



Chamber Chatter

St. James Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 358 St. James, MO. 65559

Phone: (573) 265-6649 – January, 2008

Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony

The Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Monday evening, January 14, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at Boys and Girls Town. Keynote speaker will be Blake Luetkemeyer, Missouri Director of Tourism.

Blaine Luetkemeyer is a native of St. Elizabeth, Miller County, Missouri and is a graduate of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO. Upon graduation from college, he was employed by the State of Missouri for two years as a bank examiner. For the past thirty years, he has been a loan officer at the local bank in St. Elizabeth and presently serves on the board of directors. He also operates an insurance agency and was previously in the livestock business for twenty years.

From 1999 to 2005, Blaine served in the Missouri House of Representatives. While there he served as Caucus Chairman for two years and was Chairman of the Financial Services Committee for two years as well. Blaine joined the Division of Tourism as director in October 2006.

He is active in his church, various civic organizations having served on boards at the local and state level, and has also been very involved in various youth programs and organizations over the years. Some of his present affiliations include the Knights of Columbus, the Farm Bureau, Capital Region Board of Governors, and the State Board of Directors for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The awards ceremony will include presentations to "Citizen of the Year" and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Cost of tickets is \$20 and tickets are now on sale at the Chamber office at 111 S. Jefferson, or reservations may be made by calling the Chamber office at 265-6649. (Please note: Reservations will be billed to "no shows".)

January "Business of the Month"

The Chamber would like to congratulate Meramec Winery as "January Business of the Month". The winery was voted on by the members of the Chamber who attended the November business luncheon.

Meramec Vineyards first appeared on the St. James scene in 1980 when Phyllis Meagher bought the "old Tessaro place" with its 15 acres of Concord grapes. With the expansion of the company and the opening of the winery located on I-44, in January of 2008, it wasn't long until the garden room morphed into Bistro seating where tasty lunches are served everyday.

Events have become a hallmark of Meramec Vineyards. Various musicians have performed throughout the years including Chris Procter, Buddy Mondlock and Mick Byrd. Fashion Shows with Plaza Fashions, the Meramec Country Bike Ride, and Bocce Tournaments are popular events. They have also sponsored over-the-top gourmet dinners with guest chefs and hosted a Trout Dinner to focus on one of the things that makes St. James famous. Another popular activity has been Wine School, a fun and informative evening which will expand your knowledge of wine through lecture and tasting.

We celebrate having Meramec Vineyards as the "Business of the Month". They have supported many local projects and fund-raising efforts and contributed to the good life in St. James. A Chamber coffee is scheduled for Friday, January 11, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Be sure to drop by and say hello.

New Members

We would like to welcome two new members to the Chamber of Commerce. They are Sonic Drive In and Forest City Pharmacy. Sonic will soon open on the North side of the viaduct. Forest City Pharmacy is located "downtown St. James". Please stop in and welcome them to our Chamber family .

Welcome Packets

The Chamber is in the process of collecting information sheets, pamphlets, and other tokens to make "Welcome packets" to hand out to people who are interested in relocating to St. James. If you have any handouts or tokens you would like included, please drop them off at the Chamber office sometime within the next week. Suggestions might be:

- **A flyer about your business (perhaps a coupon at the bottom to entice folks to visit your place of business and to track response)
- **Pens, pencils or other tokens with your name and address
- **Business Cards
- **Church Information
- **School Information
- **Tourist Attractions
- **Eating Establishments
- **Unique Businesses
- **Job Opportunities

Along the same line, a tri-fold pamphlet is being designed which would list participating merchants and "special offers" from their business. (For Example: % off coupon, free drink with lunch, etc. etc.) If you would like to have information included in the pamphlet, please call or stop by the chamber with your information.

Nominations Needed for February Business of the Month

The Chamber is currently seeking nominations for February "Business of the Month". If you have a business you would like to nominate, please contact Jennie by noon Friday, January 11. Voting will be done at the Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony.

Deadline for Membership Directory

Notification of dues and an information sheet were recently sent out to all Chamber members. If you did not receive yours, please call the Chamber (265-6649). In order to be listed in the Membership Directory and have your handouts and other tokens placed in the Welcome packets, dues must be paid by February 1, 2008.

Please call your reservation in for the Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony by 4:00 p.m. , Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

What's Happening in Your Chamber

This is just a brief summary to let you know about some of the activities and events being scheduled that involve your Chamber and community. Activities will be added and you are welcome to schedule a Chamber function at your business. Call Jennie at the Chamber to make arrangements to do so. Details on functions will be publicized as plans are finalized.

- January 08 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- January 11 Business of the Mo. Coffee Meramec Winery – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- January 14 Annual Dinner – 6:00 p.m.

- February 05..... Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- February 19.....Chamber Evening Meeting
- February 20.... Chamber Day at the Capital
- February 22..4th Friday Coffee – 7:30 a.m.
- February 29..... Trout Dinner – Sports Club

- March 01 Opening Trout Day
- March 04 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- March 18Chamber Luncheon
- March 284th Friday Coffee – 7:30 a.m.

- April 01 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- April 15Chamber Luncheon
- April 244th Friday Coffee

- May 06 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- May 20 . Chamber Ev. Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- May 234th Friday Coffee – 7:30 a.m.
- May 26 Chamber Office Closed

- June 03 Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m.
- June 17 ..Chamber Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. Political Forum
- June 274th Friday Coffee

Please call the Chamber office at 265-6649 or email Jennie at **stjameschamber@centurytel.net** if you would like to schedule a function, or if you have an item you would like included on a calendar.