



# Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce

All articles written by Kristina Phelan

“Encouraging Residents To Live Local, Be Local, And Buy Local.”

October 2014

## Three-Way Tie For 1st At Golf Scramble

Eleven teams joined us for the annual golf scramble on Thursday, September 11th at Lakeview Country Club. The rain was thankfully avoided although it was a pretty cool day on the course.



**Chris Walker Hits A Drive**

Golfers enjoyed a catered lunch from Tin Pan thanks to the generous lunch sponsor: Gibson Area Hospital. Many came dressed in their patriotic attire to honor the 9/11 anniversary. As usual, Steve Allen’s team from Paxton Hardware and Rental won the costume contest with red, white, and blue socks, shirts, hats, bandanas, jackets, and sunglasses.

same score on the next hardest hole but Paxton Hardware and Rental squeezed passed with a one stroke difference on the 3rd hardest hole to earn them the second place team with Martensen & Niemann coming in for 3rd place.

“Thank you to all of the businesses who participated in our golf scramble,” Kristina Phelan stated, “it was a great day of fun and we are excited to add to the community with the money raised to go into the Community Improvement Fund.” Thank you to the following members of the golf committee who planned this event: Andy Hudson, Nancy Ecker, Karen Abbe, Roxi Giese, and Lori Epps.



**1st Place Team:  
Ameren**



**2nd Place Team:  
Paxton Hardware & Rental**



**3rd Place Team:  
Martensen & Niemann**

*Thanks To Jen Wilson and James Phelan for volunteering and Lakeview Country Club for a great day on the course!*

This year we had a 3-way tie for first place with a total score of 67 on the 18 hole course. Two teams were very close to making it a 5-way tie at a score of 68 respectively. Thankfully Andy Hudson, chairman of the event, explained the tie break rules beforehand just in case.

Ameren inched out ahead of the others with the lowest score on the most difficult hole. Paxton Hardware and Rental and Martensen & Niemann both had the exact

## Thank You To The Following Businesses:

### Golfing Teams:

- Hudson’s Drug Shop
- Gibson Area Hospital
- Compass Insurance Partners
- Vital Education & Supply
- Paxton IGA
- Paxton Record
- First National Bank
- Ameren
- Paxton Hardware & Rental
- Kief Realty
- Haun Sales Group
- Martensen & Niemann

### Hole Sponsors:

- Country Thyme Tea Room
- Doug’s Compounding Pharmacy
- Houston’s Heating & Plumbing
- Paxton Ready Mix EIEC
- Edward Jones Investments
- Market Street Barber Shop
- Aflac Insurance
- Colmac Coil Manufacturing
- Monicals of Paxton
- Insurance Providers Group
- Farmers Merchants Bank
- Pizza Hut

### Prize Donations:

- Country Thyme Tea Room
- Busey Bank
- Compass Insurance Partners
- Health Alliance
- Heartland Healthcare
- Houston’s Heating & Plumbing
- Shield’s Auto
- WPXN

**And A Big THANK YOU To Our Lunch Sponsor!**



# 1914: How The Chamber Began 100 Years Ago

The Paxton Area Chamber Of Commerce was officially recognized by the state of Illinois on October 8, 1914 and the original group had their first meeting on October 28th of that year. When I scoured the microfilm from the Paxton Carnegie Library I found an article that appeared in the November 5th edition of the Paxton Record. The headline read, "Chamber Of Commerce" with a subtitle of "Actual Work For Advancement of Paxton and Vicinity Has Started."

That subtitle made me think about how that one goal is still what the chamber is striving for today: to help the Paxton area grow and support those businesses who serve our community.

In honor of our 100th anniversary I saw it only fit to include the names of our 7 founders and the committees that they served on.

Ways & Means, Finance & Audit:

*C. J. Delbridge*

Laws & Legislation,

Sanitation & Public Health:

*Bennum Laleer*

Public Amusement & Entertainment:

*Charles Cruzen*

Advertising & Promotion:

*Adolph Fager*

Home Industry & Retail Interests:

*Austin E. Laurence*

Education:

*Dr. A. A. Hanson*

Membership:

*Askel R. Sheldon*

2nd Vice President:

*Adolph Fager*

Treasurer:

*Karl Rodeen*

Secretary:

*Harry H. Marsh*

Directors:

*T. J. Larson, A. E. Laurence, A. R. Sheldon, Dr. A. A. Hanson, N.V. Lateer, R.J. Innis, and C.A. Nordgren.*

These 7 men saw that Paxton needed some sort of organized group to help promote local support of businesses and I wonder if they ever thought their group would still be around 100 years later. With the exception of the Sanitation & Public Health committee, we still have the same interests as this original group.

In a later article, I found that the chamber was the original group who wanted to put a Christmas tree in downtown Paxton. The article stated that the tree was donated and that it was placed somewhere near the intersection of Pells and Market Street. The tree was to be lit the week prior to and the week of Christmas. The chamber noted that they would be giving sweetmeats out to area orphans who wouldn't have any other treats at Christmas.

In the January 28th edition of 1915 I found an article pertaining to the first annual meeting of the chamber. Officers for the board of directors were chosen and were as follows:

President:

*Charles R. Cruzen*

Vice President:

*C. J. Delbridge*

The article noted that the idea of new ornamental lighting was brought up for Market Street and that committee was formed to discuss this issue further. A smoker (which I'm assuming is like a BBQ) was also discussed and planned to help invite rural district members to join together to discuss business topics. The chamber was also looking into leasing the Coliseum for their meeting space.

The article states that the chamber already had over 80 active members and that half of those were present for the annual meeting.

We have a rich history of helping the Paxton Area and are now 134 members strong! Thank you to all of our businesses who have supported the chamber for years and even decades within the past 100 years!

## Chamber Sponsors Slide At Swine 'N Dine Event

The 3rd Annual Swine 'N Dine was held Saturday, September 20th in downtown Paxton. Many people came out for the event including many competitors in the BBQ competition that was the focal point of the day. There were also many more



food vendors this year along with flea market vendors. Engelbrecht Grills was the main sponsor of the event and brought their antique fire truck smoker to the competition.

The chamber sponsored a large inflatable slide to entertain the children who attended with their parents



to the event. We also had a sale on Chamber Bucks to help celebrate our 100th anniversary. Over \$300.00 in Chamber Bucks were sold that will be spent at any of our member businesses who accept them. **A huge THANK YOU to Larry Abbe, Nancy Ecker, and Mike Durban who volunteered!**





Like us on our facebook page at

www.facebook.com/paxtonchamber

**Chamber Of Commerce Board Members**

President: Nancy Ecker

- Karen Abbe     Cody Kietzman
- Lori Epps        Jason Mills
- Roxi Giese      Candi Riecks
- Andy Hudson   Ross Sorensen
- Craig Kief

**Executive Director**

Kristina Phelan

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www.paxtonchamber.org



Check Out Our Chamber Facebook Page Today!

**Do You Cater?**

Would your business be interested in catering a future Lunch & Learn at the American Legion Building? We would like to use our business members for this service and welcome you to call the chamber office at 379-4655 to express your interest. Our next Lunch & Learn date is November 19th. Call the chamber office to put your name on the list!



Mike Durban, new manager of **Pizza Hut**, stated that there are a few changes coming to the way Pizza Hut makes their pizzas nationwide. Durban said

that the pizza making process is different in the way they top a pizza with transitioning to a bottom layer of cheese to better blend the ingredients. He also said that over 13 new sauces will be introduced so that customers can truly customize their own pizza to their own tastes. Check out Pizza Hut today!



Shannon Seibert, who has owned **The Upper Cut Salon & Tanning** for 6 years, has decided to sell her business to spend more time with her

family. She is asking \$20,000.00 for the business which includes both the salon and tanning. The current building is rented and Seibert stated that the ideal candidate would be a couple of friends who wanted to be business partners: one would own the salon part of the business and the other would own the tanning. Seibert will continue working at the salon until the business sells. Contact Shannon at 217-379-3262 for details.



Emily Sandholdt, owner of **Massage Elements**, has hired new massage therapist, Kristin Smith! She has been a licensed massage therapist for over 7 years and is currently offering

\$5.00 off a 30 minute massage or \$10.00 an hour massage now through October 31st. Contact Kristin today at 217-781-1820 to schedule your massage! Welcome Kristin!



Angie, secretary of the First Lutheran Church, recently moved to Paxton from Roberts. She was pleasantly surprised to receive her welcome basket from the chamber and was excited to open it up to see the different goodies

inside. If you know of someone who is new to the area tell them to stop by the chamber office at 165 S. Market Street or call the chamber office at 379-4655 for their free welcome basket!



Katie Litherland joined **Doug's Compounding Pharmacy** in 2013. Originally from Olney, IL, she graduated from East Richland High School in 2003 and was valedictorian of her class. She completed her pre-pharmacy coursework at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign

and graduated with a doctor of pharmacy degree from the Medical University of South Carolina, 2009. She served a one-year residency at St. Louis Children's Hospital and has experience in hospital, clinical, community, and compounding pharmacy. She has a special interest in helping people through wellness and is available for consults for supplementation, diet and lifestyle modification. Welcome Katie!



The **Chamber Buck** got a new look this month as we added the new chamber logo to the front of the Chamber Buck. This will help our customers and business members to decipher between our Chamber Buck and the extremely similar Gibson City Chamber Buck. Also look for the new green font color which will stand out against Gibson City's blue font. Don't worry if you have older styles of our Chamber Bucks...they never expire and are always good at the businesses located on the back of each Buck.

## Welcome New Member!

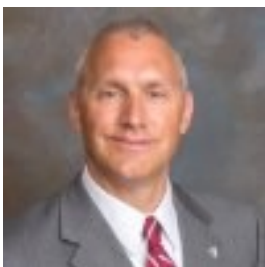


**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
 of Central Illinois

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois** became our 29th new member of this year! The organization serves 7 counties in Central Illinois which include: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Livingston, Macon, McLean, and Piatt. Their

mission is to "provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-on-1 relationships that change their lives forever." You can find out more by contacting the Paxton office located at 361 1/2 N. Railroad Avenue, calling 217-379-9990, or checking out their website at [www.bbbscil.org](http://www.bbbscil.org). Welcome To The Chamber!

## Retiring Board Member



Cliff McClure, superintendent of PBL Unit #10, has decided to retire from the chamber's Executive Board of Directors due to his busy schedule working for our community. Cliff has been a board member for 12 years and has been a great influence on the chamber with his honest and straight-shooting personality that has seen the chamber grow into what it is today. Thank you Cliff for your many years of service, you will be greatly missed!

**Want To Meet Other Business Owners But Can't Seem To Get Away During the Work Day?**

Join us for an upcoming

### *Commerce Connection*

where you can network with a group of chamber members while enjoying a drink or two!

Would you be interested in hosting a Commerce Connection? If so contact the chamber office at 379-4655 for more details.

## ERS Dinner Nov. 1st

**Thanks To The Following Businesses Who Help Pay For This Event: ASTA Care, Baier Family Funeral, Cleary Equipment, Inc., Colmac Coil, Compass Insurance Partners, Country Thyme Tea Room, Farmers-Merchants Bank, First National Bank, 523 Design, Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services, Heartland Healthcare, Heiress Promotions, Hudson Drug & Hallmark Shop, Illinois Knights Templar Home, Kirchner Building Centers, Mediacom, Nicor Gas, Paxton IGA, Paxton Hardware & Rental, & Paxton Ready Mix**