

The Business News

April 2005

A Monthly Publication of the Jersey County Business Association

Jerseyville, Illinois

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THE BEAR FACTS

A Message from Larry Bear, Chairperson

We have completed a quarter of the new JCBA year. We have had a very busy three months since starting this year but there are many things in store for the remainder of the year. Some of the upcoming highlights for the next four months will be.

- April – Consumer Fraud Luncheon, Eggs 'N Issues Legislative Breakfast (Rep. Jim Watson), and Business After Hours.
- May – Special Business After Hours with a “South of the Border” theme celebrating Cinco de Mayo (5th of May), and Bailey Brothers Circus (tentatively scheduled).
- June – JCBA Golf Tourney, State Street Blues Festival, Training Workshop (still being planned) and Business After Hours
- July – Business After Hours, and Jersey County Fair Parade.

The above activities and programs do not include the monthly standing committee or special committee meetings. We are not only providing you with varied opportunities for you to involve yourself in but also to bring value to your membership.

We hope you are also enjoying the JCBA Business News each month. We are trying to keep you updated not only with activities we have completed but also upcoming functions as well. The special features of the newsletter such as the “Business of the Month”, New Member listing and Members in the News are intended to see what businesses are joining us in our efforts to improve our business climate and what is going on with their businesses specifically.

Our business community is growing and we are attempting to keep pace and bring to you timely issues that affect our business world. I ask that you get involved. Attend our programs that will improve your business, join us at the Business After Hour socials, keep updated about business issues in Springfield through our e-mailings and join our legislative breakfasts when we feature our state and national legislators.

Most importantly, give us your input. Inform us about issues that affect your business. Give us your constructive criticism about the JCBA. Inform us of programs you feel would be of interest to you and other JCBA members. We are your organization and we want to be responsive to your needs.



On Tuesday, March 29th, C.U.S.D. #100 held a tour for the members of JCBA and Grafton Chamber members of the new Grafton Elementary School. Pictured above in front of the new school sign along Grafton Hills Drive left to right is Grafton Mayor, Richard Mosby, JCBA Chairman Larry Bear, Grafton Chamber member Trudi Allen, C.U.S.D. Board of Education Members John Copley and Paul Rogers and Superintendent of Schools Jim Whiteside.



Consumer Fraud Luncheon April 14

Technology and improved communication has brought on many good opportunities but along with those positive attributes, it has also brought into existence more opportunities for scams and fraudulent activities, especially to consumers.

Consumer fraud is not only happening to the elderly and senior citizens at home but also to people in business.

On Thursday, April 14th, JCBA will be hosting for its members a “Consumer Fraud” Luncheon at Westlake Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. Pat Kelly, from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office in Springfield will be the guest speaker. She will be visiting with us about consumer fraud and what can be done to combat the problem and what we can look for in a consumer fraud operation.

RSVPs are now being taken at the JCBA office by calling 639-JCBA. The member cost is \$11 per plate. Non-members can attend for \$20 per plate. The deadline for reserving a place at the luncheon is Tuesday, April 12th.

Be sure and book a spot by calling the JCBA office to learn more about how to combat this growing critical issue.

WELCOME NEW JCBA MEMBERS!

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New JCBA Committee Formed

A new JCBA committee has been formed and will have its first meeting on Wednesday, April 27th at Noon at the JCBA Conference Room. It is the Economic Development Committee. The purpose of the committee is to involve JCBA members more in the economic development process.

It is important to involve JCBA members in this process and educate them about what economic development is and how it functions. We are hoping to call back to duty some of the old JCBA Board of Directors. Direction and input is key to any economic development process. Attendance and involvement is also very important. The meetings will take place the 4th Wednesday of every month over the noon hour. If you are interested and are willing to give economic development at least one hour a month, please contact the JCBA office at 639-JCBA.

Business After Hours April 21st

Mark your calendars now for the April Business After Hours which will be held at Lauren Abagails Tea Room on Thursday, April 21st beginning at 5pm. The sponsors for this month's BAH are First Bank and Lauren Abagails Tea Room.

Lauren Abagails Tea Room is located on West Highway 16. If you have never been in Yvette's shop, you have missed a rare opportunity. She has many fine gift items and her sense of decoration is amazing. Her culinary ability is worth the trip by itself. Plan to attend.



Members of JCBA and the Grafton Chamber mingled in the foyer of the new Grafton Elementary School on Tuesday evening, March 29th. Superintendent of Schools Jim Whiteside and the Board of Education hosted members of both organizations to a walk through of the new school which will be opened at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year.

Members in the News

Congratulations to **Susie Becker** and **Jenny King** of Jersey State Bank. Susie was recently promoted to the Executive Vice President's position and **Jenny** to the assistant cashiers position. Susie has been with Jersey State Bank for 29 years and is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Graduate School of Banking and Graduate Compliance School. Susie has been very active in Jersey County activities. She is a past president of the Jersey County Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of directors of the Jersey County Economic Development Corporation.



Business After Hours was held at AgriSolutions on Delhi Road on Thursday, March 17th. The next Business After Hours is scheduled for Lauren Abagails Tea Room on Thursday, April 21st from 5 - 7 pm.

Marquette and Joliet Town Hall Meeting Scheduled

A Marquette & Joliet Town Hall Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at Grafton City Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There is no scheduled start time. Anyone may come at any time between those two hours. The purpose is to inform the public about what we are attempting to accomplish and to get input from you about what your thoughts are concerning such a facility.

Your input is not only important but absolutely vital. A facility such as this could be an important tourism asset not only for Jersey County but for Calhoun and Northern Madison County as well.

Please mark your calendar and attend this exciting new venture for regional tourism as well as historical significance. Pass the word to your friends. You do not need to RSVP. We hope to see you at the Grafton City Hall on Tuesday, April 19th.

Eggs 'n Issues Breakfast April 19th

The next Eggs 'N Issues Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 7:30 am at Lauren Abagails Tea Room. The speaker will be Representative Jim Watson. Be sure to RSVP to the JCBA office by calling 639-JCBA. The deadline for registration is Thursday, April 14th. The cost is \$12 per plate.

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ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING

by Brent Thompson

It would appear that heavy politics will again be the measure of the day when it comes to transportation in Illinois. In a recent telephone conversation with Don Miller, Executive Director of Corridor 67, Inc., he stated that it appeared that only highway projects that will be built will be in the immediate Chicago area. That Governor Blagojevich wants more direct input into what highway projects are began and/or not began. Even specific Illinois earmarked projects that will come out of the Federal Transportation Bill to IDOT might go unfunded if the Governor does not personally approve.

We will hear much more from Mr. Miller on Friday, April 1st at our scheduled transportation committee meeting but ultimately the information we receive will be passed along to you as well.

It is my belief that we may again need to make our voices heard in the hallowed halls of the legislature in Springfield and in the

Governor's office. As of now, I am unsure of the method to be used to accomplish those ends but a method will need to be chosen. We will need to band together with Corridor 67, Inc. and ensure that our opinions are heard. As Don stated to me and I strongly agree with him that this issue is not really a highway issue, it is an economic development issue! Without that 4-lane expressway our economic growth, for whatever time it takes to build, will be stymied.

When a method for being heard is chosen and you are asked to participate, please join with us in making your feelings known. Let our legislative leadership know that the political foundation is being shaken and that the people who live along Corridor 67 and who depend upon it for their livelihood does not approve of these political methods.

Please be looking for more information in the very near future!

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



TriCounty Farm Supply

The April, '05 Business of the Month is Tri-County F/S located in Jerseyville at 300 E. County Road. Tri-County F/S specializes in retail farm supplies, energy products and fertilizer, chemicals and seeds for residential and commercial lawn care. The business began in 1929. They can be reached by calling 618/498-5534 or going on to their website at www.tricountyfs.com. Tri-County F/S employees 60 to 80 people depending upon the season. Dave Lewis is the manager and can be reached by e-mailing dlewis@tricountyfs.com. Dave is very active in the Jerseyville Rotary Club as well as JCBA and the Small Business/Ag Committee. Dave stated that the roots of Tri-County F/S is grounded in agriculture but the business is attempting to meet other future needs of area citizens.

Music Festival Meeting

The April Music Festival Meetings are set for Friday, April 15th and April 29th at Noon at the JCBA Conference Room. Anyone interested in assisting with the June 11th Festival is welcome to attend the meetings on April 15 and 29th. Please bring your own sandwich if you wish to eat lunch.



Imo's Pizza now has a new owner, Herm Adams. On Friday, March 4th, the JCBA Ambassadors helped Mr. Adams celebrate his Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting.

Redcoat Review

John Fell

Thirty Ambassadors attended the Business After Hours in February at Mulligans West. Twenty-two Ambassadors attended the "ribbon cutting" for the new owner of Imo's Pizza on March 4th.

A tour of the Melvin Price Lock & Dam in Alton was taken on Thursday, March 17th. The monthly coffee and donut social was held at 518 South Restaurant on March 21st.

The Ambassadors also attended the tour of the new Grafton Elementary School on Tuesday, March 29th.

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APRIL IN JERSEY COUNTY

- April 1**
Fri, Transportation Committee Meeting, 11:30, JCH Classroom
- April 5-8**
Tues - Fri, Illinois Legislature in Session
- April 11**
Mon, Marquette and Joliet Interpretive Center Meeting, Grafton, Illinois
- April 12**
Tues, Small Business/Ag Comm. Meeting, Noon, JCBA Office
- April 12**
Tues, Jville City Commission Meeting, 6:00 p.m., City Hall

- April 12**
Tues, Grafton City Council, 6:30 p.m., Grafton City Hall
- April 12**
Tues, Jersey County Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., County Admin. Building
- April 14**
Thur, Consumer Fraud Luncheon, Westlake Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- April 19**
Tues, Eggs 'N Issues Legislative Breakfast, 7:30am, Lauren Abagails Tea Room

- April 19**
Tues, JCBA Board Meeting, Noon, JCBA Office
- April 19**
Tues, Marquette and Joliet Town Hall Meeting, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Pere Marquette Visitors Center
- April 21**
Thu, Business After Hours, 5:00 p.m., Lauren Abagails Tea Room
- April 22**
Employers Round Table, 11:30 a.m., Location to be determined
- April 26-29**
Tues - Fri, Illinois Legislature in Session

- April 26**
Tues, Membership Committee, Noon, JCBA Office
- April 26**
J'ville City Commission, 6:00 p.m., City Hall
- April 26**
Tues, Grafton City Council, 6:30 p.m., Grafton City Hall
- April 27**
Wed, Economic Development Committee, Noon, JCBA Office
- April 28**
Thur, Education/Health Care Committee, Noon, JCBA Office

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