

The Business News

June 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

Now that school has adjourned for the summer, we think it's time for a JCBA report card, too. We're going to ask what you think of the direction you see our Business Association taking. Brent has developed a three page questionnaire that will take no more than 10 minutes of your time. It will be out early in June and will require just your thoughts, not your name.

We'll tally the returns and bring you a full report at our first Mid-Year Report Luncheon. We're holding this luncheon on Friday, July 29 at 11:30 in the Westlake Clubhouse. JCBA is a member driven organization; it is very important for your Board and Staff to listen to your input about the value you find in the activities of the Association. We'll also have reports from our committee chairpeople and look forward to the exchange.

Surveys are to be returned by July 1st to give us time to tabulate the results.

You hold the key to our continued success. JCBA is your organization, because you fund it with dollars, ideas and time. Help us stay on the right track by attending and participating on July 29.

I look forward to the final six months of my term as your Chairman. Please continue to help us build the Jersey County economy and quality of life through the JCBA!

Larry Bear

"Vision" Report and Responses Available

The Vision for Jersey County Report and Responses are now available on the JCBA website. The report is a two-page summary of the results of almost six months worth of meetings that were held all over Jersey County with many different types of groups, organizations and businesses.

There is also a complete list of individual comments (responses) that were made during each of the meetings as well as those listed on the actual survey.

This survey was recently presented to the Land Use Committee of the Jersey County Board who will, in turn, present the results to the full Jersey County Board.

For those wanting to see the report and responses, please go to www.jcba-il.us. It is downloadable to your computer if you would like to have a copy.

The JCBA Board of Directors and Vision for Jersey County Chairperson Kim Hardin would like to thank the many people who took the time to attend the meetings and fill out the surveys and return them to us.

In approximately 30 to 60 days, JCBA will be discussing with the Land Use Committee of the Jersey County Board how they best might use this information.



2nd Annual State Street Music Festival

On Saturday, June 11th, the 2nd Annual State Street Music Festival will be held. The times are from 3:00 pm until 11:00 pm. Live music will begin at 3:00 pm and will run through the rest of the evening.

There will be no charge for admission although anyone wishing to drink alcoholic beverages will be required to buy a "beer band" for \$1. Food vendors this year will again be Pizza Hut and Mulligans West. Pizza Hut will be serving pizza, breadsticks and cinnamon sticks. Mulligans West will be serving pulled pork (plain and bbq), Chicken kabobs, hot dogs and chips and hamburgers. Both vendors will sell non-alcoholic pepsi products including water and Mulligans West will serve beer.

The band lineup is as follows:

3:00 pm Spell Bound
4:00 pm Blues Project
5:00 pm The Jazz Experience
6:00 pm Eclipse
7:00 pm Free Corndogs
8:00 pm Resurgent
9-10 pm Blues Brothers Other
Brothers

Offsite food and alcohol will not be permitted to be brought on the festival grounds.

To date, the sponsors for this year's event are Hansen Trucking, Jerseyville Wal-Mart Supercenter, Jerseyville Banking Center, Farmers State Bank, Cornerstone Bank, First Bank, Jersey State Bank, GTI, City of Jerseyville, Olin Credit Union, Atlas Credit Union, Fritz Distributing, Pepsi-Cola, Jersey County Star, First Community Bank of Godfrey, Jersey Community Hospital, Jerseyville Taco Bell, Country Companies Ins. - James B. Davis, Scheffel & Company, DeUel Automotive, LPL Financial, Edward Jones - Steve Medford and Paragon Pipecovers, Inc.

Be sure and mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11th. Come join us for an evening filled with music, food and fun!



Supporting Common Sense

by Doug Whitley

JCBA Golf Tourney Set for September 2nd

The JCBA Golf Tourney has been scheduled for Friday, September 2nd at the Westlake Country Club. More information will be forthcoming over the next few months about registration fees, tee-times, etc.

Members in the News

Congratulations to **Joan Kuhl of RE/MAX Country** in Jerseyville. She was recently named to the 100 Percent Club at RE/MAX International's Annual Awards Celebration in St. Louis. The award is for agents who earn commissions of \$100,000 to \$249,000.

June Business After Hours

June Business After Hours will be held on Thursday the 23rd beginning at 5 pm. It will be held at 722 County Road. The sponsors for this month's event are Paslay Coldwell Bankers, McIntyre Contracting, Inc., Jersey County Farm Credit Services and DeSherlia Enterprises. The sponsors are planning on a little different type of food set-up so come and be pleasantly surprised.

Promoting investment and job growth is getting increasingly difficult as Illinois' reputation for a disastrous justice system continues to threaten the state's economy.

New national rankings, recently released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, show that in terms of legal fairness, Illinois is at the bottom of the barrel - ranked 46th, and boasting three of the 15 worst jurisdictions in the country for lawsuit abuse.

This distinction is damaging Illinois' future because of the perception that we condone frivolous lawsuits, questionable standing and encourage class action complaints without much regard for reason and fairness. Our current image is one that welcomes petitioners seeking "deep pockets" by treating the courts like another form of the Illinois Lottery. This has to change. Currently, anyone with a complaint from anywhere in the nation can file a lawsuit in our courts.

Consequently, many people choose to file suit in Illinois because some of our counties are notorious for "friendly" courts that historically confer jackpot awards.

We need court reform - and there is a proposal pending in Springfield that makes a lot of sense.

The proposal, known as the Common Sense Courts Act, is backed by the Coalition for Commonsense Courts, a growing group including the Illinois State Chamber, local chambers of commerce, employers and mayors from across Illinois. Our remedy is simple: require that a case have a real connection with the county where it is filed.

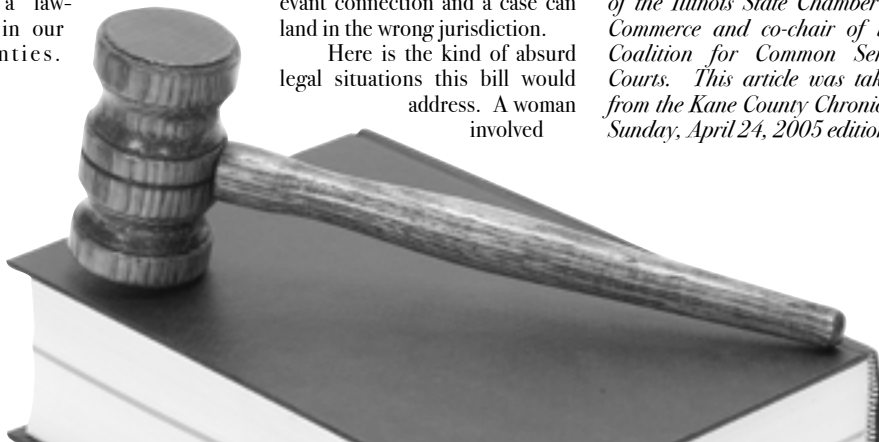
The bill would ease the burden on Illinois courts by requiring that the most significant event or act leading to the lawsuit must have taken place in the county where the suit is filed. Right now, all it takes is any remote or irrelevant connection and a case can land in the wrong jurisdiction.

Here is the kind of absurd legal situations this bill would address. A woman involved

in a lawnmower accident in Michigan brought suit in Illinois even though the lawnmower had been manufactured in South Carolina by a company based in Ohio. So why Illinois? The plaintiff was able to use Illinois' courts because she bought her mower at a Sears store in Michigan, and Sears is headquartered in Illinois.

There are dozens of cases just like it. Just one simple reform will bring common sense to our courts, and send the message that while Illinois stands for justice, it no longer desired to be a magnet for the nation's litigation. Adopting this measure, like many of our neighboring states have already, will make a big difference and send the right signal. Members of the General Assembly should not go home from the capitol without having passed this simple but meaningful reform.

Doug Whitley is the President of the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and co-chair of the Coalition for Common Sense Courts. This article was taken from the Kane County Chronicle, Sunday, April 24, 2005 edition.



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ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING

by Brent Thompson

While I was attending the Grafton Elementary School Dedication on Sunday, May 15th, I had an opportunity to visit with both Senator Demuzio and Representative Watson. Of course, the conversation centered on our efforts to create a new thought process for highway construction on Highway 67 by Governor Blagojevich.

I want to thank everyone who has written a letter to the Governor concerning the siphoning off of highway monies which has taken away our Highway 67 expressway construction for some indefinite period of time.

Immediately following the election of Governor Blagojevich, many political pundits, some from his camp, stated that he very possibly would not have been elected Governor without the support of the Metro East area. I am thinking that the erosion of highway construction dollars and subsequently, the elimination of our Highway 67 road construction process is a strange way of showing appreciation.

It is our responsibility to hold any and all elected officials accountable for their deeds and actions. As voters we ultimately hold the key to their success. They know this and so do we. We get an elected officials attention by saying to them that we are watching and that we might consider and even choose an alternative candidate at the next election.

In essence, your letters are doing that. A second letter for the public to use as an "example" was just printed in the Jersey County Journal. I am asking each of you to continue the letter writing campaign to the Governor. In fact, I am asking you to pick up the pace. If you wrote the first letter, please write another. If you did not write a first, please do so now.

Based upon the comments by both Senator Demuzio and Representative Watson, this letter writing campaign has been successful. They have received many letters from you. Senator Demuzio is even forwarding her letters on to Secretary of Transportation Tim Martin. This campaign has gotten our leaders attention. We need more letters on their desks. Our job is not complete. It has only started. Please stay the course with this project. Show you care about our economic future and quality-of-life.

Again, thanks so very much for your efforts. I hope to write this article in the future and say to each of you who took the time to write that we have accomplished our goal of replacing the construction dollars into the Godfrey-Jerseyville Highway 67 construction project.

Remember that this is not a construction project; it is an economic development project!

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Sinclair Food Mart

The June Business of the Month is Sinclair Food Mart located at 202 Sinclair Drive in Jerseyville. Sinclair Food Mart has been in business since 1940. They expanded to the East store in 1949 and the West store in 1965. They then incorporated to one store in the current location in 1991. The store, which employs 60 employees, not only is a typical grocery store but also contains a bakery as well as a Western Union outlet and a telephone bill payment center. The store also delivers food to senior citizens one day each week. Stanly Sinclair as well as Dave Wittman and Scott Metzler are very active in the community. Stan is a member of the American Legion, Moose, Elks, Marine Corps League and the U-I Alumni Association. Scott coaches football at the high school and Dave coaches basketball at Saint Francis/Holy Ghost and Cory League Summer Baseball. Their phone number is 498-6856 and their e-mail address is sinclairfoods@jerseyville-il.us

WELCOME NEW JCBA MEMBERS!

Twitchell Real Estate, Inc. - Ralph Twitchell
110 E. Exchange, Jerseyville, IL 62052
618/498-2187
618/498-1508 Fax
twitchell@gtec.com

Argus Travel - Joy Bray
519 S. State Street, Jerseyville, IL 62052
639-8888
639-8892 Fax
joyabray@yahoo.com

Reichart/Lash Golf Course - Allen Lash
31832 Delhi Road
Jerseyville, IL 62012



The Cinco de Mayo Business After Hours, sponsored by Los Tres Amigos and The Jersey County Star, was a huge success. The largest crowd of the year for a BAH turned out on Thursday, May 5th for an evening of Mexican music, food and entertainment. Los Tres Amigos and Jersey County Star are both intending to sponsor the Business After Hours again next May. If you missed this one, don't miss next year's.

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JUNE IN JERSEY COUNTY

June 7 – Tues, Jville City
Commission Meeting, 6:00
p.m., Jville City Hall

June 9 - Thur, Women in
Business Comm., Noon, L. A.
Tea Room

June 11 - Sat, 3:00 p.m.,
Annual State Street Music
Festival, North 200 Block of
State Street, Jerseyville

June 14 - Tues, Small Business/
Ag Committee, Noon, JCBA
Conference Room

June 14 - Tues, Grafton City
Council, 6:30 p.m., Grafton City
Hall

June 14 - Tues, Jersey County
Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
County Admin. Building

June 21 - Tues, JCBA Board
Meeting, Noon, JCBA Office

June 21 - Tues, Jville City
Commission Meeting, 6:00
p.m., Jville City Hall

June 22 - Wed, Economic
Development Committee, Noon,
JCBA Office

June 23 - Business After Hours,
5:00 p.m., 722 County Road

June 24-26 - Fri-Sun, Towboat
Festival, 10:00 am, Grafton

June 28 - Tues, Membership
Committee Meeting, Noon, JCBA
Conference Room

June 28 - Tues, Grafton City
County Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Grafton
City Hall

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