

## Chamber-Main Street News and Knows

by Interim Director Jim Davies

What is volunteering?

Volunteering is an act of selflessness. It's about giving time to a good cause. It's about helping an organization, community, or individual. It's about contributing free labor to support a nonprofit organization. It's about changing the lives of community members.

I want to acknowledge and thank several people, your neighbors and friends, who are giving of their time and talent to the community via the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and Main Street program.

The Franklin County Tourism Board of Directors distributes money generated from the hotel/motel tax, much of which is given away as grants that help fund the many events that take place in the county throughout the year. Members of the Tourism Board include Chairman Ned Parker, Treasurer Cindy Mollenbeck, Holly Coffee, Mike Arndorfer, Doug McWilliams, Madison Alert, and Donnis Borcharding. Non-voting member is Franklin County Board of Supervisor Dick Lukensmeyer. FYI, there are two openings on this board.

The Promotions Committee is organizing the upcoming Chamber Celebration to be held on Saturday, March 22 at the Hampton Country Club. The event starts with social time at 5pm serving hors d'oeuvres followed by fun games of Heads or Tails and the Survey Says. A silent auction will be held and awards presented. Tickets will be available Monday, March 3. Volunteers planning the chamber celebration are Jerre Grefe, Holly Narber, and Rebekah Ault.

The Economic Vitality committee is planning the upcoming Quarterly Coffee to be held Friday, March 7 at the Latimer Community Center, sponsored by Mort's Water Company. This gathering promotes upcoming events, welcomes new chamber members, provides an opportunity for chamber members to share what is happening at their business or with their organization, and networking with others. A big "thank you" to Sue Followwell and Dyanne Pralle for coordinating this chamber gathering.

Sue and Dyanne coordinate the Ambassadors, who contact people and businesses for the Quarterly Coffee and attend ribbon cuttings. Cheers to Sue and Dyanne for also organizing Friday Uncorked (formerly known as the Wine Walk).

The Design Committee has been meeting with the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission (HHPC) to work together on projects. One project being considered is installing informational signage with QR codes on buildings and historic sites. This idea was suggested by the Franklin County Tourism Board. Both groups are now regularly

meeting together. Design Committee also reviews and awards Building Improvement Grants.

Members of the Design Committee are Joel Orr, Adam Johnson, Emma Calles, Jerre Grefe, Missy Crawford and members of the HHPC. Members of the HHPC are Ella Butler, Michelle Schaefer, Brian Stevens, Mardell Sidmore-Van Kleeck, and me.

The Chamber Board of Directors oversees all operations of the Chamber. Members are President Terry Carr, Vice President Rebekah Ault, Treasurer Eric Reicherts, Past President Dale Schirmer, and board members Jerre Grefe, Kent Mollenbeck, Sue Followwell, Ashley Francis, Taylor Kolb, Catherine Crooks, Kayleigh Bass, and Holly Narber.

I want to thank the following for their dedication to planning past and future events: Jeff and Tracy Spear for the annual car show and Shawn Dietz and the staff at KLMJ 104.9 FM as well as Chris Sauke and the Hampton Municipal Band for Tuesday on the Towns in June.

Thank you to Charlene Pralle-Janssen for the upcoming Kansas City BBQ sanctioned competition to be held the weekend of the car show, on August 22-24. Adam Akers deserves recognition for the many events being held for the community honoring our Veterans. And thank you to Lisa Rodriguez for her work with Santa's Workshop and Relay for Life, taking over for Sheri Bogue.

Finally, I want to give a "shout out" to chamber/main street staff Marketing Manager Ally Spohr and Administrative Assistant Julie Frericks who are the glue that keeps everything together

There are many, many other people who give of themselves by volunteering. Thank you so very much!! Make sure to thank a volunteer for their service.

If you are motivated to help serve the community by volunteering in some way, including joining one of the above-mentioned committees or a new committee I am organizing to oversee the Hampton Main Street program, please contact me by calling or texting me at 641-425-4707.



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**the Chamber**

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