



Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce

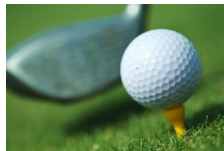
All articles written by Kristina Phelan

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

September 2014

Annual Golf Scramble September 11th

The annual chamber golf scramble is just around the corner on Thursday, September 11th at Lakeview Country Club. We have 9 teams signed up to play this year for their chance to win Chamber Bucks in prizes!



If you haven't signed up your team or would like to still sponsor a hole, please contact the chamber office today!

Lunch and registration begins at 11am with a shot gun start at noon. Thank you to Gibson Area Hospital for sponsoring our lunch again this year! There will also be a happy hour after golfing. This year's theme is patriotic and every veteran who golfs will get 2 free mulligans in honor of their service. There will be prizes for the Best Patriotic Attire, Longest Drive, Longest

Putt, Closet To The Pin, and Closest To The Line. Shields Automart will once again sponsor the Hole-In-One area and will give away a car if anyone gets a Hole-In-One on a specific hole.

On the day of the event, team members can also purchase raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle, a 50/50 putting contest, \$5.00 mulligans, and a \$20.00 team entry for the trivia questions.

"We are hoping for a beautiful day out on the greens where our chamber members can enjoy their time at this fundraiser event," Kristina Phelan stated, "but our rain day is Friday, September 12th just in case the weather doesn't cooperate."

The annual golf scramble is a fundraising event for a special project. This year, the board has decided to create a Community Improvement Fund which will help with some of the more expensive items that would benefit Paxton. "The board will discuss what they'd like to use the fund for but some items on the list are an electronic welcome sign for Paxton, improving the visitor center located at Hardee's, and helping to fund more Chamber Buck marketing and sales." Phelan stated.

Don't want to golf? Feel free to come join us for lunch and participate in some of the raffles! Lunch is \$10.00 per person and starts at 11am. Contact the chamber office with any questions at 379-4655.

This Month Ahead:

September 1st

Labor Day

September 8th

City Council Meeting

7:00pm

September 11th

Annual Golf Scramble @

Lakeview Country Club

11am Registration

12 Noon Shot Gun Start

September 20th

Swine 'N Dine Event

Downtown Paxton

September 23rd

Chamber Board Meeting

September 25th

Company Picture Day

8:30am-10:30am

Happy Labor Day

Need A Staff Group Picture?

Join Us For Our
Company Picture Day
Featuring

Life by...

Charley Danielle

Thursday, September 25th

Appointments available between

8:30am-10:30am at your business!

Book Your Appointment Today By Calling 379-4655

Use Pictures On Holiday Cards, Marketing Materials, Websites, & Social Media

Individual Pictures Also Available! \$15.00 Member/\$20.00 Non-Member



\$50.00 For Chamber Members

\$75.00 For Non-Members

Price includes an edited electronic file for your full unlimited use!

Don't Miss Out On This Great Deal!

Chamber Celebrates 100th Anniversary!

The Paxton Area Chamber Of Commerce was started in 1914 and has been supporting the businesses in the Paxton Area for a century now! The face of the chamber has changed many times with the ever changing board of directors and secretaries who have worked for the chamber.

"I feel honored to be working for the chamber at this time," Kristina Phelan stated, "there is a lot of history here and it is a huge accomplishment for a non-profit to still be around 100 years

after it began."

We want to hear your stories! Do you remember what the chamber was like 20 years ago? 50 years ago? Kristina is looking to do video interviews of anyone who is willing to chat about what the chamber was like in the past and what it means to their business now. Help us know our legacy and how we can help your business even more!

Contact the chamber office at 379-4655 to schedule an interview.

Chamber Buck Sale!

In honor of our 100th Anniversary we are having a discount on Chamber Bucks!

Receive \$10.00 off any \$100.00 Chamber Buck Purchase on Saturday, September 20th at the Paxton Swine 'N Dine Event.

military, veterans, and others with prior gun certifications can get up to an 8 hour credit for the course. The cost for the class is \$200.00 and the state also requires a \$150.00 fee for the permit. Concealed carry cards are good for 5 years.

Want to learn more? Go to the Gibson City's Concealed Carry website at www.gconcealedcarry.com. Feel free to also contact the Paxton Police Department with any questions regarding concealed carry and your business.

Our Lunch & Learns are a great way to connect with other business members, hear an update on what the chamber is doing for your business, and hear a speaker discuss a business related topic over a catered lunch!

If you haven't had a chance to make a Lunch & Learn event please consider coming to our next one on Wednesday, November 19th.

Concealed Carry Law & Your Business

Over 35 people joined us for our Lunch & Learn event on Wednesday, August 20th to hear Gibson City Police Chief Steve Cushman, Gibson City Police Officer Tony Row, and Paxton Police Chief Bob Bane speak regarding the new concealed carry gun law and how it affects businesses in our area.

Business owners can choose whether or not to allow concealed carry guns in their business and post a sign if they choose not to allow customers to carry inside their place of business. "There are people who are already carrying guns in your store," Cushman stated, "and there is a parking lot clause where customers can carry their gun in the parking lot of your business whether you have a sign posted on your front door or not."

Concealed carry weapons are not allowed at hospitals, government buildings, or school property at any time. Business owners can choose to not post the sign and still have a policy for their employees that doesn't allow them to carry guns at work. Then, if an employee does choose to bring a gun to work the disciplinary action is totally up

to the business owner. Business owners can print a sign at the following website:

<https://ccl4illinois.com/ccw/Public/Signage.aspx> and the sign must be at least 4x6 inches in size and placed on the front door of the business. Many larger chain stores do not allow concealed carry due to insurance stipulations.

Tony Row also teaches the concealed carry course in Gibson City, "We offer a class about once a month and will hold a special class for groups of 10 or more." The concealed carry course is very detailed in training and the Gibson City Police Department goes above and beyond the state requirements in teaching the course. "We teach how to shoot the gun properly and then go through weapon selection, accessories, range safety, and most importantly teach mindset training which helps the carrier understand why they would be carrying a concealed carry weapon in the first place," Cushman stated. The class is 16 hours over 2 days and active



Steve Cushman



Tony Row



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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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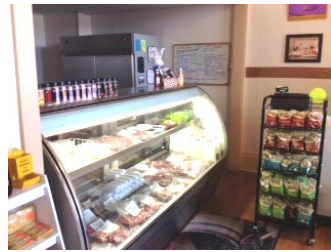
**Help Us Get To
400 Likes!**

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!

In Business News:



Central Lean has installed a beautiful new deli case that looks great! The case offers refrigerated meats that are ready to pick up for dinner tonight! "We've had a lot of business just by putting in this case," a store employee said. Stop by tonight to check out what they have!



Frank Fritz, of American Pickers, will be coming to Robin McNish's **Country Crossroads** on Saturday, September 27th! She won a

contest for the chance to go picking for antiques with Frank which she will do the morning of the 27th. Then, around noon, they will return back to Paxton. "It is going to be a big day and I expect thousands of people to come into town," McNish stated. Be sure to stop by Robin's store on September 27th to check out her many antiques and the chance to see Frank Fritz in person.



The Chamber is offering free welcome baskets to any new residents in the Paxton Area! Simply drop by the chamber office during normal business hours (Tuesday & Thursday 8am-2pm) to pick up your basket or call the chamber office at 379-4655 to have it delivered! These baskets are filled with freebies, coupons, and discounts from over 20 chamber members to help welcome newcomers to our area. To be eligible, residents must be new to our area and have moved in the past 2 months. One offer per household.



It's not too late to add your business item into our baskets! Call the chamber office at 379-4655 today and Kristina will come pick up your items!

Police Chief Bob Bane stated that there was recently a counterfeit



\$10.00 bill in Paxton and encourages all business owners to start using their counterfeit detector pens on any \$10.00 bill that comes into their store, "It is a very good copy of the real bill but the paper felt different and it was missing a mark on the back of the bill," Bane stated.

Paxton Swine 'N Dine Sept. 20th

Join the chamber as we celebrate the Swine "N Dine event on Saturday, September 20th in downtown Paxton. The chamber will have a large inflatable slide open from 10am-2pm with free admission for kids. We will also have a booth selling Chamber Bucks at a discount to help celebrate our 100th

anniversary. Receive \$100.00 in Chamber Bucks for only \$90.00. Limit one offer per household.

Join the many area businesses at this great event that has been organized and planned by the city of Paxton and many business owners.

Can You Help?

The Chamber is looking for volunteers to help us with our booth from Noon-2pm, or 2pm-4pm. If you can help during any time slot please let the chamber office know by calling 379-4655.

Still Deciding About Our Staff Picture Day?

5 Reasons To Help You Decide:

#1: Business Owners Need Terrific Profile Shots: Not only can you use them on social media, but customers will connect with you better if they recognize you from a photo.

#2: Customers And Business Partners Often Research Your Company Online: Before a customer makes contact with you they will oftentimes look your company up online. Having staff pictures on your website helps customers connect with whomever they see once they decide to walk in the door.

#3: Accurately Depict The Size Of Your Company: Customers and business partners want to see that you have a company that will fit their needs...large or small.

#4: Keep Your Content Fresh: In our fast paced media world keeping your photos up to date is important to keep your company up to speed.

#5: Developing Your Unique Brand: Photos of your staff, your building, and your signage is part of building your unique brand. If you are a franchise owner it helps set you apart from other locations.

Source: Sally Witzky, "5 Reasons Why Small Businesses Should Hire A Photographer." www.evancarmichael.com

ERS Dinner Set For November 1st

Every year the Chamber hosts a special appreciation dinner for all of the Paxton volunteer firefighters, EMS staff, and their families. "It is a small way that we can show these volunteers how much our community appreciates them," Kristina Phelan stated. This year's dinner will be held on Saturday, November 1st at the Tin Pan. Volunteer firefighters and EMS staff will be notified soon.

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