



# Potterville Chamber of Businesses

Potterville, City of Helping Hands

Mission Statement: To build the bridges between the area businesses, local government, the schools, and churches, to create a very inviting place to live, educate and have fun.

FEB., MAR., APR., 2009

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

I have so many thank yous to do for this newsletter but first let's thank our chamber members that have generously furnished our lunches: for our February's lunch - Joe's Potterville Inn, for March's - Frank's Party Store and for April's - Riedy's Pizza. A special thank you to Frank's for donating their money back to the Chamber. As I have stated before, it is not our intent to have the businesses donate their profits since they get hit up all year long but for us to show support. Again, we do however appreciate it.

**CHAMBER NEWS:** Thank you to all who have renewed your membership so quickly even though I haven't hounded you monthly. You are awesome!

Our special guest speakers have been very interesting. In March, we had Ralph Hansen and Laura Percival of the EISD Career Preparation Center. It is very beneficial to business owners to know what services are provided in Eaton County.

Our April's guest speaker was David Barnett of GreenPath. He is an education specialist helping anyone who needs assistance getting their debt load reduced, better their credit scores but mainly teaching people how to budget. Many people request financial education and are struggling to figure out how to save.

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:** I do have to apologize for the tardiness in the newsletter. I was not around for the February meeting and had to be in New Mexico for my brother's funeral. Initially I was in Florida enjoying my beautiful granddaughters for their birthdays when I received the news. Then zipped back in March to do all the flyers for Gizzard Fest and the chamber newsletter when my computer crashed. It was unfortunate that I did not back up the items, they were left on the desktop. Now since it has been 12 years since the last time I updated everything. Yes, my software was all obsolete and even my most favorite program was no longer in existence. The excuses keep piling up. So bear with me as I learn and adapt to the updates given to me and believe me, I do feel inept. If you have any chamber concerns, contact Will or Elizabeth, I will be gone to New Mexico, the last two weeks in April assisting my parents after surgery and doctor appointments.

**SIREN/EATON SHELTER:** Colleen reported that Siren needs someone to co-chair their golf outing. Also the food bank would like someone to be willing to have a can drive. If you can volunteer or donate, this worthwhile program services all of Eaton County's domestic violence survivors. Anyone wishing to donate or help, call 543-0748.

**POTTERVILLE SCHOOLS:** The Potterville High School Student Council, YAC, PALS and National Honor Society will be participating in the following events this spring. Arbor Day is April 24 and the high school students will be working with the City of Potterville's Parks and Recreation Department to plant trees at Alliance Park and Sunset Hills. Community Service Day will be May 7. Students will be working on projects around the school and the Potterville City Park.

New this year will be all day young fives and kindergarten. The MEAP scores showed improvement from the previous years.

On May 5, all five Eaton County school districts will ask voters for a one-mill increase. Passage of this special education millage will help general education, as fewer general education dollars will be needed to fund special education - ALL students will benefit.

**POTTERVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Every year the Church has a cake auction. The money goes for camp tuition for kids which runs about \$300 per kid. This year's auction yielded over \$5,000.

The Church had its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. Hundreds of children attended. Special thank you to all who donated monetary or otherwise.

The church will not have its annual sidewalk cafe this year but will participate somehow in the Gizzard Fest.

**POTTERVILLE-BENTON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY:** March was reading month and there were many classrooms of students that came and visited the library.

**POTTERVILLE PRIDE/DDA:** The committee is in need of four new board members. The committee met with Debra Stewart of Michigan Economic Council. There is grant money available for outside facade - a 50/50 requirement plus the use of union workers.

**HAYES GREEN BEACH HOSPITAL:** Matt Rush and Barbara Fulton were invited to a national conference where they both spoke on generosity.

Laraine reported that there will be a generosity survey that can be picked up at local churches and stores. She is looking for local retailers to have a drop box for the surveys. If you can, it would be helpful to individuals as well as Hayes-Green-Beach Hospital. Let Laraine know [lowens@hgbhealth.com](mailto:lowens@hgbhealth.com) or 543-1050.

The auxiliary will be having a jewelry sale on May 7 from 7:30 am - 3:00 pm.

**CITY OF POTTERVILLE PARKS & REC.:** Brian Halsey reported that some of the grant money received has been used for the new disc golf at Alliance Lake. Many people are already enjoying it.

**CITY OF POTTERVILLE:** Wanda has been immersed in grant writing and doing all the paperwork involved in the stimulus money for road repairs. The City received \$220,000 for roads and an additional \$370,000. Wanda has put in grants for the parks for \$677,000, a police grant for \$333,000 and a clean water grant.

The City is working on a resolution for a master plan, zoning map and future land use.

Also, the City is looking for another council member to fill the newly vacated seat.

The police department has hired two new part-time officers.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS:** On Friday, April 17 at 6:30 pm at Dart Bank, Grand Ledge and Saturday, April 18 at 10 am at EISD, Charlotte; you can meet the author of The Pout-Pout Fish. Debra Diesen is from Grand Ledge and the first 50 families who attend will receive a free book.

**EATON COUNTY UNITED WAY:** The holiday luncheon contest at Potterville Schools increased the United Way contributions by \$2,500. A special thank you to Colleen's Cuisines for their support and help.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:** Last year was so successful but we still need participation, volunteers and parade entrants. Please call Jim Robertson 645-2763 or Jake Robertson 645-7390.

Please support this effort, I am very passionate about past and present veterans. It is because of their commitment to the United States we have the freedoms we enjoy today.

**POTTERVILLE-BENTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

The fire department now has a new fire truck and the old one will be for sale.

The fire department and auxiliary will be active during Gizzard Fest. There will be a bingo tent at the Potterville United Methodist Church. There will be an opportunity for individuals to take photos in the antique fire truck, in addition, they will be having hot dogs for sale. Please patronize the firemen during Gizzard Fest.

**EATON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION:** Dan Patton gave everyone the new spring newsletter. There is a need for volunteers to assist with the programs and special events. If you would like to volunteer, contact Jackie Blanc, naturalist 627-7351.

Celebrate Arbor Day will be on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Grand Ledge Lions Club will be providing a pancake breakfast/lunch for a nominal fee.

Breakfast with the Birds is a program to learn the basics of bird watching and bird identification on Saturday, May 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Lincoln Brick Park. A continental breakfast will be provided by the Friends of Eaton County Parks for all participants. Cost is \$3 per person, call for more information 627-7351.

A wildflower walk will take place on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Fox Memorial Park, meet at Pavilion #2. All walks are free and open to all ages.

The 20th Annual Auto Show will be Saturday, July 11 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 627-7351 or [www.eatoncountyparks.org](http://www.eatoncountyparks.org).

**GIZZARD FEST:** In its 10th year, Gizzard Fest is drawing lots of national attention, mainly because of Diners, Drive-ins and Dives focus on Joe's Potterville Inn. Yeah!

We have many new attractions, wooden bat tournament, lawn mower racing, inflatables, bingo, disc golf for singles and doubles, amateur boxing and mixed martial art bouts and teen dance.

The Chamber needs help in the Chamber information booth on Saturday. Please let Jo 645-2313 know or e-mail me at [lehman\\_jo@yahoo.com](mailto:lehman_jo@yahoo.com).

Parade and firework donation forms have been mailed. I know times are tough but if you can donate that would be great. Any amount is welcomed.

We are also in need of many volunteers in lots of areas, please let Joe Bristol or myself know if you can help.