



# “CHAMBER CONNECTION”

## BARTON COUNTY

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Dates to Remember**

Monday, September 3rd - Chamber office closed to observe Labor Day
Monday, September 3rd - Grand opening J & M Country Furniture 8 AM to 5 PM
Wednesday, September 5th - Economic Development meeting - 5:30 PM at Thiebaud
Wednesday, September 5th - Arts Council Board Meeting - 5:30 Pm - Chamber office
Thursday, September 6th - EXCEL meeting - Noon - Chamber office
Wednesday, September 12th - Community Betterment - Noon - Wolf Center
Friday, September 14th - Chamber Board meeting - Noon - Chamber office
Thursday, September 20th - Chamber Membership meeting - Noon - The Learning Center
Monday, September 24th - Downtown Association - Noon - Chamber Office
Saturday, September 29th - Lamar City Wide Garage Sale

## THE STRENGTH OF A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Welcome New Members

**J & M Country Furniture**, located at 352 NW 60<sup>th</sup> Road now sells a wide variety of solid wood furniture. They have a large inventory in their newly-built and spacious showroom and also will take special orders. If you see an item in showroom, but prefer a different type of wood, they will order the item specially made for you - delivery on the special order items will be approximately three months. The Millers have lived in Barton County five years, and previously had a bulk food business at Hillcrest Salvage. With the added space adjoining the new furniture showroom, they have moved the bulk food business home, and are able to offer a line of organic items, as well as snack foods. Stop by to visit them at their Grand Opening over Labor Day weekend – Highway 71 north to Highway V, then two miles west to 20<sup>th</sup>. Go left (south), then make an immediate turn back west onto 60<sup>th</sup> road, and watch for the store on your right. Phone 417-884-2253 for more information.

**Wilkinson Pharmacy** provides all your pharmacy needs, as well as offering a wide variety of cards, gifts, office and school supplies, photo service, home medical equipment and oxygen. New Manager, Seth Crawford, transferred to the Lamar store in August, and has made some great changes and additions. Stop by to see their new fall merchandise arriving daily, and watch for their special Open House in October. Located at 605 W. 12<sup>th</sup> in Lamar, phone 682-5838.



Seth Crawford, Wilkinson Pharmacy

**Grill Daddy’z**, 1206 Cherry is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM with a different special each day. Buy one and get one free specials are: Monday Double Hamburger; Tuesday, Chicken Sandwich; Wednesday, Cheeseburger; Friday Roast Beef. Thursday’s special is two hot dogs for \$1.00 and Saturday’s special varies weekly. Stop by for lunch or dinner, and you may phone ahead to

**Westco Home Furnishings** in Lamar offers beautiful lines of name-brand furniture, appliances and electronics. They also have Spring-Air bedding in their showroom. Stop by to visit with Rachel Keith, Store Manager or Pam Wingert at 700 W. 12<sup>th</sup> or phone 682-2221 for information about the store and products. Check out their website: [Westcohomefurnishings.com](http://Westcohomefurnishings.com)

Gold City  
Gospel Group  
Sponsored by  
Cornerstone  
Baptist Church  
Thursday  
September 6th  
7:00 pm  
Thiebaud Auditorium

682-3889.

**Watch for EXCEL 2008**  
coming February & March of next year  
Produced in Cooperation by:  
Barton County Chamber of Commerce  
and  
University of Missouri Extension - Barton County

## What is Happening in Lamar & Barton County?

Naturally, the answer varies depending upon your view. My view is that plenty is happening....or could be happening. We use sayings such as “When one door closes, another opens”, and some think we’re just dreaming. Maybe, but we should remember that plenty of great accomplishments began with dreaming. We also know that isn’t enough. The next steps might be: 1. Write down your dreams. 2. List actions necessary to start and move forward. 3. Study and investigate the plans realistically. Another critical component, and possibly the most important, is be willing to look ahead, try to be open minded, listen to others, be prepared to try a new approach, and be ready to work to make things happen.

Recent developments in Lamar and Barton County have resulted in much discussion – both positive and negative. Many who have dreams choose to think positively and start looking for ways to move forward. A recent visit to Lamar by a group of Bartlesville, Oklahoma businessmen provided us with solid information about recovering and rebuilding after loss of business in the community. From that meeting, The Barton County Community Development Corporation, the Barton County Chamber of Commerce, Community Betterment, the City of Lamar, the Barton County Commission and many others are talking and hoping to develop a plan. The people in these groups don’t want to just talk and hope; they want something to happen. It’s likely that most do not want major changes in Lamar and Barton County, but they also don’t want it to decline and begin fading away. With a unified effort we can do great things to maintain the wonderful community we have and enjoy.

An important thing to remember is that what we have and enjoy today in Barton County was not here 40 or 50 years ago, yet we take for granted that things will continue to be provided. In studying Community Development and Economic Development, it becomes very clear that dreaming and hoping must be followed with actions just to remain afloat.

With business today being much more competitive than it was 40 or 50 years ago, it has become necessary to promote and market ourselves in order to remain an economically healthy and wonderful place to live. We cannot put all our eggs in one basket and wait for someone to come gather them; we need to make sure entrepreneurs and corporations know we are here, and that we have something to offer them. Unfortunately, we can’t just say “Lamar is a nice place to live” or “Lamar has good schools” or “Lamar is such a pretty little town”. All those things are true; however, there are many, many other towns with the same credentials. We must ask ourselves what incentives we have to offer to convince someone to choose us.

Born and raised in Barton County, my family chose to come back after college, and has no desire to live in a large city. We wanted the same life we had growing up, and fortunately we found that. Most of us do want to make sure our “pretty little town” remains a “nice place to live” and “has good schools”. But, if people like Gerald Gilkey, Bud Moore and many others had decided they liked Lamar like it was 40 years ago and didn’t want it to change, they could have just sat back and enjoyed it. Yes, they could have enjoyed it, but what would be here today? Thankfully, they realized that there is continual change, and when one thing goes away, something else must replace it. That doesn’t just happen. So I end with my own question, What is Happening in Lamar and Barton County? Oh, and who will decide?

Nancy Curless

**Truman Days 2008**

Yes, work is already being done to prepare for next year's event to take place on May 10, and will include many activities on the Square, east on 11<sup>th</sup> Street and at the Historic Birthplace. This will combine the Chamber-sponsored events previously held the end of June with the Historic Site's May celebration.

Building on the existing Truman Days activities Pam Myers and Staff host each May, we hope to make this a much bigger event and bring people from around the region to Lamar as we celebrate the birthday of our President. The Art's Council will again sponsor an Arts and Crafts Show around the Square. A newly formed Truman Days Committee coordinated by the Chamber is planning for many fun things along the 11<sup>th</sup> Street corridor connecting the Square to the Birthplace.

Plans also include bringing back the outdoor Truman Pageant, and having a gospel sing, car show, musical entertainment, parade, mule display and historic memorabilia from Truman's era, plenty of food, and the grand finale fireworks display at dusk.

Anyone interested in serving on a subcommittee or participating in this event is encouraged to call the Chamber at 682-3595. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 19 at 10:00 AM at the Chamber office, 110 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

Calling for Your Input! Do you want to be included in The Chamber Connection? Send announcements about your business or about employees you wish to recognize. BC Chamber, 110 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, fax 417-682-9566 or email [nancy@bartoncounty.com](mailto:nancy@bartoncounty.com). We want to stay connected to you and your business so we are out visiting our members on a regular basis. If you wish to schedule a visit with a staff member, please contact us, and we'll be happy to stop by to visit with you.

**Arts Council of Barton County  
Quilt Raffle Lucky Winner  
Mary Kuhn**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARTS COUNCIL FOR WINNING FIRST PLACE ON THEIR FLOAT IN THE ROTARY PARADE .**

**APPLE DAYS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6th  
APPLES, MUMS, APPLE CIDER,  
CRAFT BOOTHS, BABY SHOW,  
DOG SHOW AND  
MUSIC IN THE BANDSTAND**

**J & M Country Furniture**

352 NW 60th Road, Lamar  
8 AM to 5:30 PM  
Free Donuts and Coffee  
5% off all in stock items

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# CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## Welcome New Barton County Chamber Members

### Wilkinson Pharmacy:

Seth Crawford, Manager  
605 A. West 12th Street Lamar, MO 417-682-5838  
Pharmacy, Photo, Home Medical Equipment, Oxygen, Gifts and Greeting Cards.

### Westco Home Furnishings:

Rachel Keith, Manager  
700 W. 12th Street Lamar, MO 417-682-2221  
They offer name brand furniture, appliances, and electronics.  
Also Spring Air bedding.

### Grill Daddy'z:

Angela Horton, Owner  
1206 Cherry Lamar, MO 417-682-3889  
Restaurant open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM with a different special each day .

## More Benefits of the BC Chamber!

- Business to Business: If you are changing or adding products or services or expanding your business, let us coordinate a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Open House or Chamber Coffee. We notify our general membership and general public through email, notices in our newspaper advertising, on channel 3 and our website.
- Why Not? If you are doing just fine without the Chamber, why should you join? The purpose of the Chamber is for the general good of the entire area, not just for individual gain. But by joining your efforts with others through the Chamber you will receive benefits, both directly and indirectly.

## Thank You to the following Renewal Members of the Chamber of Commerce August 2007

Isenhower Lumber - Lonnie Stilabower - 903 Gulf Lamar - 417-682-5545

Janet Maupin - 170 SE 3rd Lane Lamar - 417-682-2444

Wal-Mart - Phil Van Kirk - 29 SW 1st Lane Lamar - 417-682-5516

Workforce Investment Board of SW Missouri - Jason Jones - 730 S. Wall Street Joplin - 417-629-3000

El Charro - 1201 Parry Lamar - 417-682-3249

SEK Broadcasting - Joe Manns - Pittsburg, KS - 620-232-5993

Lamar Enterprises - Judd Chesnut - 1401 Maple Street Lamar - 417-682-3506

Rowland Geddie - 1503 Gulf Lamar - 417-682-6809

Thorco Industries - Ken Howard - 1300 E. 12th Lamar - 417-682-3375

Core Dental Group - Dr. Robert Couch and Dr. Ted Reavley - 804 Gulf Lamar - 417-682-3393

## September Membership Meeting

Join us at The Learning Center on Thursday, September 20 for our monthly meeting. Learn about the Chamber and ongoing community planning. It is a great way to visit and share ideas with your neighbors in business. You will also hear an informational program about the Learning Center's programs, and the economic benefits we enjoy from having them in Barton County.

### CHAMBER STAFF:

NANCY CURLESS, DIRECTOR MEMBERS SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS; JOYCE CODY, OFFICE MANAGER AND MEMBERS SERVICES; PAM LOGAN AND SANDY HARRIS, MEMBERS SERVICES AND OFFICE ASSISTANTS; NATHAN BLANCHARD, WEB MASTER AND JOHN GULICK BUSINESS AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

JUDD CHESNUT, PRESIDENT; JEFF HULL, PRESIDENT ELECT; JOEL DERMOTT, TREASURER; VIRGINIA ERWIN, PAST PRESIDENT; ROWLAND GEDDIE, KIM HUNT & AUSTIN RICE

### EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS:

KRISTINA CROCKETT, LYNN CALTON, RAYMA DAVIS, RAY TUBAUGH