



## March 2010 Newsletter

The mission of the Boonville Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote and support member businesses. Through the strength of our membership network, we provide leadership, resources and information to enhance commerce, tourism, industry, agriculture, and the quality of life in our community.

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# 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Agriculture Appreciation Banquet

## Buy your tickets today!

**Tuesday March 16                      6:30 p.m.**

**Boonville High School Commons**

Tickets available at the Chamber, the Pilot Grove Co-op, the Prairie Home Co-op, and the Cooper County Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, tickets are **only \$6.50** for a delicious dinner prepared by the Cooper County Young Farm Wives.

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## Chamber Membership Drive

### March 9 - 10

Four teams of volunteers will be calling Chamber members, non-renewing members, and prospective members. Mandy Eichelberger, owner of Boonville Abstract & Title, is chairing this year's event.

This year's Drive is different because ALL members will be called, regardless of their renewal month. The Chamber is working to get all members on the same renewal schedule. For example, members normally due in September will be called and asked to join through March 2011 at a prorated dues rate. Invoicing once per year as opposed to every month is another step we are taking to make the Chamber more efficient in order to better serve our members. Of course, we are open to your comments. Members submitting their dues prior to March 9 will not be contacted. A successful membership drive is crucial to the continued success of your Chamber of Commerce. Thank you!

### Team Captains

**Debi Alpers, Copies Etc.**

**Robin Billings, KWRT**

**Paul Davis, Cooper County Commissioner**

**Debbie Richerson, Quinlan Agency**

## From the Director's Desk

It's Official—I'm sick of winter! I'm hoping that the March lion quickly turns into a lamb. Having lived in the Midwest all but 3 years of my life, I'm used to winter and don't even mind it most of the time. But enough is enough!

The Chamber Board met in early February for the annual Board Retreat and created the Program of Work for 2010. Some of the items include:

1. Increase Membership
2. Finalize the relationship between the Chamber and City of Boonville Tourism
3. Create an effective policy manual for the Chamber
4. Switch to task forces instead of committees for most activities
5. Create more non-dues revenue options

When the Program of Work is finalized it will be available for viewing (and comment) by members.

The Chamber calendar is relentless, and this month is no exception with the Ag Appreciation Dinner (thanks for the donations!), the Membership Drive—a big one this year—and Meet the Candidates. Thank goodness for the social at WJ's on the 17<sup>th</sup>! We'll need the rest by then.

Lisa

### New Members

~ February ~

Mitch's Barbershop

### SAVE THE DATE

Spring Progressive Dinner

Friday, April 16



### The NEW Boonville Farmers Market

The Boonville Farmers Market is on a 30-day countdown to opening day! The newly formed non-profit organization will be **open for business April 3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., on the Orscheln parking lot.** A Grand Opening festival is being planned for Saturday, May 1. The season will run through the last Saturday in October and will close with a celebratory "Agri-tour." The event will highlight both century farms and agritourism operations in and around Cooper County.

"In the short term, we hope the market will be an outlet for locally grown produce and original arts and crafts. But in the long term, we hope the market will serve as the nucleus for a new local food system and a catalyst for the revival of the family farm," said 2010 Market Manager Karen Ratay Green. "People sometimes forget that 'food' is one of the biggest local industries we have. More retail outlets for farmers will create more economic opportunities for rural residents," she added.

**A vendors meeting will be held Thursday, March 4, 7 p.m. at Boonville City Hall for anyone interested in selling their homegrown produce, value-added items or handmade crafts.** Vendor fees for this year will be \$5 each Saturday or \$50 for the season. A vendor application and market rules will be available online at [boonvillemo.org](http://boonvillemo.org) and [coopercountymo.org](http://coopercountymo.org) beginning Friday, February 26.

# business NEWS



**Chamber St. Patrick's Day Social @  
WJ's!  
Wednesday, March 17  
5 p.m.  
418 Sixth St., Downtown Boonville**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Dr. Scott A. Fray of Cooper County Animal Hospital was installed as executive board chair of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA).** The MVMA was founded to help Missouri veterinarians better serve the welfare of animals and their owners. Dr. Fray is an invaluable member of the Chamber board and is active in many other organizations. Congratulations!

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## REMINDER

Help us keep your information accurate!  
Please check your information on the Business Directory at  
[www.BoonvilleMoChamber.com](http://www.BoonvilleMoChamber.com)

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## CORRECTION

In a previous newsletter, we congratulated **Mr. David Haun** on being a 50-year chamber member. ***It's actually 60+ years!*** To our knowledge, this makes Mr. Haun the longest-running active Chamber member in our history.  
**Thank you for your support, Mr. Haun!**

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**Marshall Women in Agriculture Conference**  
**Friday, March 12**                      **9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
Martin Community Center, 1980 S. Odell Ave, Marshall  
To register, call the Saline Co. Extension at 660-886-6908  
[Facebook.com/womeninag](https://www.facebook.com/womeninag)

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## Upcoming Events

~For full event listings on the Google calendar, go to [BoonvilleMoChamber.com](http://BoonvilleMoChamber.com)~

- Chamber Board of Directors Meeting** ~ Tuesday, March 2, 5:30 p.m. ~ Chamber office
- Chamber Membership Drive** ~ Tuesday & Wednesday, March 9-10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. ~ Chamber
- Heritage Days Committee Meeting** ~ Thursday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. ~ Chamber office
- Retail Committee Meeting** ~ Tuesday, March 16, 8 a.m. ~ Chamber office
- Agriculture Appreciation Banquet** ~ Tuesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. ~ Boonville H.S. Commons
- Chamber St. Patrick's Day Social at WJ's** ~ Wednesday, March 17, 5 p.m. ~ 418 Sixth St.
- Meet the Candidates Night** ~ Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m. ~ City Hall, 525 E. Spring St., Boonville
- Retailer's "Before Hours Get Together" Social** ~ Tuesday, March 30, 8 a.m. ~ Hotel Frederick
- Boonville Farmer's Market Opens** ~ Saturday, April 3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. ~ Orscheln parking lot
- Election Day** ~ Tuesday, April 6
- Big Muddy Folk Festival** ~ Friday & Saturday, April 9 – 10

**Boonville Farmer's Market Opens** ~ Saturday, April 3, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. ~ Orscheln parking lot