

Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce

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The Members' Messenger

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Character Ed Word For April: Dependable

Dependable: (1) reliable, (2) able to be trusted, (3) deserving of trust or confidence, (4) having a sound character. **Character Ed** is a Chamber-led community wide initiative working to create a "culture of character" by focusing on a new word each month. **Please include the monthly Character Ed word in any media opportunities.**

May Meeting Will Be At Abuelitas

The May membership meeting for the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce will be at **noon** on **Wednesday, May 6**, at **Abuelitas**. **David Gunter**, owner of Gunter Farms near Conway, will be the guest speaker. He will discuss the Mid West Dairy Association and dairy farming in Missouri.

Abuelitas is located at **117 North Cedar Street** in Buffalo, former location of Solid Rock Coffee House. Their phone number is **417-345-4444**.

Business Spotlight ~ Missouri Career Center

The Missouri Career Center is buzzing with activity at their Springfield location, averaging 600 people coming in for services each day. They have over 30 computers with internet access for folks to set up e-mail accounts, search for jobs and apply on line with companies. Their statewide database www.missouricareersource.com is a job matching system in which employers may find qualified workers and job seekers find suitable employment. A key feature of this system is easy internet access throughout the region. Best of all, this is provided at no cost to their business or job seeking customers!

Due to the large number of layoffs in the Ozark Region, the U.S. Department of Labor has approved a National Emergency Grant to assist laid off workers with employment-related services including skills assessments, training and job search assistance. They encourage individuals who qualify under the grant to obtain their GED or seek advanced training. Two companies included in the National Emergency Grant are located in Polk and Dallas County, Tracker Marine and Petit Jean Poultry. According to Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, "This grant will provide access to the employment-related services necessary to transition into occupations in the high-growth industries identified through Missouri's Hot Jobs initiative".

Another exciting program underway at the **Springfield Career Center** (funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) is designed to provide summer jobs for low-income teens and young adults. The Next Generation Jobs Team program will provide on-the-job summer training at companies that offer skilled labor jobs necessary to prepare for the 21st century labor force. Governor Jay Nixon recently visited Springfield and announced the rollout of this Summer Youth Program. While the focus is on "green collar" jobs, all businesses throughout the Ozark Region's seven counties (Dallas, Polk, Green, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney) who are not currently in a "lay-off" status may participate. The Program will pay participants \$7.50 an hour for approximately 320 hours and all associated costs (fringe and workers comprehensive coverage). If a business would like to be considered as a potential worksite for placement of a youth for summer work experience, please register on the website at www.summerjobs.mo.gov. Interested Youth must be ages 16 to 24 and meet income guidelines as well as pass a drug test and background check in certain cases. Youth can complete an online form by registering at www.summerjobs.mo.gov.

Check out the **Career Center's** local website at www.ozarksjobpath.com, which also has more information on this program as well as schedules for free workshops and other information about their wide array of services.

Business Spotlight - Muffler Shop, LLC

Steve Kapica and family, **Tommy and Linda Kapica** opened the **Muffler Shop**, at 1123 South Ash, for business May 1, 2001. Steve has been married to **Desree** for 22 years. She works for Empire Bank in Fair Grove.

Steve not only does custom design mufflers and repairs, but also has a full time mechanic that can do complete computer hood-ups with minor to major repairs. Through the years, **Steve** has added to his business by doing air conditioner service, state safety inspections, oil changes and most recently, two to four wheel alignments.

Steve works with his brother, **Bryon** who has **Eagle Fastlube, LLC**, to service the community through providing excellent caring service and the very best products.

For your car care needs, call **Steve** at **345-7113**.

New Member - Abuelitas

Abuelitas is a family owned and operated restaurant, located at **117 North Cedar Street** in Buffalo. They serve Mexican food at reasonable prices. **Abuelitas** makes their own hot and mild sauce daily. They are extending their menu to include Queso and Guacamole on trial basis.

Abuelitas offers "Choose Your Own Combos" all day, every day, so you can have it your way. They also offer dinner specials with sides, which includes Rice, Refries or Salad after 5:00 pm. Their full menu is also available. Be sure to come in to **Abuelitas** on Thursday and Friday nights to try their special Green Chili Enchiladas or Green Chili Smothered Burritos.

Abuelitas is closed on Saturdays and Sundays, however they will open on Saturdays for special events or private parties, with at least one week's notice. For reservations or information, give them a call at **345-4444**.

New Member - Let's Do Tea

Amanda McGaha has been a Buffalo resident all her life. She has recently joined in a home-based business and is excited to bring you over a hundred different kinds of teas and tea wares as an independent consultant for **Let's Do Tea**. She offers to share the benefits of tea with you and your friends with free tea tasting parties. Hosts will receive a thank you gift with every party, plus half-off and free items based on sales. As an incentive to host a tea party in your home, **Amanda** will provide the freshly-made snacks for you and your guests and will even send out personalized invitations for parties of 7 or more. If you are interested in the tea, but are not so sure about a party, just contact her for a catalog and a personal tea tasting, and don't forget to ask about monthly specials!

Amanda is also looking for anyone who wants to make some extra income to join her in being a consultant. There's a lot of earning potential, as there are no other consultants in the area. Call 417-345-0406 or 417-733-3871 or visit amandamcgaha.letsdotea.org.

New Member - National TV Sales and Rental

National TV Sales and Rental started back in 1986 with its first location in Lebanon, Missouri. Ten years later, the Buffalo location was opened as store #11. As a company, they have gone through a lot of growth in their more than 22 years of operation, averaging approximately one new store opening each year. They now have a total of 17 locations in Missouri.

The Buffalo store has been serving local communities' wants and needs for furniture, appliances and electronics for 13 years. They value their customers as part of their family and base their purchases on customer feedback and desires. Working with and listening to the voice of their customers is what sets them apart.

Early in 2009, the Buffalo location underwent a complete remodel, both inside and out. They have become the "model" store for the company's other locations currently being scheduled for remodels. That being said, they are having a "Weekend Celebration" May 22 and 23. On **May 22** they will have a **Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting**, leading to their Customer Appreciation day on the 23rd.

National TV Sales and Rental, located at 110 South Cedar, invites everyone to join them for the weekend. There will be food, fun, give-a-ways and much more. For more information, call **345-7343**.

Buffalo City Police Department Open House

The City of Buffalo Police Department will hold its 1st Annual Open House on Thursday, May 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. Join them for a tour of the station and visit with officers and staff members. They will also have exhibits, children's' fingerprinting, door prizes and free food and drinks. Donations of non-perishable food items for the local food pantry will be appreciated. Contact the Department at 345-8836 for more information.

Dallas County Career Center

In a continuing effort to keep their promise to develop responsible learners with skill and knowledge to succeed in an ever changing world, the Dallas County Career Center is asking local business people to complete a survey that will help them to improve their educational programs. It is included with this mailing and needs to be **returned by May 7 to the Chamber office**. At the same time, they are sponsoring an Educational Fair on May 6 and May 12 at the Lebanon Career Center for anyone who is unemployed or has considered going back to school.

Branson Ticket Give Away

Four Branson ticket packages have been donated to help in raising funds for this year's Celtic Festival:

- #1 Dinosaur Museum & Haunted House (2), Veterans Memorial Museum (2), World's Largest Toy Museum (2)
- #2 Titanic Museum (2), Great Passion Play (2), IMAX Theater & Entertainment Complex (2)
- #3 Shepherd of the Hills Outdoor Theater (2), Branson Variety Theater (2), Wild Animal Safari (4)
- #4 Grand Country Music Hall (2), Dutton Family Theater (2), World's Largest Toy Museum (2)

Tickets for the drawing are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. They are available at the Chamber office and from planning committee members. Winners will be drawn for each of the four packages on June 1.

May Events

- 2nd Master Gardeners' Plant Sale** - Save-A-Lot Parking Lot
- 6th Chamber Membership Meeting** – Abuelitas, located at 117 North Cedar Street in Buffalo, at noon.
- 10th Mother's Day**
- 15th Buffalo High School Graduation**
- 23rd Relay For Life Garage Sale & Bake Sale** – Lakeside Assembly of God – Pittsburg, MO