

APRIL 2006

THE CHAMBER NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER MUHLENBERG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ag Commissioner Farmer to Speak at April 13 Chamber Meeting



Richie Farmer

Kentucky's
Commissioner of
Agriculture



The Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome **Richie Farmer, Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture**, as the guest speaker at our Thursday, April 13, meeting.

A native of Clay County, Commissioner Farmer worked as an investment advisor before taking office in January 2004. He lives in Frankfort with his wife (Rebecca) and their three sons. Farmer earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky with a double major in Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management. He was also a standout player for the UK basketball Wildcats under Coach Rick Pitino.

Please mark your calendar for the Thursday, April 13th, Chamber meeting at the Purple Onion in Central City at 12 noon.

Again, in order to adequately prepare, RSVP's will be required for this meeting. Please contact Dorothy Walker at 338-5422 or Shelia Bivins at 754-2360 by Monday, April 10, to reserve your space.

We also want to offer a special thank you to the **Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation** and **Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance** for sponsoring the April meeting with Commissioner Farmer. We truly appreciate your support of the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce in this special way.

The Greater Chamber Rolls On into April

We promised an ambitious agenda in the inaugural year of the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber, but I believe we've gotten into more opportunities that even we anticipated. Here are just a few:

(1) Last week, in cooperation with the UK Extension Office, we kicked off the Business Retention and Expansion Program. (2) Our meeting last month with Lt. Governor Steve Pence prompted several high level meetings in Frankfort and has effectively reenergized the Thoroughbred Energy effort locally. Know that your Chamber is continuing its work in support of this incredibly significant project for our future. (3) We're moving the Greenville Chamber office to the former PVA office at the highly visible corner of East Main Cross and Main Street. (4) Our website development continues to progress with the addition of our Calendar of Events and complete membership listing. (5) And, so much more is in store. Thank you for joining us on this journey. Don't forget to bring a friend along.

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THE GREENVILLE CHAMBER OFFICE IS MOVING! The former Greenville Chamber of Commerce and the Muhlenberg County Fiscal Court have paved the way for our Greenville Office to move to the former home of the PVA Office on the Courthouse Square at the corner of East Main Cross and Main streets. The move means additional space and visibility for the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber and has been approved by the Board of Directors. Lots more work and details to follow.

Community Events, Meetings, Reminders

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Central City and Greenville Post Office employees will be recognized with a special celebration at their respective post offices on April 11th at 11:00 a.m. The Kentuckiana District of the U.S. Postal Service is the first and only district in the Eastern Area to earn the Five Star Customer Service Award. The award exemplifies exceptional service to customers. Lapel pins will be presented to employees by postmasters at both facilities. Refreshments will be served.

Muhlenberg Community Hospital will hold **Town Hall Meetings conducted by Lloyd Ford, CEO.** The meetings will take place on the following dates/locations: April 20-Greenville Elementary School; April 24-Central City Elem. School; April 25-Bremen Elementary School; and May 4 – Muhlenberg South Elem. School. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call 338-8000.

The Muhl. Career Development Center will host a ribbon-cutting for their newly remodeled cafeteria on April 11th at 3 p.m. All chamber members are invited to attend. The reception will begin at 2:30 p.m.

The MNHS and MSHS Art Departments will be exhibiting at the **Duncan Cultural Center** during April. Open House will be April 13th from 4-7 p.m. Refreshments and live music by some of the art students will be provided.

Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Central City Church of Christ on April 11th starting at noon.

The Prince and the Pauper performances presented by MCTI will take place at the Palace Theater on April 28-29 and May 5-6 at 7 p.m and on April 30 & May 7 at 2 p.m.

UK Cooperative Extension Services Events: April 17-Card Making, 5:30 p.m.; April 18-Easy Meals, 5 p.m.; April 21-free Ovarian Screening in Paducah – call 1-800-766-8279 & ask for Glenda; April 25-Spring Bus Trip to Hazel. Note - The Extension Office is located behind the 911 building in Powderly.

First Thursdays @ the Library presents **“Ace in the Hole: Floyd Collins and the Media Frenzy of 1925”** on May 4th at 7 p.m. at the Local History Annex in downtown Greenville. Free admission. Call 338-4760, 338-5388 or 754-4630 for more information.

Glema Mahr Center for the Arts Events: **Al Stewart** in concert April 21 & 22 at 7:30 p.m. Comedienne **Vicki Lawrence** of “Mama’s Family” and “The Carol Burnett Show” fame will perform on Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. For ticket info., call 270-821-2787.

The Chamber would like to congratulate Muhlenberg County's own Jade Perry (right), sophomore forward for the 2006 NCAA Women's National Champion Maryland Terrapins. Jade had four points and two rebounds in 15 minutes of action as Maryland beat Duke 78-75 in OT in the April 4th national championship game in Boston.



YOUR CHAMBER AT WORK! The **BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION SURVEY** is now underway. We have identified a cross-section of 44 existing businesses in Muhlenberg County, which have been mailed a preview copy of the survey. In the coming days, one of our 13 two-person volunteer survey teams will be contacting those businesses to set up the interview. The volunteer response for the survey teams was the best they had ever seen, according to our advisors from Kentucky State University and UK. The process will be completed in April and we look forward to sharing the compiled results later this year.

SUMMERFEST is skyrocketing toward us! This important Chamber event is May 3-6 in downtown Central City. Summerfest chairman David Richey is hard at work and has announced a brand-new feature –PUTTIN' ON THE HITS. He's looking for at least 10 community-minded businesses that are brave, fun-loving and talented-enough to volunteer to creatively "lip sync" a song. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. This should be a lot of fun for all involved. Please plan to support Summerfest and the Chamber with your time and talent. Booth space is still available for fundraising organizations. Please contact David at 754-3300 or Shelia at 754-2360 to be a part.

Educational Opportunities

The 2nd Annual Muhl. Co. Leadership Seminar will be held on Friday, May 5, at the Muhl. Career Advancement Center in Powderly. This is high-quality, leadership training that will run from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. (CST). Appearing via Simulcast will be leading speakers like John C. Maxwell, Payton Manning, Dave Ramsey and J.C. Watts. Seminar cost is \$85, which includes lunch and materials. Seating is limited to fifty. Call 754-2925 or 754-4515 or visit www.maximumimpact.com/mis.

Madisonville Community College's Community Education & Workforce Development Department will be offering a variety of computer classes this spring at the MCC North Campus. Enrollment is open to anyone. Class offerings include: Internet Introduction, Microsoft Word 2002XP, Intro to Excel 2002, and Powerpoint 2002 XP Call 270-824-8658.

An Admission & Financial Aid Workshop for new students will be held at the Muhl. Co. Campus of Madisonville Community College on Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 202. The workshop will include hands-on, step-by-step admission/financial aid instruction. This workshop is for any new students who have not applied for admission or financial aid and are planning to attend Madisonville Community College in the Summer or Fall. For admissions, please bring verification of a high school/GED diploma and placement test scores (ACT, ASSET or COMPASS) scores, if available. For financial aid, you must bring 2005 Taxes and a PIN #. High school seniors must have a PIN # for the student and parent/guardian. PIN #'s may be obtained via internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov For seat reservation, please call 757-9881.

The Adult Education Center, located in the Career Advancement Center in Powderly, is offering free computer classes. Class offerings include Word, Excel, Internet, and E-Mail. Classes begin April 18-May 11 and are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays twice a day—12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. To sign up, call 270-338-2257.

LOCAL THEATRE HAS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY BUT NEEDS HELP!

The Muhlenberg Community Theatre Inc. has the opportunity to purchase the building adjacent to the Palace Theatre in Greenville. The owner of the building has been kind enough to allow use of the building for free since 1983, but has decided to sell and has given MCTI the first option to purchase the building. The much-needed building is used for office space, a green room, costume & prop storage, and makeup rooms. Since the cost for the purchase is \$75,000, theatre lovers/concerned citizens are being asked to help in any way possible. Fundraising efforts have just begun, with a \$43.91 plea to mailing list subscribers, which is a start. The \$75,000 goal needs to be raised by October. Donations may be sent to Muhlenberg Community Theatre, 119 North Main Street, Greenville, KY 42345

Don't forget. The next meeting of the Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce is Thursday, April 13, at the Purple Onion Restaurant in Central City.

Don't forget to RSVP for this very special meeting featuring Kentucky Ag Commissioner Richie Farmer.

- Also, special thanks again to our April meeting sponsor -



Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies

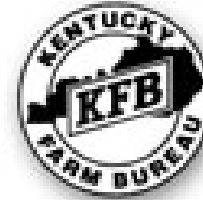
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