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○ March 2014

WE CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEKIN-AREA BUSINESSES TO SUCCEED.

Chamber Connection

Welcome To Our Newest Members!

Midwest Engineering Associates, Inc.

100 N. Main St., Suite 301, East Peoria, IL 61611

309-222-8600

309-698-3055

www.mweainc.com

[Robert Culp, Principal](#)

[David Horton, Principal](#)

Midwest Engineering Associates, Inc. is a Professional Engineering Firm located in East Peoria, IL specializing in a civil/site, transportation, hydraulic, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and construction engineering, materials testing, professional land surveying and landscape architecture service.

MW

Midwest Engineering

Associates, Inc.

Pekin Marigold Committee Releases 2014 Festival Theme



You can expect to see plenty of camouflage at the 2014 Pekin Marigold Festival. Drawing upon one of cable TV's most popular shows, and Pekin's unique history of river sports, the Marigold Festival committee announced the theme of the 2014 festival will be "Marigold Dynasty."

The festival committee also announced the festival's celebrity guest will be Tim Guraedy, better known as Mountain Man on A & E's Duck Dynasty.

"Our committee is very excited about the possibilities of this year's theme," said Greg Ranney, chairman of the Marigold Festival Committee.

"With our rich river history, the P.S. Olt duck calls, local decoy carvers, Pekin Reels, and a tie to television's hottest show, we think our festival will be very popular," Ranney said.

Chamber Calendar Of Events

- March 5 - Executive Board Meeting
Pekin 1st Committee Meeting
- March 6 - Business After Hours**
- March 12 - Member Promotion Comm. Meeting
Transportation Committee Meeting
Board of Director's Meeting
- March 19 - Ambassador's Meeting
- March 25 - Business Advocacy Comm. Meeting

*****Mark Your Calendar*****

***The Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Annual Meeting
The evening of Monday, April 21st, 2014***

Chamber events and committee meetings are listed on our online calendar:

Visit our website at www.pekinchamber.com and click on Chamber Calendar



ENVIRO-SAFE
REFRIGERANTS

March Business After Hours

Hosted By:



SALES AND SERVICE

1820 Riverway Dr., Pekin, IL 61554
Thursday, March 6th
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Please RSVP to 309-346-2106 or info@pekinchamber.com

Come out and enjoy a tour of the facility,
cooking demos, food made ON SITE,
manufacturer reps and door prizes!!!



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Recent Events

Puttin' On Pekin

The Puttin' On Pekin breakfast was held on Valentine's Day and about 90 chamber members and guests attended the event. Dean Covey (Trouble Free Heating & Cooling) won the early prize, while Doug Leathers & Don Chisom (Illinois Corn Processing) shared the late prize. Jack & Bryan Steger accepted the Spotlight on Business Award for Steger's Furniture. Phil Evans accepted the Blue Ribbon award for Pekin Insurance for their work on their new building on Parkway Drive. Captain Martin Theis accepted the Sunshine Award for the Salvation Army. Nona Buyster, Teresa Mack, Suzanne Wheeler and Lisa Beyer creatively presented information about Artistic Community Theater, including their history and upcoming events.



Hair Cuttery Grand Reopening

The Hair Cuttery, 531 S. Parkway Drive, recently celebrated their grand reopening and the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce was there to commemorate the event with a ribbon cutting. Hair Cuttery is the largest family owned and operated chain of hair salons in the country, with nearly 900 company-owned locations on the East Coast, New England and the Midwest. A full-service, value priced salon, Hair Cuttery offers a full complement of cuts, styling, coloring, waxing and texturizing services with no appointment necessary. They also offer a full line of professional hair care products. In Pekin you can reach the Hair Cuttery at (309) 353-9415 or on the web at www.haircuttery.com.



You can see more pictures from these and other chamber events at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/PekinChamber>

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Member Announcements

[Goodwill](#) of Central Illinois has announced Gretchen Piper as Director of Communications and Betsy Bladel as Assistant Director of Vocational Services.

“We are delighted to have both Gretchen and Betsy join the Goodwill team,” said Patty Fuchs, Goodwill President & CEO. “They each bring a fresh perspective that will benefit us as we expand our services and support of Central Illinois.”

The [Pekin Hospital](#) League held their annual meeting February 3 and presented a check to Pekin Hospital CEO Gary L. Jepson for \$130,250. The contribution will be used to support the Critical Care Unit monitoring system at Pekin Hospital. Founded in 1958, the Hospital League was comprised of 38 women. Over the years, the League has contributed over \$4.5 million towards patient care. Today, the League has 77 active members, 10 provisional, 50 sustaining, 34 sustaining life members, and 20 non-resident members. In the past year, the League has contributed 17,654 hours, and manages the Pekin Hospital Gift Shop located in the Hospital Lobby and the Nearly-Nu Shop located on Derby Street.

Other fundraising events include the annual Golf Classic, scheduled for May 5, 2014, and the Holiday Magic Gift Show scheduled for November 1, 2014.

[Speakeasy Art Center](#) Spring Bus Trip, March 22, 2014. Leaving early AM for Chicago and arriving at The Chicago Art Institute around 9:30AM. Departing Chicago around 5:30 PM for home. Cost is \$65 per person and includes admission to The Art Institute. Email speakeasyartcenter@hotmail.com for forms and sign up information. **Payment must be received by March 1st.**

[ICPR Family Practice](#) will be hosting the first educational seminar of 2014 for the Knee Arthritis Program on Wednesday, March 5th at Lariat Steakhouse in Peoria beginning at 6pm. Admission is free and light snacks and beverages will be provided. Seating is limited so please Call Misty at 309-347-4277. You do not have to be a patient of ICPR Family Practice to participate in the Knee Arthritis Program and there are no referrals needed! View all of the upcoming seminar dates and locations at www.icpronline.com

[Medical Explorers Meeting](#) will be held on March 20 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Pekin Hospital in the Park Court Conference Centers. Mike Dant, EMS Program Director, will discuss EMT/paramedic careers. Pekin Hospital is partnering with the W.D. Boyce Council, Boy Scouts of America to offer a Medical Explorers Post in Tazewell County. The program is open to young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years old who are interested in learning more about health careers. The cost to join is only \$10 per person. For more information on the Medical Explorers Program, please call (309) 353-0763 or visit pekinhospital.org.

You can read more on these stories by visiting
www.pekinchamber.blogspot.com.



UnityPoint Clinic

FAMILY MEDICINE | CARDIOLOGY | PEKIN





Biz Barometer

- ☹️ 2014 January home sales in three of the four large Tazewell County communities lagged behind January of 2013: Pekin (20 vs. 25), East Peoria (17 vs. 19), and Morton (11 vs. 13). Washington (14 vs. 13) was the only large Tazewell community with a better January sales total.
- ☹️ The unemployment rate in Pekin was 10.6% in December, up from 10.5% in November and 9.4% last December.
- ☹️ 15,422 people were employed in Pekin in December . That's up 82 less than November., and 559 less than last December.
- ☹️ 178,165 people were employed in the Peoria region in December . That's up 945 less than November, and 6,463 less than last December.
- 😊 Total U.S. nonfarm payroll employment rose by 113,000 in January, and the unemployment rate was little changed at 6.6 percent. Employment grew in construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and mining.
- ☹️ Pekin's January sales tax disbursement from the state was down 12.3% compared to a year ago.
- 😊 Pekin's sales tax disbursement for the past 12 months is 0.1% greater than the previous 12 months.
- 😊 East Peoria's sales tax disbursement from the state for the past 12 months is 9.7% greater than the previous 12 months, while Washington (1.9%) and Morton (0.9%) are also up compared to the 12 month period.
- 😊 The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.1 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 1.6 percent before seasonal adjustment.

(Source: Peoria Area Association of Realtors, Illinois Department of Revenue, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Illinois Department of Employment Security)

Membership Renewals

Thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who have renewed their investment in the chamber...

4-Star MVPs: Midwest Generation Powerton Station

3-Star MVPs: CenturyLink ~ Pekin Community Bank

2-Star MVPs: The Unland Companies

1-Star MVPs: FCI Pekin ~ Food Depot / Niemann Foods

Classic: Accelerated Rehabilitation Center ~ Boy Scouts of America/W.D. Boyce Council ~ Carney's Insurance Store ~ Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell ~ DeMonte D.D.S., Dr. Anthony ~ Four Seasons Gutter Protection Co. ~ Jim Maloof Realtor ~ KCB Information Services ~ Kelley Construction Contractors, Inc. ~ Dr. David Kuban, DDS ~ Mist ~ Pekin Moose Family Center, Lodge # 916 ~ Pekin Township ~ Peoria Journal Star ~ Pepsi Cola ~ Pyramid Printing ~ S & D Cleaning ~ Security Finance ~ T-Shirt House ~ TAPS Animal Shelter ~ Tazewell County School Employees Credit Union ~ The Unique Twist ~ Traders Realty Corp. ~ Velde Lincoln Volvo of Peoria

Individual/Retired: Rich Gafford ~ Sylvan Franklin



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