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A Publication of the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce

February 2012

A Reason to Shop Local in 2012!

Help transform our community into a retail destination, draw traffic and encourage sales. Let's aim to improve the economic health of our neighborhoods, our localities and our shopping corridors.

1. Shopping local creates jobs. Shops in our town create local employment and self-employment. These people in turn spend in the local economy.

2. Local independent shops invest more in our communities. Local businesses are proportionally more generous in their support of local charities, schools, and community events. So supporting local shops means a financial contribution to our community.

3. Local shops sell great products at affordable prices. Some people get out of the habit of shopping locally and are then surprised by the range of products available.

4. Shopping locally saves you time and money. You travel less, saving on time and fuel.

5. Shopping locally retains our communities. People don't like losing shops and services in small towns but don't equate this with how they spend their money.

6. Shopping locally retains your distinctiveness. Independent shops create distinctive shopping experiences and stock different products. Local businesses respond more quickly to the needs of local customers, stocking

products to meet changing population needs.

7. Shopping locally saves the environment. Local shops often stock a high percentage of locally sourced goods that do not require long-distance transportation, helping to reduce our global footprint.

8. Local shops are for everyone. Most people can get to their local shops easily. This is especially important for the elderly, young people and others who rely on public transportation.

9. Local shops value you more. Evidence from numerous surveys show people receive better customer care and service locally. These businesses survive by their reputation and repeat business, which means you get a higher

standard of service.

10. Shopping local saves services. Private and public sector services cluster around shops. As shops disappear so do hairdressers, banks, restaurants and other businesses.

Consumers can pledge to Think, Shop, Buy, Local and commit to patronizing businesses near where they live and work. Local stores employ your neighbors, pay taxes that support your schools and improve your roads, and contribute to local non-profit groups.

Together we can strengthen relationships that improve our quality of life. So next time before you make a purchase, Think, Shop, Buy, Local.



BY RICK OLIVER

Prior to my retirement four years ago, there were three main things which kept me busy: my job, my church, and the O'Fallon Chamber—not to mention our seven grandchildren!

My involvement with the Chamber dates back some fifteen years, the past four of which I have represented SunRise United Methodist Church.

At the beginning of 2012, SunRise has over 900 members and an average weekend attendance of over 700. That adds up to over 3/4 of our membership attending each weekend, which is unusual in today's culture. We offer a service on Saturday at 5pm and three services on Sunday morning at 8:15, 9:30, and 11. In addition, we offer services at the Delmar Garden Villas at 9:15am and Delmar Gardens at 10:35am on Sundays. Our youth (grades 6-12) worship at *The Gathering on Sunday

evenings at SunRise.

SunRise is a mission-oriented church. In addition to several local outreach ministries (free dental clinic, Christmas day lunch, disaster-relief-fundraisers), we are involved in ministry in Honduras in the areas of construction, medical, and dental mission trips. In 2011 we sent several groups of volunteers to be the hands and feet of Christ for the residents of Joplin, Missouri who were affected by the tornado last May. We offer many Bible studies and a dynamic small-group ministry. Each weekend over 140 children attend our SunKids program and we have over 120 children in our weekday preschool.

Call us at 636-978-2727 or visit our website at www.sunrisefamily.org with questions or see me at our next chamber function.

Growing STRONGER

Thank you for renewing your membership in the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce. Our community continues to prosper as successful businesses are working to strengthen our economic climate; insuring that all citizens enjoy an exceptional quality of life.

The Board of Directors and Chamber Staff would like to thank the following members for renewing their Chamber investment this month. We encourage our members to invest in each other.

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Chamber Partners: Ameren Missouri - CenturyLink - Charter Business - City of O'Fallon - Delmar Gardens
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O'Fallon Chamber Awards Members



The O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce its award winners for 2011. The Chamber sought out nominations for Small Business, Business, and Large Business of the Year as well as the first ever Sue Proost O'Fallon Chamber Person of the Year award from its membership.

"The selection committee had a lot of discussion when choosing from the nominees in each category," said Erin Williams, Chamber President/CEO, "we are blessed to be in a community filled with businesses that are dedicated to O'Fallon and to our Chamber."

Autotech Auto Center will be awarded as the 2011 Small Business of the Year. Autotech is known for the customer service provided by their

staff and the knowledge of owner Greg Kinder. Both Greg and Barb Kinder are staples of the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce, helping to foster growth of their fellow chamber members in leads groups as well as volunteering as Ambassadors and on the Trivia committee.

F&M Bank and Trust Company will be honored as the 2011 Business of the Year because of the company's dedication to the O'Fallon community as well as the Chamber of Commerce. F&M Bank and Trust relocated in O'Fallon in 2010 and has continued to grow since then. Employees of the bank are known to wear blue jeans on Fridays as an effort to raise money for their Adopt a Family program at Christmas time. "It seems like F&M Bank is always looking to help someone or some organization, their community spirit is evident in each one of their employees," said Williams. F&M Bank and Trust representatives are on hand at each event the Chamber hosts, whether

it is a ribbon cutting, a new member orientation, or a fundraiser, F&M has a presence.

The 2011 Large Business of the Year is being awarded to Delmar Gardens. Since coming to O'Fallon, not only has the company offered only the highest quality of life to its residents, but has only enhanced the quality of life of the residents of O'Fallon. Each year the company, free of charge offers an Independence Day spectacular with fireworks, food and fun for the whole family. They actively pursue ways to help out the not-for-profit community.

"When the selection committee met, the one thing that we kept asking was, 'is this a company that we can hold up and say to our other members, this is what a good business does?' I feel that each of the award winners are exactly that, businesses that our members can look to emulate," Williams said.

The Sue Proost O'Fallon Chamber Person of the Year is being awarded to Mark Crank of Marcos Productions.

This award is named after former Chairwoman of the Board who passed away in 2010. Sue Proost was known for her leadership, dedication and volunteerism to the entire O'Fallon community, but especially the Chamber of Commerce. These are qualities that Crank exemplifies. Crank is the current chair of the Ambassadors committee which has continued to grow in numbers and participation under his leadership. He is also the co-chair of the Trivia committee, a driving force in the leads group program and a friendly face to our new members and guests at all Chamber functions. Crank volunteers his time to Old Newsboy Day, Friends of Kids with Cancer, and the Missouri Association of Fairs and Festivals.

The Chamber honored all of the winners at the December 13th general membership meeting luncheon held at the Christy Banquet Center.



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Community Council Metro St. Louis Cinderella Project

Donate Your Dress!
Additional collection sites will become available February all over the St. Louis area! To keep informed of all Cinderella news and events check our website www.CinderellaSTL.org. Dresses will be accepted through

February 28, 2012.

You had fun wearing it - now feel great sharing it! Short or long formal, bridesmaid, special event and party dresses are welcome. Please donate your cleaned dress on a hanger. The Metro St. Louis Cinderella Project gives the gift of a prom dress to deserving girls in the metro area who cannot afford to attend prom on their own. Donated dresses are made available to junior and senior high school girls who are referred to the project by their high school counselors. The VIP's (very important prom-goers) receive a free dress, alterations, hairdo's and girlie goodies to help make their prom a memorable event. Once the VIP's have made their dress selections, we open the boutique to the public and any girl can shop for a dress at an affordable price of \$29. The Boutique is scheduled to open in March of 2012.

The Old Tax House Celebrates 35th Anniversary

The Old Tax House is a small business success story in a "big box store" world. Locally owned and operated, The Old Tax House has been serving individuals and businesses in St. Charles County and surrounding

areas for 35 years. With persistence, hard work, and the best staff in the business, the company grew to become the largest tax office in O'Fallon, Missouri. Assisting our customers with a high level of personal service is our trademark. Thirty-five years later, we're still committed to those same ideals and are very proud of the company we've become.

Our customers with their continued dedication and referrals have made us the company we are today. As a way to celebrate this milestone we have a few surprises for some of our most loyal customers, all of our clients will have a chance to win one of several digital cameras, and we're sponsoring a coloring contest for kids. It's our way of honoring our 35th anniversary. All of us at the Old Tax House would like to say a heartfelt, "Thank you, to our many clients.

For additional information, stop by our office, visit our website at www.oldtaxhouse.com, or call us at (630) 240-7706.

Dr. Thomas Wright
Receives Patients' Choice Award
Dr. Thomas Wright, Medical Director of Laser Lipo and Vein Center

O'Fallon, MO, has received The Patients' Choice Award, an honor that is awarded to only 5% of the nation's physicians. 2011 marks the second year that Dr. Wright has received the award.

In addition to the Patients' Choice Awards, Dr. Wright has been accorded many other honors during his medical career. Some of these awards include election to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, the American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award, and appointment as a Howard Hughes Research Fellow.

There are currently 720,000 physicians in the U.S. Every month millions of patients review the physicians' bedside manner, accuracy of diagnosis, time spent with patients and levels of follow up care. If physicians receive consistently excellent patient reviews, they are then eligible to receive the Patients' Choice Award.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Wright directly at: Laser Lipo and Vein Center located at 3449 Pheasant Meadow Dr. Ste100 in O'Fallon, MO 63368, 636-397-4012 or info@laserlipoandveins.com.

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INGREDIENTS:

- double crust for a 9-inch pie plate
- 4 slices bacon, chopped coarse
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 T. flour
- 1 t. seasoned salt
- 1/4 t. black pepper
- 2 lbs. beef round steak
- 4 T. veg. oil
- 2 T. golden raisins
- 1 T. light brown sugar
- 1 -12 oz. bottle Guinness stout
- 1/2 c. parsley, chopped
- Tabasco sauce to taste

DIRECTIONS:

- Line a 9-inch pie plate with half of prepared pastry. Bake according to package directions and cool.
- Preheat oven to 350. Cook bacon, drain. In same skillet, saute onion till limp. Drain and put bacon and onion into an oven-proof casserole. Combine flour, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Add meat and toss to coat. Heat oil in skillet and add pieces of beef to brown. Drain and add to casserole.
- Place casserole over med-high heat and add raisins, brown sugar, stout and Tabasco. Bring to a boil stirring to blend well. Cover and bake in oven for 1 1/2 hours. Stir occasionally. Add more stout or water if gravy appears too thick.
- Remove from oven and increase oven temp to 425. Stir parsley into mixture, spoon into pie shell, roll out the other pie crust and cut slices to vent steam. Place on pie, flute or crimp edges. Place pie on cookie sheet and bake till crust is golden about 16 minutes. Remove from oven and let sit 15 minutes before cutting.

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