

The Business News

September 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

I guess I started thinking about land-use about the time they plopped a huge hog confinement next to a close friend's Centennial Farm. It just didn't seem right that the rights of this longstanding family were compromised by an outside interest. But once the "horse was out of the barn," there just wasn't anything much that they could do but pray that they'd be downwind most of the time.

As you drive around our County, houses are popping up like the white toadstools that now follow our drought. We wonder who's living in all those places. In part, the first three years of this decade saw a 5.5% increase in Jersey County population, with around 200 people moving in per year. I suspect that the next available estimates from the Census Bureau will show this accelerating.

Land use will be occurring whether we plan it or not. My thoughts are that the changes overtaking us might be for the good if we managed them a bit. Issues like comprehensive planning, building permits, land use management and, yes, zoning can be used to advantage the incumbent land owners over the newcomers. Since we're here now, and they are yet to come, only we can make the rules that they will have to play by.

Some rules are offensive, but generally rules are made for a reason. They can make life simpler, because we know the codes of conduct and what to expect from others. If I wrote the land use rules for Jersey County, I'd start with a couple about my place. I want the junk yards and large hog confinement operations next to somebody else, maybe even the next county over. But that's just one guy's view.

So we want to know what you think about land use, too. Our Economic Development arm, JCED, was begun with this issue as one of seven founding principles. Do you still believe it's worth the controversy we know the issue will cause? Please find the JCBA survey on growth issues, fill it out and get it back into the office.



Improving Selling Skills Workshop

On Thursday, September 15th from 9:30 am until 11:30 am, JCBA will be sponsoring a workshop entitled, "Improving Your Selling Skills." The cost for this workshop is \$25 for a JCBA member or \$30 for a non-member. The presenter of the workshop is Jim Magers. Mr. Magers is the past director of the Small Business Development Center at SIUE.

In November, Mr. Magers will also be presenting a workshop entitled, "Channeling Your Marketing Efforts." This workshop is designed to accompany the one in September and is also a 2-hour workshop beginning at 9:30 am. This workshop is priced at \$25 for JCBA members and \$30 for non-members. If you should decide to sign up for both, the workshops are offered at a reduced rate of \$40 or \$50 respectively.

If you are interested, please call the JCBA office at 639-5222 or e-mail ann@jcba-il.us.

Grafton Harbor/Marina a Reality



Mayor Richard Mosby, Sen. Deanna Demuzio, Congressman Lane Evans, Joe DeSherlia, Brent Thompson, Jan DeSherlia, Fr. William Hembrow and Rep. Jim Watson commemorate the occasion at Grafton on Thursday, August 25.

By the time you read this, you will probably already know about the final success of the Grafton Harbor/Marina. This project in terms of time and effort is a fairly typical economic development project. It has taken almost four years to bring this to reality.

Time was the only thing though that was normal about this project. I will tell you though that the journey to success was fraught with some strange circumstances. However, those circumstances are behind the project and it will now become more than conversation. Many of the kudos go to Joe and Jan DeSherlia for never giving up and continuing to move this project forward. Grafton Mayor Richard Mosby whose support and advice was always on the mark, not to mention his leadership. Thanks to the Grafton

see "Marina" on page 2

WELCOME NEW JCBA MEMBERS!

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Business After Hours Sept. 22nd

The September Business After Hours will be sponsored by the Jersey County Journal but it will not be held on the third Thursday as is normal. Instead, it will be held on the fourth Thursday because of a conflict in Jersey County Journal's schedule. It is scheduled for September 22nd, not September 15th. It will begin at 5:00 pm at Westlake Country Club. Mark your calendars to attend.



New teachers pictured left to right - Kelly LeBlanc, Stote Reeder, Doug Zerjal, Maggie Meyer, Misty Eickhoff, Kimberly Spiedel, Gwen Brunaugh and Erica Smith.

Welcome to new CUSD #100 teachers

JCBA for the second year welcomed the new teachers to Jersey County by treating them to lunch at Lauren Abagails Tea Room. The eight new teachers, whose experience range from none to a few years were hosted by several JCBA member businesses. Those new businesses were Edward Jones - Paul Hardin, Cornerstone Bank, Jerseyville Banking Center, Jersey State Bank, RE/MAX, First Bank, Grafton Technologies, Inc., and State Farm Insurance - Denny Ford.

The new teachers names are Kelly LeBlanc, 6th grade at Dow and Grafton Schools; Stote Reeder, math at the high school and coaching; Doug Zerjal, English at the high school; Maggie Meyer, ag teacher at the high school; Misty Eickhoff, special education at East Elementary; Kimberly Spiedel, special education at West Elementary, Gwen Brunaugh, 7th Grade at Illini Middle School, and Erica Smith, family and consumer science at the high school.

Chris Collins, the vice chair for JCBA welcomed the new teachers to Jersey County on behalf of JCBA and Jim Whiteside, Superintendent of Schools and JCBA board member served as master of ceremonies for the event. Also attending was Sherry Droste, President of the Board of Education.



The August Business After Hours was sponsored by Frontier Communications and was held at Westlake Country Club. A very good turnout of close of 100 members were present.

Marina

continued from front

Planning Commission and the Grafton City Council whose support and belief in this project was more than appreciated. A big thanks to Carol Wallace who spent many hours writing and submitting grants on behalf of the City of Grafton and this project. There are many players in this project who deserves some credit in the final success of this project. There are just too many to name them all.

I am firmly convinced that this project will have far reaching positive effects on this county for many years to come. It very possibly could become one of the best dollar generators this county will ever have. It will encourage visitors on the river to stop in Grafton and Jersey County. It will, because of tax advantages, encourage large boat owners from Missouri to slip their boats in Grafton and Jersey County. That benefit alone will create more visitors and time spent by visitors in Jersey County. If people are here for any length of time, they will invariably spend money.

It will add to the tax roles of both Grafton and Jersey County. And, important to JCBA's Mission, it will add permanent and part-time jobs

to the roles in Jersey County.

I cannot tell you how excited I am about the realization of this project. I am glad that JCBA played a role in this important accomplishment. To Joe and Jan DeSherlia, I congratulate you on your success!!

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LENDER



ECONOMICALLY SPEAKING

by Brent Thompson

On Thursday, August 11th, Transportation Chairman Howard Landon and I were fortunate to be asked to attend a transportation meeting in Senator Deanna Demuzio's Carlinville office. Among the attendees were Corridor 67 President Dick Rawlings, Executive Director Don Miller, Representative Jim Watson, Representative Dan Beiser, Senator William Haine, representatives from US Congressman John Shimkus and Senator Barack Obama's offices, Senator Demuzio and Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Tim Martin.

Senator Demuzio scheduled the meeting to see if we could possibly create more emphasis for Corridor 67 projects as well as set timelines for construction in the 5-Year Illinois Road Plan.

This meeting happened to take place two days following the signing of the Federal Transportation Bill by President Bush creating a pool of almost \$300 billion in highway funds to be apportioned out among all the states. The entire Illinois delegation acted together to get an increase in funding over the last transportation bill that was signed. Because of these things, it was Mr. Landon's and my hope that Secretary Martin would have some good news for us related to Highway 67 and specifically about the 12-mile section of Highway 67 between Godfrey and Jerseyville.

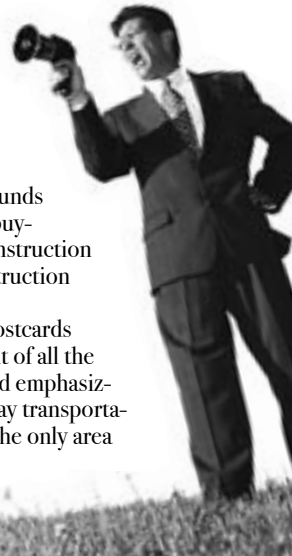
As almost all of you know, we have had a very aggressive campaign going with letters and postcards to the Governor asking for his assistance in putting our specific road project back in the 5-Year Plan with total funding. Also, Corridor 67 leadership has been very supportive and has backed us in our efforts. The Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois has also helped distribute postcards among their membership for us. This has truly been a cooperative effort on behalf of many people and organizations.

However, the absolute worse scenario that could have come out of the meeting happened. That scenario is no concessions or increased support from Secretary Martin. I do want though to remind you, however, that Secretary Martin simply carries the message of Governor Blagojevich.

Secretary Martin did admit that funds were taken from gas tax revenue that we all pay for highway projects and placed into the general funds of the state. Don Miller used the figure \$3 billion. Secretary Martin was happier with \$2.6 billion. I guess maybe I am being facetious but when we are bandying around those kinds of dollars, what is \$400,000,000 among friends!! The other piece of reality is that while Secretary Martin said that our project remains in the 5-Year Highway Plan, it is simply a paper project without funding. I do not believe he could not deny that new projects by Governor Blagojevich jumped over our project in terms of priority.

We are supposed to be happy with his announcement that we will have funds in the 2006 - 2011 Plan for bridge work, utility easements and property buy-outs. Being happy is difficult however when you go from a fully funded construction project that was supposed to have already begun to a schedule of pre-construction somewhere between next year and five years following.

It is JCBA's intent to keep the pressure on. We will continue to send postcards if people are willing to sign them. We are going to work on getting in front of all the new gubernatorial and other office candidates in the upcoming election and emphasizing the importance of Highway 67. We will beat the drum of better highway transportation for Jersey County and the rest of the western side of Illinois. We are the only area of the state that does not have a major four-lane highway of any kind. Our time has come!



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



DeUel Automotive and Storage

The September JCBA Business of the Month is DeUel Automotive and Storage located at 1305 South State Street in Jerseyville. The automotive repair business has been around for the last 25 years. They work on domestic and foreign vehicles as well as classic and collectable vehicles. On the east end of the repair building is a public storage facility. To contact Ed DeUel, please call 618/498-2615.

IL State Chamber President to Highlight JCBA Breakfast

Illinois State Chamber President Doug Whitley will be the speaker at a JCBA breakfast on Friday, September 23rd at 518 South Restaurant beginning at 7:30 am.

This will be President Whitley's third appearance in Jerseyville at one of our functions. Mr. Whitley is a very articulate speaker and author's most of the e-mails we send out to our membership on legislative related issues. His leadership has been largely responsible for the success Illinois business has had the last couple of years in the legislative arena.

Please make plans to attend this breakfast. You will find Mr. Whitley a very articulate and informative speaker. The cost of the buffet breakfast will be \$14 per person.

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September 2
Fri, JCBA Golf Tourney,
Westlake Country Club

September 3-5
Fri - Mon, Jersey County
Victorian Festival, J'ville

September 5
Mon, Labor Day,
JCBA Office Closed

September 8
Thur, Women in Business
Committee, Noon, Westlake
Country Club

September 12-16
Mon-Fri, Illinois Chamber of
Commerce Week

September 13
Tues, Small Business/Ag
Committee Meeting,
Noon, JCBA Office

September 13
Tues, J'ville City Council
Meeting, 6:00 p.m.,
Jerseyville City Hall

September 13
Tues, Grafton City Council
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,
Grafton City Hall

September 13
Tues, Jersey County Board
Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Jersey
County Admin. Building

September 15
Thur, Improving Selling Skills
Workshop, 9:30 a.m.,
JCH Classroom

September 20
Tues, JCBA Board Meeting,
Noon, JCBA Office

September 22
Thur, Business After Hours,
Jersey Co. Journal, 5:00 p.m.,
Lauren Abigails Tea Room


September 23
Fri, IL State Chamber President
Doug Whitley Breakfast,
7:30 a.m., JCH Classroom

September 27
Tue, J'ville City Council
Meeting, 6:00 p.m.,
Jerseyville City Hall

September 27
Tues, Grafton City Council
Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,
Grafton City Hall

September 28
Wed, Economic Development
Comm. Meeting, Noon,
Westlake Country Club

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