more information please contact the Chamber or City Hall.

The Board of Directors of the Kearney Fire and Rescue Protection District unanimously approved at their May 17th meeting, submitting to the voters a \$.25 levy increase on Tuesday, August 3rd. The district established in August of 1990 voted a \$.30 levy for support of the district and a \$.30 levy for providing emergency ambulance service. A \$.03 dispatch levy was approved in April of 2001. The total approved levies of \$.63 has been rolled back to a total of \$.5626 as of August of 2003. The proposed levy increase will be used specifically for the addition of seven career personnel the end of this year and an additional six career personnel the end of 2007. The current career staffing is twelve shift personnel (four per shift) plus a career Chief's position and an administrative assistant. The district has made significant improvements since its beginning utilizing over \$1,800,000 from the general operating levies for capital improvements. The ISO classification has improved from a class 7 to a class 5 inside the city limits, and from a class 9 to a class 7 outside the city limits and is currently undergoing another reevaluation of the rural

area. We hope to have the city reevaluated next spring which the additional personnel will have an impact on this. Alarm responses have increased by an average of 25.7% annually, with the assessed valuation increasing by an average of 21.2% and tax revenue by an average of 17.4%. Overlapping incidents or multiple calls at the same time have increased to 13% this past month. A comparison of comparable districts in the area shows our district 47% below the lowest levy district and with the proposed increase will still be 24% below. The proposed \$.25 levy would be a 4.2% increase on the total tax bill for a city resident, or a 4.7% for a rural resident. A house valued at \$200,000 would increase by \$95 per year or \$.26 a day.

##

Business of the Month – Rich Groves, 21st Century Solutions, Inc.



Pictured are: Left to right: Wendy Moore, Michelle Lane, Dale Ahle (founder, owner and president) and Rich Groves. Not shown: Justin Whedon (graphic artist) and Julie Ahle (co-owner)

Our featured business this month is 21st Century Solutions, a North Kansas City company that helps small businesses and non-profit organizations make best use of the internet with affordable, customized internet solutions.

Rich Groves represents 21st Century Solutions in the Kearney Chamber. The owner, founder and president of 21st Century Solutions is Dale Ahle, Jr. Both Rich and Dale live in Liberty. Rich explains that 21st Century Solutions develops, hosts and maintains web sites ranging from eCommerce web sites to highly interactive web sites to simple display web sites. He said that the solutions they offer help customers increase sales or donations, improve customer service and reduce costs.

21st Century Solutions was founded 10 years ago by Dale Ahle. After several years of providing consultant staffing to major Kansas City firms, 21st Century Solutions changed focus to provide the quality of internet solutions for small businesses that previously could only be afforded by large businesses. They are able to do this because of the innovative methodology called siteLaunch™ developed by Dale Ahle. SiteLaunch™ allows quick and economical development and updates to custom web sites. The cost of

New Members!

The Kearney Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome it's newest member:

Stonegate Products

Mike Dale, General Mgr.
David Chunn, Owner
Mailing: 4621 S. 169
Street Address: 105 W.
Main, Kearney, MO
64060
Phone: 816-628-3472,
Fax: 816-635-3492
Email:
mike@stonegateproducts.com
Web:
www.stonegateproducts.com

Mr. Electric

Deborah Muessig
13205 Jim's Ct.
Smithville, MO 64089
Phone: 816-532-4441
Fax: 816-532-4306
Email:
blmuessig@aol.com
Web:
www.mrelectric.com

WELCOME!!!

And a Special Thank You

...to Kearney Kwik Lube and Carwash, for their GOLD Membership to the Chamber!!!

DO YOU have something you'd like to see in the Chatter? If so, please contact the Chamber at 816-628-4229, or send an email to: kearneychamber@exop.net. Your comments, ideas and suggestions are always welcome!!!

the services are all included in an annual usage fee – including unlimited changes at no extra cost. Details about 21st Century Solutions can be found on their web site www.21cs.com. Clients numbering more than 200 organizations include the Northland Regional Chamber of Commerce, Hillcrest Ministries, Every Day's A Holiday, Cradle to Crayons, Full Features Landscaping and S. R. Smith new home construction.

In addition to his involvement with 21st Century Solutions and the Kearney Chamber Rich Groves is very active as the volunteer president of the William Jewell College alumni association. He is also an avid bicycle rider with Kearney being a frequent destination. His wife, Mavis, is a Parent Educator with the Liberty School District Parents As Teachers program. They have two sons. Jason is an admissions counselor at William Jewell College. Jordan teaches computer applications and personal finance and coaches tennis at Ft Osage High School. All are graduates of William Jewell College.



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More News from Kearney Fire Department!

Our Kearney Fire Department was recognized as Fire Department of the year! Here is a picture of them with our state secretary Captain Monty Thompson with the presentation of two of our code saves being recognized as life saving awards.



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epsi.net Announces Free Giveaway

epsi.net is giving away FREE 3 page websites to anyone needing to get there business on the internet and establish a media presence. No catch, no gimmicks, the only requirement is to host with epsi.net for a period of 1 year. Hosting is only \$29.95 a month and includes a FREE dialup internet account and 3 POP3 email accounts.

Call 816-630-3444 for more information or stop in at 405 S. Thompson, Excelsior Springs just to say hello to Art, Janet and David.

##

And Pictures from our Ribbon Cutting!

Here's a picture from last week's Ribbon Cutting

Ceremony, which we held at RE/MAX Connections on Friday, May 21. Picture are Tim Newman and his family —too cute not to share with everyone! Congratulations!



##

Still Looking for a Leader

The Kearney Chamber of Commerce is still looking for someone who would like to head up the Jesse Games Corral, which we hold at the Jesse James Festival. We provide free games, prizes and candy to all children who come to our Corral. We have lots of volunteers to help out and sponsors, but we are still looking for that "special someone" to help lead meetings and coordinate this event. If you would like to be considered, please contact our new President, Phyllis Strobel (Form-Tech) at 816-628-5221. Thank you!

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