



# Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce

All articles written by Kristina Phelan

**"Encouraging Residents To Live Local, Be Local, And Buy Local."**

**June 2014**

## Changes For July 4th Event

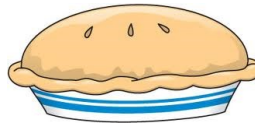
The July 4th Committee has been working hard on bringing a fabulous July 4th event to the Paxton community this year. This event is sponsored by the Paxton Area Chamber Of Commerce and is an appreciation day for all of the community members who support our local businesses and economy by choosing to shop local.

"We are excited for another great July 4th event that will be full of family fun," Kristina Phelan, Executive Director of the chamber, stated. The day will include a car show, tractor show, church service, golden deeds awards, business booths, flea market, food booths, and live music.

New this year are a Pizza Eating Contest that will be sponsored by Monical's Pizza and a Watermelon Eating Contest that is sponsored by the



Paxton IGA. There will also be a Homemade Pie Competition and pies will be donated to the Paxton Community Nursery School Bake Sale after the competition.



The children's area will include some of the same games that residents have seen in the past as well as some new events including an R/C car track where kid's can bring their own R/C cars and try their hand at driving on the track. The Paxton Church Of Christ will be sponsoring a bounce house area that will include a small bounce house, large slide, and obstacle course. Unlimited

bracelets will be sold for access to this area for \$3.00 per child.

"We will also have a children's parade

where kids can ride their decorated bikes around the park," Phelan stated.

"We invite all members of our community and surrounding areas to join us as we celebrate our nation's freedom in a family fun atmosphere at the park," Phelan said,

"We do have a few changes this year in order to bring a better experience to everyone who attends and is apart of this day,"

Those changes include the location of the car show, tractor show, and children's area. Maps of the park will be available as well as a schedule of events the day of so that everyone is well informed. Another change is that all flea market vendors will be required to fill out a seller agreement. Vendors who do so before July 4th will pay \$20.00 per spot while vendors who show up the day of the event will pay \$25.00 for their spot.

Join in this great event on Friday, July 4th from 9am-3pm at Pells Park in Paxton. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate our nation's freedom!

### This Month Ahead:

June 6th-7th

*Paxton Garage Sales*

June 9th

*City Council Meeting*

*7:00pm*

June 14th

*Flag Day*

June 15th

*Father's Day*

June 24th

*Chamber Executive Board Meeting*

A HUGE Thank You To  
All Of Our July 4th  
Committee Members:

**Karen Abbe**  
Shields Automart

**Craig & Candi Riecks**  
Paxton IGA

**Craig Kief**  
Kief Realty

**Colleen Lawrence**  
Paxton Ministerial  
Association

**Magan Withers**  
Busey Bank

**Chad Riggelman**  
Car Show

**Dennis Starkey**  
Tractor Show

### Thank You To Our July 4th Sponsors:

**523 Design**  
**Ameren**  
**ASTA Care**  
**Baier Family Funeral**  
**Busey Bank**  
**Cheesecloth & Buttermilk**  
**Cleary Equipment, Inc.**  
**Colmac Coil Manufacturing**  
**Compass Insurance**

**Country Thyme Tea Room**  
**Doug's Compounding Pharmacy**  
**Farmers-Merchants Bank**  
**Fiorillo, Shaffer, & Associates**  
**First National Bank**  
**Gibson Area Hospital**  
**Heiress Promotions**  
**Heyman & Heyman Optometry**  
**Hudson Drug & Hallmark Shop**  
**Illinois Knights Templar Home**

**Kief Realty**  
**Kirchner Building Center**  
**Market Street Barber Shop**  
**Mediacom**  
**Nicor Gas Company**  
**Northwestern Mutual-Tedd King**  
**Paxton Hardware & Rental**  
**Paxton IGA**  
**Paxton Ready Mix**  
**Pizza Hut**

# Golf Scramble Date Set



The chamber's annual golf scramble 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. More information to come in next month's newsletter.

## Meet Our Newest Board Member



The Board Of Directors would like to welcome Jason Mills as the newest board member! Jason was a past president of the Board of Directors and we welcome his

willingness to rejoin the executive board. Jason has been the manager of the Paxton Monicals for 12 years and is a big contributor to our community. We look forward to having Jason on our executive board!

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

### Returning 2014 Members

\*American Legion Post #150

\*Dairy Queen

\*Paxton Clinic

# In Business News:



## Habitat For Humanity & PAMA Help Gifford

**Habitat for Humanity** PAMA 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. 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 PO 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.

### Pizza Eating Contest



The Paxton Monicals will be sponsoring a pizza eating contest at our July 4th event.

Those who want to enter the contest need to sign up at the Chamber Booth located in the middle of the park on July 4th. Then, 10 names will be drawn from those who are interested in competing for their chance to win \$25.00 in Chamber Bucks and fill up on Monicals Pizza!

### Colmac Coil Celebrates 5 Years



In 2009, Colmac Coil purchased the Aircoil evaporator line from Balitmore Aircoil Company and then later purchased the manufacturing facility located in Paxton. This second Midwest location allows them to serve customers in the Eastern US and Canada. Only 15 employees started at Colmac Coil Midwest in 2009 but the location has grown to 89 employees and the company is committed to sustaining growth and employment in the local area.



## Chamber Welcome Baskets

Want to showcase your business to the

newcomers in town? We are currently taking donations for our welcome baskets that will be passed out to new residents in our area. Anything from your business would be helpful: brochures, samples, coupons, or whatever you'd like to donate! Our welcome baskets are an easy way to earn new business and create customer loyalty. If you'd like to contribute, please call the chamber office at 379-4655 for free pick up! We'll be starting out with 10 baskets to begin with but hope to welcome many new residents to our area with a nice welcome basket from chamber members!



### July 4th Pie Competition

Do you know someone who makes the best pie? We'll be having a Pie Competition during the chamber's July 4th Event this year and encourage everyone to bring a double crusted fruit pie. The judging panel will pick a winner who will receive \$25.00 in Chamber Bucks! After the competition, pie slices will be sold at the Paxton Community Nursery School Bake Sale. If you want to enter a pie bring it to the Chamber Booth in the middle of the park.

### Watermelon Eating Contest



The Paxton IGA is sponsoring a watermelon eating contest on July 4th at Pells Park. Those who want to enter the contest need to sign up at the Chamber Booth located in the middle of the park. Then, 30 adults and 15 kids will be chosen for their chance to win \$25.00 in Chamber Bucks!



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[www.facebook.com/  
paxtonchamber](http://www.facebook.com/paxtonchamber)

**Chamber Of Commerce  
Board Members**

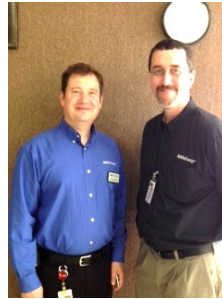
- President: Nancy Ecker  
Vice President: Cliff McClure
- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Karen Abbe  | Cody Kietzman |
| Lori Epps   | Jason Mills   |
| Roxi Giese  | Candi Riecks  |
| Andy Hudson | Ross Sorensen |
| Craig Kief  |               |

**Executive Director**

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Phone: 217-379-4655  
Address: 165 S. Market St.  
Mailing: PO Box 75 Paxton  
[kristina@paxtonchamber.org](mailto:kristina@paxtonchamber.org)  
[www.paxtonchamber.org](http://www.paxtonchamber.org)

# Save Money With **ActOnEnergy®**

Over 40 people attended our May Lunch & Learn event on Wednesday, May 21st. We enjoyed a great lunch catered by Country Thyme Tea Room and had two different speakers.



John Beintema & Ron Rhoads

Tom Anders, who is the minister of Paxton Church Of Christ, spoke on behalf of Habitat For Humanity in their efforts to build a home for the Calhoun family in Gifford. Currently, about \$20,000 of the \$50,000 goal have been raised for the home build. Financial contributions can be sent to the address seen on page two of the newsletter.

Our main speakers for the event were John Beintema from Ameren's ActOnEnergy program as well as Rod Rhoads, who is the energy

advisor for our area with Ameren. Beintema talked about how the ActOnEnergy program works and how businesses can benefit from the program. Every Ameren customer pays into the program through a small fee on their monthly bill so customers should utilize this program to help cut energy costs. You can find your eligibility category on your monthly bill: DS2 customers are eligible for the small business program while DS3 and higher customers work with Rod on energy incentives.

Ameren customers can also use the Ameren store to purchase fixtures at lower prices. "Exit signs retail for about \$30.00 to \$35.00," Beintema said, "those same LED exit signs on our online store cost just \$7.00 with free shipping and will save \$30.00 in energy from your bill each

year." Rhoads will do a walk through your business for free. He will suggest ways to save energy and at the very least give you a better idea of where you can save money as a business owner.

If you would like more information about the ActOnEnergy program, check out their website at [www.actonenergy.com](http://www.actonenergy.com). There you can fill out an application for energy incentives for projects you are thinking of working on for your business. "The application is long," Rhoads said, "just call us if you have any questions."

ActOnEnergy is also offering business symposiums on June 3rd and 4th. "If you attend the symposium, you'll receive a 15% bonus coupon for incentive projects," Beintema stated, "the savings can really add up."

## Extra Mile Award Winner

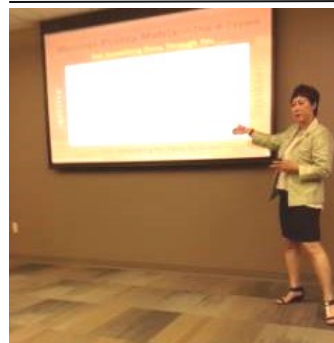


Congratulations to Nick Schumate who was awarded our first Extra Mile Award this year! Nick was nominated by Terra Hendrix, owner of the Tin Pan, for his efforts in shoveling snow for downtown businesses this winter. Nick refused any kind of payment for his many hours of work but,

as the Extra Mile Award winner, Nick received \$20.00 in Chamber Bucks! Congratulations to Nick and a big "thank you on behalf of all of our downtown chamber members who benefited from your service!

*Do you know someone who has selflessly helped our community? Nominate them for the Extra Mile Award by contacting the chamber office at 379-4655.*

## IACCE Conference Report



Kristina attended a conference sponsored by the Illinois Association of Chamber Of Commerce Executives on Monday, May 5th. The conference was held at the McClean County Chamber of Commerce office in Bloomington and the speaker was Cathi Hight of Hight Performance Group based out of Austin, Texas.

Cathi spoke to about 20 Chamber Executives about how to understand and serve their memberships better. She discussed how many chambers have viewed their members as all wanting the same benefits from their membership and how that needs to change. Different members want different benefits and not all members will be fully active in a chamber, which is okay. This was a good follow up to the IACCE Fall Conference that Kristina attended last November as the presentation reiterated a lot of the same principles that chambers need to focus on to retain members to benefit their communities.



## 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!

## 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.



## Chamber Summer Office Hours

The chamber office will be open on the following dates this summer:

Tuesday, June 10th: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, June 17th: 1:30pm-4pm  
Tuesday, June 24th: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, July 1st: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, July 8th: CLOSED  
Tuesday, July 15th: 1:30pm-4pm  
Tuesday, July 22nd: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, July 29th: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, August 5th: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, August 12th: 8am-4pm  
Tuesday, August 19th: 8am-4pm

**However, Kristina will be available all summer via the following:**

Chamber Office: 217-379-4655  
Kristina@paxtonchamber.org  
PO Box 75 Paxton, IL 60957

*Hours subject to change without notice.*