



# Paxton Area Chamber of Commerce

All articles written by Kristina Phelan

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

January 2015

## A Ribbon Cutting Welcome

We had the honor of doing a ribbon cutting at two of Paxton’s newest businesses:

Market Street Events and The Humble Hog. The ribbon cutting for Market Street Events occurred

on Saturday, November 22nd with a night of socializing, live music, and a tasty sample of what kind of food they will offer for event catering. Over 30 people attended this event and enjoyed getting to chat with others in the new space by owner Ben Grice.



The ribbon cutting for The Humble Hog was on Saturday,

November 29th immediately following the PRIDE Christmas parade. A long line of eager

customers witnessed the event and then piled into the new restaurant at their official opening. The restaurant was full of customers who wanted to try out the great BBQ that Ben Grice had to offer. Customers found a change in the restaurant’s overall look: new

tables, mismatched hardwood chairs, metal tin paneling, and a new entry doorway into the restaurant. The new space also features a barn wood bar with seating for singles.

Contact the Humble Hog for their lunch and dinner schedule and check out Market Street Events for their First Friday Events and Sunday Brunch!

Do you want to do a ribbon cutting for your business? Just contact the chamber office at 379-4655 to schedule yours today!

### This Month Ahead:

**January 1st**

*New Years Day*

**January 12th**

*City Council Meeting 7pm*

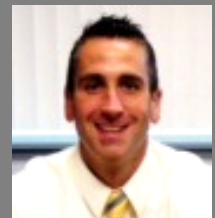
**January 19th**

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

**January 27th**

*Chamber Board Meeting*

## New Board Member



Josh Didier became our newest Board Member last month! He was nominated by Cody Kietzman and is the current principal at the PBL Junior High School. Didier was previously the principal at Clara Pete and has worked in the PBL school district for five years. Welcome to the Board of Directors!

Did you know that all of our Board Of Directors are volunteers? They sacrifice their time to serve our community and make our local economy even stronger.

Thank You!

## Annual Meeting Speaker: Scott Garrelts

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6th 2015. The meeting is being held a little bit later in the year to accommodate the schedule of our speaker, Scott Garrelts, who was recently inducted into the PBL Hall of Fame.



“We anticipate a great Annual Meeting again this year with fantastic food and venue to go alongside our speaker,” stated Executive Director Kristina Phelan, “We look forward to

having Scott share his story with us!”.

Garrelts is a 1979 graduate of Loda Buckley High School and went on to become a professional baseball pitcher from 1982-1991. He is widely known for his help in getting the San Francisco Giants to the World

Series in 1989 with a 14-5 record and 2.28 ERA. He struck out 703 batters over his entire career and was inducted into the San Francisco Giants Wall of Fame in 2008.

The Annual Meeting will be held

at Lakeview Country Club and the bar will be open starting at 6pm with a dinner to follow at 7pm.

“We had a full house at last year’s Annual Meeting and I expect another large crowd this year,” Phelan stated, “Our Annual Meeting is also important in voting in our board of directors as well as approving the chamber’s budget.”

Pricing and reservation information to follow shortly. Mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting this year on Monday, April 6th!

# 2014 Chamber Buck Sales

We had another successful year with the Chamber Buck program in 2014 with sales totaling over \$8,600.00! Since the program started in November 2012 the chamber has sold almost \$22,000.00 in chamber bucks!

"I can't say enough about this program," stated Kristina Phelan, "it keeps money in our local economy and draws awareness to our mission to support our local businesses."

Chamber Bucks were spent more in the past year as well. Customers spent 46% more Chamber Bucks in 2014 compared to the previous year. The Chamber Buck sale held at the end of 2013 definitely helped boost this number in 2014. The current Christmas promotion will help increase the 2015 number as people will most likely be spending them after the new year.

## Most Chamber Bucks Redeemed in 2013:

1. Paxton IGA
2. Hudson's Drug & Hallmark Shop
3. Casey's North
4. Casey's South
5. Central Lean & Monical's Pizza (tie)

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"We are excited to keep bringing this free program to our members," noted Phelan, "I highly recommend joining this program if you haven't done so already! You have absolutely nothing to lose and only business to gain!"

## Want To Draw Attention To Your Business?



### Host A Chamber Connection!

**\*You Pick A Day To Host**

**\*You Pick The Time (Preferably After Business Hours)**

**\*You Provide Drinks & Appetizers**

**\*We'll Provide The Marketing and Promotion Of Your Chamber Connection!**

Contact the chamber office at 217-379-4655 or email [Kristina@paxtonchamber.org](mailto:Kristina@paxtonchamber.org) to sign up!

Did you receive Chamber Bucks in your stocking this year? If so, spend them at one of the businesses below!

Arcade Pancake House  
Auditory Care Center  
Casey's General Store  
Central Lean  
Cheesecloth & Buttermilk  
Compass Insurance Agency  
Country Financial  
Country Thyme Tea Room  
Dairy Queen  
Designer Dog Salon  
Doug's Compounding Pharmacy  
Down To Earth Hardscapes  
Fiorillo, Shaffer & Associates Ltd.  
FlipSwitch Consulting  
The Flower Cart  
G&S Service Station  
Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services  
Heyman & Heyman Optometrists  
Houston Plumbing & Heating  
Hudson Drug & Hallmark Shop  
Humble Hog  
Jeff's Custom Exhaust  
Jill's Creative Expressions  
Johnson & Johnson Insurance  
Kirchner Building Center  
Market Street Barber Shop  
Market Street Events  
Market Street General Store  
Massage Elements  
Monical's Pizza  
Paxton Auto Laundry & Lube Center  
Paxton Community Nursery School  
Paxton Hardware & Rental  
Paxton IGA  
Paxton Record  
Paxton Subway  
Paxton Veterinary Clinic  
Picket Fence Florist  
Pizza Hut  
Pontiac Granite Company  
Pro-Type Printing  
Shields Automart  
Signs & Designs  
Simply Pat's Hats & Things  
State Street Salon  
Timber Creek Bed & Breakfast  
Tim's Lawn Service & Snow Removal  
WPXN



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**Chamber Of Commerce Board Members**

President: Nancy Ecker

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

**Executive Director**

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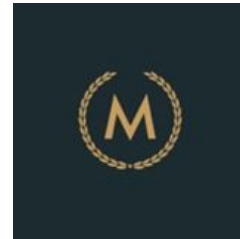
# Welcome To The Chamber!



**The Humble Hog** joined the chamber and has opened it's doors for lunch and dinner! They are located at 125 S. Market Street in Paxton. Check out

their casual atmosphere, great BBQ, and new seating in the bar!

Welcome To The Chamber!



We'd like to also welcome **Market Street Events** located at 121 S. Market Street to the chamber! Check out their First Friday events featuring live music every first Friday of the month from

7-9pm! Every Sunday they also hold a Sunday Brunch from 10am-2pm. Call them for catering and event space at 217-579-1082.

Welcome To The Chamber!

## In Business News:



**Pizza Hut** has a new updated "Flavor Of Now" menu that features Pizza Hut classics alongside new crust flavors, new sauces, and

premium ingredients. The new crusts include Honey Sriracha and Salted Pretzel. They are also featuring a new Skinny Slice Pizza that offers fewer calories but the same great taste of some of the classics. The Pizza Hut logo has also changed to an updated version to reflect the new changes in the brand. Check out the Paxton location to try out the new menu options!



**Doug's Compounding Pharmacy** got a brand new sign that looks great on the outside of their

store! "We wanted a sign that matched our fairly new logo," co-owner Julie Higgins stated, "we worked with Prairie Signs in Normal to create the custom match and it only took a few months." Higgins noted that they were worried that it may be too bright at night due to the updated LED bulbs but that the light at night looks crisp and not too bright. "It is very important for us to keep our store looking as nice as possible: both for our business and the downtown area," Higgins stated. Here at the chamber we think it looks great! Nice job on the updated look!

## Small Business Saturday Success

Sandra McClure, co-owner of Central Lean, organized a Small Business Saturday promotion on November 29th to help promote businesses in town. "We had 19 businesses



participate in our shop local campaign on Small Business Saturday," McClure stated, "and over 200 people participated in the event."

Shoppers were given a Shop Small

Passport to use at the participating businesses. They would receive a stamp for visiting the business and another stamp for making a purchase. The passports were then collected to determine the winners.

Whitney Townsend won the prize for the most stamps collected on her Shop Small Passport with a grand total of 30 out of 36 stamps. She won \$50.00 in Chamber Bucks!

Patricia Miller-Schwartz, shown to the right, was the winner of the random drawing of

those who participated and won \$50.00 in Chamber Bucks as well.



Thank you to all of those who shopped small this Christmas season! Supporting our local economy is what the chamber is all about!

Don't forget to shop small throughout 2015 to support our local economy!

## Chamber Buck Review

We've had a lot of questions and confusion regarding how to fill out Chamber Bucks. Please see the diagram below to review how each Chamber Buck should be filled out.



The absolute most important item on filling out the Chamber Buck is making sure that you put your business name on the “Business Redeeming Chamber Buck” line. This needs to be done for each Chamber Buck that you redeem. Multiple chamber bucks come into our office at the same time and filling out that bottom line is how to make sure that your business gets reimbursed! Questions? Call the chamber office at 379-4655.

## Membership Renewals Due January 31st

All member packets were sent out to members in early November. Please note that your 2015 member fees are due by January 31st in order to not miss out on any of our marketing for the upcoming year.

If you need another invoice or have any questions call Kristina to get another copy sent out to you. Help us keep our costs down by sending in your fees as soon as possible!

*The chamber office will now be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8am-Noon. Kristina is always available by phone, text, or email and will answer all inquiries throughout the week. Hours subject to change without notice.*