



# Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce

All articles written by Kristina Phelan

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

May 2014

## Going Green At Work

John Beintema, of Ameren’s ActOnEnergy program will be our speaker at this month’s Lunch & Learn (see insert). He will be speaking on how we can save on energy costs at work. Here are a few tips that can get you started in going green at work:

### \*Go Digital

Picking up a digital scanner is an easy way to condense that pile of paperwork into an easy access file on your computer. While out shopping, choose eReceipts whenever possible to cut down on paper receipt usage. Subscribing to the digital format of your favorite newspaper or magazine is also a great way to save energy.

### \*Make The Call

Ever received a catalog that you never signed up for? Call the company and request that you are taken off the mailing list since you aren’t interested. Then be sure to recycle the catalog after the call.

### \*Pay Online

Paying your bills online is another easy change and most banks offer this service for free. Automatic withdrawals are another great way to save energy and guarantee your bill is paid on time!

### \*Connect Electronically

Ask clients if you can send them that document or invoice as a PDF instead of mailing it to them. It saves on postage and shows that your

business is technologically savvy.

### \*Turn Off The Power

Pick up a “smart” power strip that senses when something is not using power and automatically decreases the available power to that item.

### \*Check Your Water

Use a reusable water bottle at work instead of plastic water bottles. Consider picking up a water bottle with a filter if you are worried about tap water at the office.

### \*Recycle Ink Cartridges

Most new ink cartridges include a postage mailer to make recycling that old ink cartridge fast and easy.

Source: “10 Ways To Go Green.”  
www.worldwatch.org

### This Month Ahead:

May 11th

*Mother’s Day*

May 12th

*City Council Meeting*

*7:00pm*

May 21st

*Lunch & Learn @ Noon  
American Legion Building*

May 26th

*Memorial Day*

May 27th

*Chamber Executive Board  
Meeting*

## Help Support Our Community

### Buy Chamber Bucks!

*\*Mother’s Day*

*\*Graduation*

*\*End Of Year  
Teacher Gifts*

*\*Father’s Day*

Purchase At:  
*Hudson’s Drug Shop  
Paxton IGA  
Chamber Office*

**Questions?  
Call 379-4655**

## July 4th Preparations Taking Shape

Things are coming together for our Old Fashioned July 4th event. We will be having a lot of the same things that you have seen in past years: music from the Back Paiges band, a church service, and great pork



burgers from the chamber food tent. In an effort to keep kids busy, we have incorporated a lot of new things for the kids to

do this year at the July 4th event including a R/C Track, multiple bounce houses and inflatables, and a pizza eating contest that will be sponsored by Monical’s Pizza. There are also a

few more items on the agenda that are still in the planning process so stay tuned!

### **What Your Business Can Do:**

#### Set Up A Booth!

We want to invite all of our members to set up a booth at our July 4th event. Pass out marketing materials or have an activity for the kids to do! Call Kristina to get your spot!

#### Spread The Word

Tell all of your customers about this great community appreciation event!

# Kristina Celebrates One Year With The Chamber



Has it really been one year already? My one year anniversary was April 15th and I can't believe it has already been that long! I am so grateful to the board of directors for hiring me and for giving me the chance to re-enter the workforce after being a stay at home mom for 8 years. It has been a fabulous year and I can't express how much I love my job! Really! Over Christmas my family was relenting about having to go back to work after the holidays and I remember saying, "I can't wait to go back to the office!"

I know that I have brought a lot of changes to the chamber this year and I appreciate all of the support that I've received in the process. I know that change is hard but I hope that all of these changes will result in a stronger and more efficient chamber in the future. I also must admit that there were quite a few times this past year where I had to apologize with an, "I'm new!" excuse. I have found nothing but kindness and graciousness from those of you who have helped me understand the Paxton area through these few hiccups.

This position has allowed me to really get to know so many business owners on a personal level and I love being so connected to the community. If I haven't had the chance to meet you please drop by my office! Thank you for your support in the chamber and allowing me to work for your business. It is an honor to help you achieve your dreams as a business owner and I look forward to another great year with the chamber!



## Mark Your Calendars!

The chamber's annual golf outing is scheduled for Thursday, September 11th at Lakeview Country Club. Our theme this year will be patriotic and golfers can expect to have as much fun as they did last year! There will be prizes for the best outfit so start planning! Teams of 4 are encouraged however we can also accommodate pairs and singles who would like to golf. Look for more information to come next month!

## Meet Our Newest Board Member



The Board Of Directors would like to welcome Roxi Giese as the newest board member! Roxi joined Colmac Coil as the Human Resources Coordinator in August of 2013. She has worked in

the HR field for over 12 years and has some past chamber experience as the Executive Director of the Oswego Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to having Roxi on our executive board!

## Work Smarter, Not Harder

As a small business owner, you work hard. You probably work harder than a lot of people that you know! With the busy summer season approaching, take into account these few tips to help you work smarter.

### \*Take Breaks

The human brain can only intensely focus for 90 minutes at a time. Taking small breaks throughout the day allows you to refocus your attention span. Get up from your desk, stretch, and maybe take a quick walk around the office to allow your brain to rest before you start another 90 minute work session.

### \*Take Naps

Now I know what you're thinking, "*I can't take naps at work?*" But just hear me out on this. Taking naps helps to solidify memories and avoid burnout. Studies have

shown that a mere 15 to 20 minute cat nap can extremely benefit the brain. Have a quick bite at lunch and then set your phone alarm while you take a quick snooze in your car for the ultimate pick me up.

### \*Go Outdoors

Luckily in Paxton we don't have the same type of overstimulated urban feel that you may find in larger cities. Taking a quick walk down Market Street or walking a nearby neighborhood can help your brain relax and fight off overstimulation.

### \*Work In Blocks

Dividing your workspace into multiple areas can help you stay more focused because you require yourself to only do certain types of

work at a certain station. For example, I use the front counter space of the chamber office for any kind of tedious task I have to do (folding, addressing, labeling). It allows me to stand up while working and I get a perfect distraction of what's going on outside my window. The different workspace allows me to focus on the task at hand and not get distracted by the phone or computer. You don't need a ton of space to make this happen either: a simple small desk or corner of your office will do!

Source: Haden, Jeff. "5 Scientifically Proven Ways to Work Smarter, Not Harder." [www.inc.com](http://www.inc.com)



Like us on  
our  
facebook  
page at

www.facebook.com/  
paxtonchamber

**Chamber Of Commerce  
Board Members**

President: Nancy Ecker  
Vice President: Cliff McClure  
Karen Abbe    Cody Kietzman  
Lori Epps     Jason Mills  
Roxi Giese    Candi Riecks  
Andy Hudson   Ross Sorensen  
Craig Kief

**Executive Director**

Kristina Phelan  
Phone: 217-379-4655  
Address: 165 S. Market St.  
Mailing: PO Box 75 Paxton  
kristina@paxtonchamber.org  
www.paxtonchamber.org

**Office Hours:**

8am-Noon & 1pm-2pm  
Tuesdays & Thursdays

*Updates From Last Published  
2014 Member List  
In The April Edition:*

**Returning 2014 Members**

\*Flower Cart

\*Paul's Appliances

\*Paxton Coin Laundry

**Bronze Sponsor:**

\*Pizza Hut

*We Appreciate You!*

# Meet Our Newest Members



**\*The Upper Room Bible Church** is located at 425 W. Orleans Street in Paxton and their new pastor, Dave Hohulin, is a recent addition to the church. You can contact them at 217-379-4189 or check out their website at www.upperroombible.org. Welcome to the Chamber!



**\*Central Illinois Buildings, Inc.** is located at 960 E. Cemetery Avenue in Chenoa. Owner Jon Fehr offers services as a building contractor and can be reached at 815-945-3667 or find them on facebook! Welcome to the Chamber!

**\*Denver C. Piatt**, of Paxton, become a individual member of the chamber of commerce. We welcome you Denver!

## In Business News:



Busey Bank is hosting a Retirement Seminar on Thursday, May 1st from 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Tin Pan in Paxton. Hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine will be provided. Please RSVP to Ashlee Bertan at 217-379-4327 or ashlee.bertan@busey.com.



Jeff Sturm will be offering a Financial/Retirement Seminar on Thursday, May 1st at the Paxton American Legion on Pells Street at 7:00pm. This is open to all former BAC employees. Attendants will learn about the best options and strategies to receive ESOP distributions. Topics will include:

- \*The truth on how long your nest egg can last
- \*How much income you can safely withdraw each year
- \*The affects of inflations and longevity
- \*The risk of so-called safe investments
- \*What is 72T and how it can help
- \*The 1% difference

Please RSVP to Jeff at 217-395-2363 or sturmy57@gmail.com.



**Habitat For Humanity & PAMA Help Gifford**

The Paxton Area Ministerial Association is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build a home for one of two Gifford families who lost their home in the November 17th tornado. PAMA member churches and others, in addition to individuals, are working to coordinate a fundraising effort to raise \$80,000.00 for the home. The group received a \$30,000 grant for the project and raised just over \$2,000.00 during the Paxton Community Sale. In addition they hope to provide much of the volunteer labor needed for the building of the home. If you'd like to donate, please make checks payable to "Habitat for Humanity" and mail to:

*Habitat for Humanity  
c/o Paxton Church Of Christ  
P.O. Box 299 Paxton, IL 60957*

For more information or to volunteer, contact Tom Anders of the Paxton Church of Christ at 217-637-1336. Donations to Habitat For Humanity are tax deductible as the law allows.

**Caitlynn's  
Journey  
Superhero  
5K Fun Run/  
Walk**



Saturday, June  
21st, 8:30am

5K starts and finishes at Pells Park in Paxton. Come dressed as your favorite superhero to benefit PBL High School student Caitlynn Riblet in her fight against cancer. It's fun for the whole family for a great cause! Pre-registration fees are \$20.00 per person, \$10.00 for children 12 and under and \$45.00 for a family of four. Entry forms are available at Doug's Compounding Pharmacy. For more information, call Doug's at 217-379-3684.



## Does Your Business Cater?



Would your business be interested in catering a future Lunch & Learn (formerly known as quarterly luncheon) 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 2014 Lunch & Learn dates are August 20th and November 19th. Call the chamber office to put your name on the list!

## Retiring Board Member

Craig Loschen, of FlipSwitch Consulting, has stepped down as a board member. We thank Craig for his time serving the Paxton community and wish him the best of luck!

## Taking Nominations

Do you know of a Paxton area resident who is an outstanding help to our community? Write a letter to us about them for the Golden Deeds Award to be presented July 4th! Mail letters to PO Box 75 Paxton, IL 60957.

## Conference Room Available

The Paxton Wellness Center hosted our April board meeting in their new facility located at 711 E. Pells Street. Their board meeting room is quite comfortable with seating for 8-10 people. The room is open to the community to use upon appointment. The facilities there are open from 8am to 6pm Monday through Friday and then 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Personal training sessions

are available as well as a multi-leveled circuit that can help build strength and endurance. The Wellness Center is also offering free blood pressure screenings, a diabetes class, and safe sitter classes this summer. Thank you so much to the Wellness Center staff for showing us around the new gym as well as providing lunch for us! If you'd like to book the conference room call their office at 217-579-1031.

