



MISSION STATEMENT

The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce supports our business community to enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

NOVEMBER 2009

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Celebrate the Raytown Chamber's 80th Anniversary with a program from the Raytown Historical Society

RAYTOWN:
YESTERDAY, TODAY
& TOMORROW

A Time Capsule will be filled & sealed to be opened in 2029

The luncheon sponsor and host will be the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program. The lunch will be held in their new Community Room. Immediately following the luncheon, there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Flag Dedication to celebrate REAP's new facility.



Wed. November 18 at 11:30am
REAP - 9300 E. 75th Street

(79th St. west to Elm-north to 75th St. Parking is available in the lot & on the street)

Members \$13, Guests \$16

RSVP by Mon. Nov. 16 at Noon

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LUNCHEON RSVP POLICY

- Reservations *must* be made by NOON on the Monday before luncheon.
- After the deadline, there will be a \$3.00 extra charge.
- No shows will be invoiced with a \$2.00 fee added.





Board of Directors

Dr. Tim Chirpich, Chair of the Board
Raytown Gregory Animal Health Cntr.

Ben Helt, Chair Elect
Benetti's Coffee Experience

Patrick J. Searcy, Treasurer
Power On Technologies

Pat Ertz, Secretary
Public Water Supply District #2

Tom Gibbens, Past Chair
Associate Member

At Large Members

Ken Blom
Stratford Development Corporation

Andrew Loos
Missouri Funeral Care

Mike Watkins
Lifetime Member

Board Members

Shawna Burns
Commerce Bank

Paula Fats Cannon
Blue Ridge Bank and Trust Co.

Pam Clark-McKinley
Clark's Appliances

Dr. David Fray
Fray Chiropractic Office

Gary Graham
Fun House Pizza & Pub, Inc.

Jay Grimwood
Kansas City Baptist Temple

Dr. John Holmes
Personal Care Dental Group

Dr. Allan Markley
Raytown Quality Schools

John Ness
Associate Member

Peggy Sundquist
The UPS Store

Mahesh Sharma, Liaison
City of Raytown

Staff

Vicki Turnbow, President
president@raytownchamber.com

Kyle Phillips, Operations Manager
kphillips@raytownchamber.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since 1929 there has been a who's who of great individuals who have volunteered their time to be President, changed in 1997 to the title of Chairman of the Board. In looking over the list, the first female served in the 70's and by 1997 Shirley Wurth was only the fourth female to lead the Chamber as President. I also talked with Dr. Larry Gillig, retired owner of Raytown Gregory Animal Health Center for his thoughts as 1981 Chamber President.

Shirley Wurth - A Privilege! With 12 years between the time I served as President (changed the by-laws midyear to make it Chair) and now, I still remember the richness of serving others in our Greater Raytown community and have forgotten the hours spent working and worrying about Chamber growth and service. Cleaning up after animals in the Round-Up Parade is a memory not ever forgotten! Just as I was ready to take on the responsibilities, I was fortunate enough to be a part of hiring a new Chamber Executive Director; we all worked together for a new look. Friendships made during Chamber days are still important, and I applaud everyone for giving back to our community. Raytown Area Chamber and Raytown Quality Schools have been part of my family for years, and you know we women care a lot about those around us. I have always enjoyed being a female but it was not a big deal as Chamber President; it was a job some entrusted me to do. Happy 80th Anniversary!

Larry Gillig - The Raytown Area Chamber of Commerce was the best thing that ever happened to me in my business life. By being involved in the Chamber I met so many good people and made many lifelong friendships. Dr. Jim Osborne and I were sitting together at a Chamber luncheon at the Blue Ridge United Methodist Church and both volunteered to pick up horse manure after the Round-Up Days parade. That was the first of many years working on Round-Up Days and so many friendships developed by doing so. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything. I was honored to be asked to be the Chamber President in 1981 following George Kirchoffer when President-Elect James Robinson chose to step down. The Chamber offices were located in an old house owned by Neal Clevenger on Arlington Street. Rosalie Vanzant was the Executive Director and was so instrumental in us having a great year. The theme that year was "Everyone Counts" and we tried to involve as many people as we could in the various activities. Diane Doctor was President-Elect and was President the following year. It was always a pleasure for me to work in the Chamber because Raytown was very important to me and being involved in the Chamber did so much to help me establish a successful business. However, the thing I cherish most about my time in the Chamber are the wonderful friendships I made. Someone who doesn't see the benefit of the Chamber of Commerce simply has not chosen to get involved. It is with a great deal of pride that I have been able to watch my successor in business become involved in the community. Dr. Tim Chirpich is the Chairman of the board in this 80th anniversary year. Tim is a good man and is very dedicated to serving Raytown.

If there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is always open, come by anytime!

Vicki Turnbow, President



Chamber Board Supports Renewal of Combat Tax

The Raytown Chamber Board of Directors voted at the October 8, 2009 Board meeting to support the renewal of the anti-drug sales tax (COMBAT) at the rate of one-quarter of one percent for a period of seven years. It will be placed on the ballot, November 3rd.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Awards Committee - Please see the enclosed **Business of the Year Awards Nomination** form. Deadline to nominate a company is December 1.

Community Initiatives Committee - The committee met on October 14 to discuss a list of commercial and residential properties that will be awarded a image maker certificate. The committee will review the list on October 28 and the winners from both categories will be asked to come to the Chamber's November luncheon where they will be recognized. There will be no meeting in December.

Government Relations - The Government Relations committee will meet at the Chamber office on **Friday, November 6**, to continue working on drafting the Chamber's 2010 legislative agenda. Anyone with issues they would like to have included in the agenda should contact Vicki Turnbow with suggestions.

Raytown SummerFest & BBQ Cookoff - The dates are final - **June 11 & 12, 2010** are set! Mark your calendars. If there is an organization that is holding an event during the same weekend, let us know and maybe we can help each other by advertising for all events. The committee is looking to enlarge the event and will work with the City, police, fire and EMS to confirm what parameters we are allowed and then notify the businesses in downtown as to our intentions. Please let us know of any ideas, comments or concerns you may have in regards to this event. If you would like to be on the committee, please let us know.

Membership Development - the next meeting is **Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 a.m.** to be held at the Chamber office. All new members to date who have not been to a Chamber luncheon have been contacted and we hope they will be able to attend the last luncheon of the year, November 18. If not, membership plaques will be delivered.

RAYTOWN NIGHT AT THE MAVERICKS - Something new for 2010 the Raytown Chamber will host a Raytown Night at the Mavericks. Enclosed in this newsletter is the order form for tickets. We will sell tickets here at the Chamber office and are excited about the opportunity to be one of the first groups to sponsor a night. What a great stocking stuffer for Christmas! Over 12,000 flyers are being sent out to the community in the hopes of a great showing from Raytown. The Missouri Mavericks have joined the Chamber and want to be involved in the community. If you have any questions, please let us know.

MEMBER ADS

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Valid 09/01/09-12/31/09 with approved credit. Call for details.

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Chamber Leadership: Past Executive Directors/Presidents

In preparing for this issue of the newsletter to help celebrate the 80th anniversary, I decided to get some comments from the past executive directors/presidents of the Raytown Chamber. It was great to catch up with them and to hear their stories. They are a great group of individuals. I asked each one to provide an overview of their time and here are their responses.

Rosalie Vanzant (1977-84) - As I recall, the late '70's and early '80's were exciting days for the Chamber. There were a lot of dedicated volunteers, both men and women, and some good leadership. The Chamber membership grew dramatically, and we were becoming more involved in the life of the community. There were a lot of projects. We got a grant and started the Neighborhood Councils. Their first big project was the Neighborhood Watch program operated in conjunction with the Raytown Police Department. Round-up Days were going strong, and we had some spring retail promotions. The Chamber got its first computer about 1980, and the Chamber newsletter was expanded. Also, the Chamber had its first two women presidents.

Harvey Wadleigh (1987 - 1995) Let's see now! Wow, in July 1987 while reading the Raytown News (in my newly established retirement from Raytown Schools) I noticed that the Chamber Director position was advertised. For just a moment, I pondered what that involved? At that time, Shirley, my wife arrived home and remarked, "Nice to be able to sit on the front porch and read"! A new challenge seemed to say, "don't just sit there, do something". So I reviewed the article again and determined that I could handle it. As many of us did I went to see Joe Herndon and discussed the possibilities with him. Hence, an application was successfully made and I had to give up relaxing on the front porch. The Chamber was located in Woodson Village, in a long narrow suite. The front service as "office space" and the rear a meeting room of sorts. At that time, the Chamber was short on funds and we were hopeful that we could do some things to raise money. Through garage sales, rummage sales and Round-Up Days we struggled to make enough money to even keep going. There was always the dream the Chamber would own their own building. One day a longtime building member brought up the question, "Is it time to stretch ourselves and undertake a building"? I am sure I was like many others thinking how could we possibly? Then when the decision was made, you can't imagine how things began to develop. As the new building began to take shape, so did the membership. A corner stone was placed on the building in honor of Johnny Spotts, a long time member and faithful ambassador of the Chamber. Round-Up Days had many homes during my eight years. Among those being: behind one of the shopping centers, behind City Hall, downtown at 63rd Street and Raytown Road just to name a few. I formed many friendships and was especially happy to see former Raytown graduates in their new roll as business men and business partners. Since leaving the Chamber in 1995, Vicki I believe you are the fifth Chamber Director/President.

Penny Hoffman (1995 - 1996) As I reflect on my tenure at the Raytown Chamber of Commerce, I am reminded of the many great people with whom I had the privilege to serve and work. Some of those names still appear on your website as long-time committed volunteers to the Chamber and to the Raytown community. I salute all of you who keep giving of your time and talent to the "premier business" in Raytown, YOUR Chamber of Commerce. Although I have many memories of my time in Raytown...Roundup Days, monthly luncheons and the great BBQ Cook-offs, I think I probably best remember my initial interview with board members at the Chamber office. After spending time in a Chamber trying to just pay the rent, I was in awe that I might have a chance to work with an organization that actually owned its own building. Imagine my surprise when opening the front door to find a bath tub filled with giant gold fish! I quickly learned they were really Koi with quite a history. I must confess there were many comments made by visitors about the uniqueness of the "Koi pond", and I vividly recall telling anyone who asked, "Oh, that was Doc's idea." Talk about passing the buck (or the Koi)! I also recollect being full of ideas for change, but quickly learning that change is not always looked on as an "opportunity", but a "challenge" by others. Most of you will know that I was never one to back down from the "new opportunity" and I loved tackling the task of assisting in developing the Economic Development Consortium under the direction of the Board of Alderman and Mayor Nesbitt and bringing that group under the Chamber umbrella. Because time seems to repeat itself, it appears from the Chamber website today that you are vigorously marching forward with continuing improvements in economic development with the hopes of hiring an Economic Development Administrator through the City. With that in mind I couldn't resist sharing this small economic reminder A locally owned independent business returns approximately 80% of each dollar spent back to the community. Local, independent businesses assist the community through a "multiplier effect": one dollar spent at a locally owned business will return five times that amount within the community through city taxes, employees' wages, and purchase of materials and supplies at other independent businesses. In addition, these businesses will turn that dollar back into the community through school funding, social services, and contributions to local non-profit organizations. Congratulations and best wishes for a Happy 80th Anniversary Raytown Chamber of Commerce! Keep making YOUR business THEIR business! With fond memories, Penny Hoffman

Nancy Bruns (1996 - 2000) - My fondest memories are mostly about the people in the Chamber....a great group of volunteers and lots of fun times. We worked so hard on Round-Up and the Barbeque and it took so many volunteer hours - but we made it fun at the same time! We spent lots of time trying to find uses for the old First Baptist Church and creating a synergy for the downtown area and I'm happy to see progress being made in all those areas. Congratulations Raytown Chamber for 80 years!

Sue Hofmann (2000 - 2002) My husband John and I began volunteering for the Raytown Chamber in the 1990's. The two years I was honored to serve as President of your Chamber (2000-2002) are highlights of both my business career and personal life in Raytown.

A few of the top nostalgic moments include:

Annual Inaugural Balls - Raytown Barbeque (remember the micro-burst during setup?) - Raytown Roundup Days (remember that tornado warning? the gas leak?) - Raytown Night at the Royals (how many years in a row was our Chamber night the #1 attended

community night for the Royals? Thank you Cass Cassing and Kathie Schutte) - All those Raytown STARS in the universe named after Chamber Volunteers of the Year (thanks to Penny Hoffman) - Always being reminded that the Raytown Chamber serves an area much greater than the 10 square miles of Raytown (thank you Mike Watkins) - Hiring Vicki Turnbow (smile)

I have many fond memories of the faces of the Chamber members and their families. Members became friends. Literally countless hours were spent by member volunteers year after year preparing for Chamber business and community events. And, the list of quality Raytown Chamber members is endless. Naming only a few of the many, many active members who contributed to the great success of the Raytown Chamber during my term, the incomplete list includes Mike Apprill, John and Peggy Utter, Gary Knabe, John and Judy Ness, Bob Segó, Shirley and Dave Wurth, Allan and Karen Thompson, John Hofmann, Tom and Donna Gibbens, and Paul Broome. Along with countless Raytown community members, my most cherished memory are of the 3-day street festival Raytown Roundup Days – the street vendors, booths of all types of local groups, plenty of food, great music, dance studio dancers in the tent, carnival, auction, the spirit of cooperation between the Chamber and Raytown City folks who made the event possible, and the fantastic parade that just “happened” with precision year after year (thank you Vicki Turnbow). What an amazing event! After 28 years in Raytown, I moved the day after Roundup Days in the fall of 2002 when husband John and I ventured to where we live today in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Before leaving that fall, the Chamber honored me with a special trophy matching all of the parade awards that year. My trophy was engraved, “A Cowgirl’s Last Roundup.” This is my most cherished piece of memorabilia representing all my years of Raytown Chamber experiences. Happy 80th Anniversary to a great Raytown Chamber of Commerce!

Kathie Schutte (2002 – 2006) - When asked to write thoughts about my tenure as President of the Chamber, I decided that my entire time at the Chamber was more interesting than just those years I spent as President. I came on board in 1995 as a part time clerical person after I had installed new software the Chamber had purchased from my company for their new computer. The part time job lasted just a few weeks before Penny Hoffman asked if I would come full time. The things I learned and the opportunities I was given over the course of the next eleven years were amazing. Coming from a corporate world into the world of a non-profit organization was a real eye-opener. It didn’t take very long for me to realize how passionate people can become when giving their time voluntarily to an organization such as the Chamber. Although this may sound so very corny, it did take me awhile to learn that bank presidents, business owners, school board members, city administrators and others in the higher positions of the corporate and political world were, after all, just people. I have worked on legislative issues with them, planned award ceremonies with them, put together educational projects with them, greeted Governors, Senators and Mayors with them, pulled weeds with them and picked up trash with them. I had great mentors, both previous Chamber Presidents and Chamber members who always had time to give me advice, or guide me through sticky situations. I saw the Chamber membership numbers shrink and grow. I saw the Chamber staff grow and shrink. But I always saw the passion of the member volunteers as a constant. I was proud and excited when I was promoted to President, but was just as proud and excited when I saw someone I previously worked with move into that office after I left because I knew she was perfect for the position. I can only hope what bits of advice I have offered is a help to her in her position as President. Some of my proudest and fondest memories center around how diverse the job is. I remember Bob Segó, Tom Gibbens and a few others of our most macho members dressed in their finest to participate in the Chamber’s version of a “Miss Raytown” contest. I remember how proud I was to graduate with the first Leadership Raytown class, and to go on as staff guide for two more years of that program. I remember standing on the parade stand at Roundup Days with a lump in my throat right after 9/11 watching the American flag go by, being carried by Raytown’s own fire, police and EMS personnel. I remember all the work the Computer Task Force did to justify the purchase of new computers for the staff that were not DOS based. I remember sleeping on the floor of the Chamber office for a couple of nights when the ice storm took my power out for twelve days. But I think my fondest memories are on a personal level. I was there to see brand new members joining the chamber and then progressing both in their businesses or careers and becoming Chamber board members and officers. And I remember watching so many of our wonderful members walk up on stages to receive Chamber, community or business awards that they so deserved. But most important to me are the friendships I have been so blessed with. I truly do not know what I would have done without them.

Vicki Turnbow (2007 to present) My time with the Raytown Chamber has been very special right from the beginning. I started off as a volunteer in the middle 90’s and in 1996 was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the Chamber staff: Nancy Bruns, Sue Jones, Kathie Schutte and Marilyn Pemberton. I was so excited. I learned the ropes about planning a parade from Betty Carmack and wow what a great lady she was! I joined the Board of Directors from 1999 to 2001 while employed as the Manager of the Data Processing Department at USA800. In May of 2001 I joined the staff at the Chamber as the Membership Manager and was there until October 2004. I remember singing karaoke at one of the Chamber functions – a whole table of us got up and sang “All My Ex’s Live In Texas”. That was interesting to say the least. Sue mentioned the microburst, the tornado warning, the gas leak during either BBQ or Roundup – boy do I remember them too! Everyone asks where were you on September 11, 2001. Sue, Kathie and I were at the Chamber office trying to get the little TV to work. Sue sent Kathie to buy rabbit ears so we could get better reception. Throughout the day, we had folks dropping by to just drop by. It was a day where we all looked for a little extra comfort and many found it at the Chamber office. In April 2007, I had the privilege to be hired as your president. Many changes have happened over the years but one thing has been constant, the Chamber staff has and will continue to be here for its members. In 2006, the Chamber Board of Directors met and decided on a course for the Chamber to be more involved in the economic development of the City as well as its members. The Chamber, City and School District began an 18 month dialogue that centered around Raytown and the course of economic development. I am happy to say that this hard work did not go unnoticed. The City is in the process of hiring an Economic Development Administrator and the Chamber could not be more excited. We are prepared to work with the City in the coming years. I look forward to taking the Chamber into the future and if there is anything I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CHAMBER RENEWALS

Corlew Construction Co., Inc. 1978 Dick Corlew
Yellow Rock Barn 2007 Jodie Smith
Dun-Par Engineered Form Co. 1995 Greg Dunn
 © **Research Family Physicians 2005** Teresa Schorgl
Shelter Insurance 1980 Steve Meyers
 © **State Farm Insurance 1983** Glenn W. Lorei
 © **Comcast 1981**
 Tom Krewson, Lori Kinnison, D'Ann Castle
 © **Richard C. Green YMCA 1994** Jodi Bell
Robert Atkin 1978
Summit Publications, Inc. 2005 Sean Allison
University of Central Missouri-Summit Center 2007
 Grenvell Foraker, Carolyn McKnight
USA800, Inc. 1978 Tom Davis, David LaBatt
Maywood Printing Company, Inc. 1998
 Colleen Pruetting, Dick Collins
 © **ReDiscover 2003** Stewart Chase
Tech Members 2008 David McGee

☺ *We would like to thank
our members who gave 110%.*

NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS

INFINITY BUILDING SERVICES

Bobby McKenzie

PO Box 2488 Lee's Summit, MO 64063

816-564-9629 Fax 816-697-3853

Infinitybuilding@embarqmail.com www.infinitybuildingservice.com

Lawn Service/Snow Removal

Recruited by Tom Gibbens

RAYTOWN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Rev. Dawn Weaks

6108 Blue Ridge Blvd. Raytown, MO 64133

816-353-1708 Fax 816-353-7000

dawn@raytowncc.org www.raytowncc.org

Churches

Recruited by Cass Cassing

COMMUNITYAMERICA CREDIT UNION

Kat Hnatyshyn

10300 E. 350 Hwy. Raytown MO 64138

816-412-4565

khnatyshyn@cacu.com www.cacu.com

Banks & Credit Unions

Recruited by Vicki Turnbow

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David Skitek

816-353-8491 www.raytownkiwanisclub.org

Not for Profit Organization

Recruited by John Benson

MISSOURI MAVERICKS PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

Ben Gaul

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bgaul@missourimavericks.com www.missourimavericks.com

Sports

Recruited by staff

Welcome!



Business Spotlight on...



Raytown Branch: 6202 Raytown Trafficway, Raytown, MO 64133

Fax: 816-743-6755

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Employees: 194

Email: pcannon@blueridgebank.net

Chamber Member Since: 1989

Hours: Lobby: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat, 8:30am-Noon

Drive Through: Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6:30pm Sat, 8:30am – Noon

Phone Number: 816-743-6750

Website: www.blueridgebank.com

Owners: Shareholders

Services/Products: Blue Ridge Bank offers a comprehensive suite of products and services to individual, corporate and wealth management customers. Products for individuals range from checking, savings and investments to a variety of consumer and home loans. We offer a complete line of business banking services from treasury services to loan services. The Wealth Management Group provides customized financial planning based on individual needs and overall financial health for both personal and business customers.

Future Plans: Blue Ridge Bank is always looking towards the future in meeting the needs of our customers. We continue to develop new products and services to help meet those needs. The needs and aspirations of our customers will continue to be our primary concern.

Business Philosophy: Blue Ridge Bank's philosophy has always been to serve the needs of our community. That philosophy is supported by offering financial products and services that benefit our customers and help them succeed. We are active in the community and employees of the bank are involved in Chamber and other civic organization by volunteering and serving on their boards. We are involved in youth programs such as YouthFriends and support many other charitable organizations.

Our Business is a Chamber Member Because: We believe in investing in the areas we serve. The Chamber provides support to local businesses and we do the same. We are a locally-owned community bank and the leadership and guidance that the Chamber provides supports our mission.

Our Members in the News

Tom Gibbens, a member of the Raytown Rotary Club, has been selected to be the 2010 Team Leader of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange with Taiwan for Rotary District 6040. Tom and four non-Rotarians professional men and women, will travel to Taiwan from February 25th to March 25th next year and will meet, talk, and live with Rotarians and their families in Taiwan in a warm spirit of friendship and hospitality. In addition to learning about another country through visits to farms, schools, industrial plants, professional offices and government establishments, GSE team members serve as ambassadors of goodwill. This program allows Rotarians from another country to meet and talk with everyday people from the United States and get to know them on a first name basis. This is a most enjoyable, practical, and meaningful way to promote world understanding while understanding cultural differences between our two nations. In April of next year, Taiwan will send their team of five individuals to America and they will stay with Rotarian families in District 6040, which comprises the northern third of the state of Missouri. This program began in 1965 and has provided educational experiences for over 52,000 business people and professionals comprising about 12,000 teams.



October Morning Coffee
at Edward Jones
-George Koepp's office.

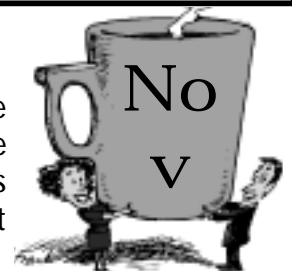
Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies were held for the new Walmart & CommunityAmerica Credit Union, a new Chamber member. Congratulations!



Upcoming Member Events

MORNING COFFEE

Mark your calendars: Tues., November 17 - this month's "Morning Coffee" will be held at **McGilley & Sheil Funeral Home** located at 11924 E. 47th St. Come by anytime between **7:30 to 8:30 a.m.** to have a cup of coffee and network with other businesses within the community. An added bonus will be to see the business who has agreed to host the Morning Coffee and find out what they can offer to you.



Thinking ahead: Please mark your calendars for these events already planned for 2010.

January 23, 2010 – Chamber Celebration / Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex

January 28, 2010 – State of the City Address at the January Membership Luncheon

February 26, 2010 – Raytown Night at the Mavericks Hockey (See the enclosed flyer)

May 2010 – Raytown Night at the Royals (final date to be determined)

June 11 & 12, 2010 – Raytown SummerFest & BBQ Cookoff



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DATED MATERIAL

NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 7:30am Member. Dev. Cmte 5-7pm MEGA CHAMBER OFFICE PARTY	6 7:30am Gov. Rel. Committee	7
8	9	10	11	12 7:15am Board of Directors Meeting	13	14
15	16 12:00 pm ►DEADLINE◀ For luncheon Reservations	17  7:30am Morning Coffee	18 11:30am MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON <i>80th Anniversary</i>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Chamber Closed 	27 Chamber Closed	28
29	30					