



*Paris/Henry County*

MARCH 2011

# CHAMBER NEWS

2508 East Wood Street • Paris, Tennessee 38242 • [www.paristnchamber.com](http://www.paristnchamber.com)

## ***March Chamber Coffee Host Sign and Trophy Express***

Sign and Trophy has been in business since 1994 and has been in its present location since 1996, located at 306 Tyson Avenue next door to the Sherwin Williams Paint Store.

Danny and Andrea Tucker bought the business in July of 2010 and have been remodeling by opening up a show room to display our products. Even though our name says Sign and Trophy, we provide numerous other services that would benefit you. These services include signs ranging from yard signs to store front, banners (signs and banners are made either with vinyl or digital), engraving, decals, of all types for windows and vehicles, trophies, plaques, specialty license plates, name badges, medallions, ribbons, tiaras, scepters and much more.

From what we have been told, not a lot of people are buying locally for these items. We want that to change and we want to be your supplier for these items. Our products are of good quality, our prices are competitive, if not better. We are centrally located in the heart of the Paris city limits. You can walk directly into our showroom and be greeted with a smile. We service Henry County, along with the surrounding counties and several states.

One of our goals is to start working more closely with the Government organizations, businesses, schools, and specifically the athletic groups. If you need a trophy, plaque, sign or anything

else we can help you with, come by, call us and let us meet with you and your organization.

We also have framed pictures and prints on display and available to purchase. My dad, Ray Tucker, from 1211 Frames, has furnished me with these and we would be glad for you to stop by and see these. Andrea has organized an area of the store, which includes purses and jewelry, along with other whatnots that women may like. The best part about her selection is it is all very attractive, eye catching and very reasonably priced.

There is also a corner now on display for those die cast collectors.

Yes, you guessed it the Tennessee die cast is here along with others. We will be trying to keep the most recent die cast available in the store if not close by.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to once again be a part of the Chamber. We want to invite everyone to come by and visit, see what we have for you and hope to have you as one of our valued friends and customers. Our showroom hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 till 5:00 and Saturday 9:00 till 1:00. The showroom number is 731-644-3996. Once again, thank you and we are looking forward to seeing each of you at the Chamber Coffee on March 29th.

# ***SIGN & TROPHY EXPRESS***

## *March Calendar of Opportunity*

March 9	Wimberly Lawson Seminar	Chamber Office	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
March 14	Executive Committee	Chamber Office	3:30 pm
March 16	Leadership Henry County	History/Arts Session / Chamber Office	8:00 am
March 17	Board of Directors	Chamber Office	8:00 am
March 18	Ribbon Cutting	We're Wireless (1055 Mineral Wells Ave.)	10:00 am
March 29	Chamber Coffee	Sign & Trophy (306 Tyson Ave.)	8:00 am
April 1	Annual Membership Golf Tournament	Tennessean Golf Course	Tee off at 8:00 am
April 2	Ribbon Cutting	World's Biggest Fish Fry Headquarters	10:00 am



## Paris / Henry County Chamber of Commerce

2508 E. Wood Street

Paris, TN. 38242

731-642-3431

Tourism: 800-345-1103

Fax: 731-642-3454

Email: [parisoc@paristnchamber.com](mailto:parisoc@paristnchamber.com)

Website: [www.paristnchamber.com](http://www.paristnchamber.com)

Office Hours: 8 AM - 4:30 PM

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Wayne "Butch" Powers

President-Elect : Brian Foster

VP Economic Development: Bryan Irby

VP Community Development:

Sam Mahan

VP Tourism: Rosie Johnson

Treasurer: Clint Davis

Past President: Carlton Gerrell

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Casteel, Jennifer Hayden, Andrea

Lamb, Gary McEntire, Jeff Mahan,

Traci Middleton, Scott Morrison , Jamie

Orr, Stacia Puckett,

John Penn Ridgeway, Jeff Seaton

### EX-OFFICIO

Carl Holder, Sam Tharpe,

Kenny Paschall, Brent Greer,

Joe Qualls, Machele Operia

Executive Director: Jennifer Wheatley

Henry County Alliance CEO:

Larry Crawford

Administrative

Assistant: Galia Greer

Chamber Services

Coordinator: Susie Umstead

*The mission of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce is to improve the economy and quality of life in our community.*

## From The President

WAYNE "BUTCH" POWERS



What can the Chamber do for me? It is a question that is often asked by many people and businesses that are either already members or looking to join. Rather than list all the many ways the Chamber can help a business I would like to highlight one event in particular - Small Business Basics.

Small Business Basics is a series of courses, somewhat like a college, offered by the Chamber of Commerce. It is designed to help educate both existing small businesses and individuals who are thinking about starting a new business with almost every business aspect from beginning their operation to ongoing management issue after it's opened. Courses began in January and ran through February. Topics covered included business plan development, legal structures, financing, employee staffing and laws and marketing.

Participants paid \$50 to join the college and, upon no absences, they get their money back. How great is that? It was free! And, the Chamber was able to put on the event with a grant from CREST - Creating a Rural Entrepreneurial System in Tennessee. We crossed our fingers and hoped to have 10 people participate. We ended up with 19 signing up of which 16 will graduate. Involvement and interaction between the participants and instructors has been great. Surveys and ratings after each class have been nothing short of fantastic.

Holding classes on small business basics seems like something that a chamber of commerce would do as part of its normal activities. But what's unusual is that no one else in West Tennessee is doing this. Our Chamber has been contacted by other chamber offices in Middle and West Tennessee asking how we started the college up and asked for our syllabus. It appears we could be a trend setter!

What's amazing is recognizing the potential that may come from these 16 individuals who are thinking about starting a new business or improving their existing one. If each hires just one or two people that equates to 16 - 32 new jobs created in Henry County. And, if they are leaving an existing job to create this new business, that could open up an additional 16 job opportunities to our county. Imagine all these potential new jobs and new businesses being created with little or no effort. That's what the Chamber is doing for you!

This program was a monster of an undertaking. I want to commend two board members, Sam Mahan and Jennifer Hayden who ran with the idea, and the Chamber staff without whom this Small Business Basics would never have happened. It excites me to see the Chamber pull off and run such a successful program. I hope this becomes an even greater event in the future.

**See you at the Chamber Golf Tournament on April 1st!**

## From The Executive Director

JENNIFER WHEATLEY



Jamie Orr, Edward Jones, is a new board member who has stepped up to serve as chair of our golf committee. It is a perfect fit! We are planning a fun tournament at The Tennessean on April 1st. Gayle Griffith cooks the steaks and never disappoints. Hamilton-Ryker is our long-time sponsor and they are joined this year by Charter Business. We are grateful for our corporate sponsors, our hole sponsors, everyone who plays and the many door prizes donations. Make plans to come join us!

Get some work done (before you play golf!) at our employment law seminar at the Chamber on March 9th. Wimberley-Lawson will address four topics in four hours and they also never disappoint. This is a fact-filled seminar well worth your time and it is FREE, a great membership benefit. Seating is limited, so call Susie Umstead and reserve your spot, 642.3431.

Travel South is a tour bus show only for companies seeking destinations in the Southern states, organized by the tourism departments of each state. Last year was our first time to attend and it was great, but this year was even better. We shared a booth with some of our neighbors and got to meet lots of folks interested in coming to see us. Gary McEntire, Paris Landing State Park, is a tremendous partner in our efforts to recruit tour buses and we are grateful for his assistance. The new visitor center at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge is a great selling point for our community. Tour bus companies love to hear about new attractions.

Congratulations to the graduates of our first-ever Small Business Basics! Many thanks to all the local facilitators and folks who shared their time and talents and most especially to our co-chairs, Sam Mahan, FirstBank, and Jennifer Hayden, Hamilton-Ryker.

**Come be a part of all that is happening at YOUR Chamber!**



**Wimberly Lawson**  
Wright Daves & Jones, PLLC

*Attorneys & Counselors at Law*

# Target Out of Range

Get Ready for Employment Issues in 2011:

Social Media   Workers' Comp   EEOC Hot Topics   Healthcare Update

**March 9, 2011**

**Paris-Henry County**

**Chamber of Commerce**

**8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST**

*This seminar is presented to you by...*

*Wimberly Lawson Wright Daves & Jones, PLLC*

PRE-REGISTER VIA E-MAIL: [pariscoc@paristnchamber.com](mailto:pariscoc@paristnchamber.com)  
OR CALL SUSIE at (731) 642-3431



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## CHAMBER HAPPENINGS



Dr. Jeff Seaton of Murray State speaks to the Small Business Basics class.



Tim Boyd of **PMB Services** welcomes everyone to their new facilities at the February Chamber Coffee.

# Perk Up Paris!

## **SIGN & TROPHY**

306 Tyson Avenue  
Paris, Tennessee  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
8:00 am - 9:00 am



***"A Premium Blend"***

*Clip and post after reading the Chamber News.*

## *Welcome New Members!*

### **MEO MIO'S CAJUN & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**

130 TATE DRIVE  
BUCHANAN, TN 38222  
731-407-4926



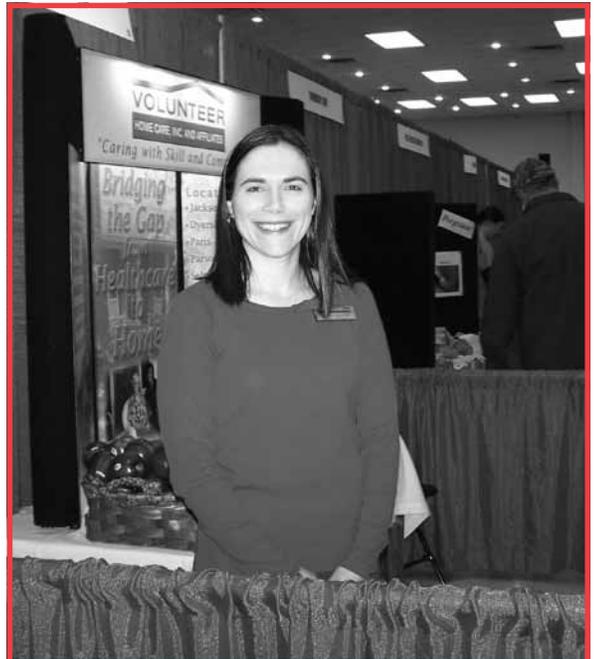
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Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce

# HEALTHCARE EXPO



Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce

# MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011 • THE TENNESSEAN

**THIS IS A FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

8 am Tee Off • 2 pm Lunch *prepared by Gayle Griffith*

**\$250 for Chamber Members**  
(\$62.50 each person) per team

**\$300 for Non-Chamber Members**  
(\$75.00 each person) per team

\* Price includes golf fees, cart, and lunch \*

## TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



### TEAM PRIZES

1st Place - \$600 ● 2nd Place - \$300  
10th Place - \$200 ● 20th Place\* - \$200

*\*Based on over 20 teams*

### INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

Longest Drive ● Closest to the Pin



**HOLE-IN-ONE  
VEHICLE  
GIVE  
AWAY!**

Sponsored By:  
Joe Mahan Ford, Premier Nissan,  
and Peppers

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 642-3431.

## PARIS-HENRY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

### — OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM —

List of Players Participating

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Team Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

***Deadline for registration  
is Monday, March 28, 2011***

Please make all checks payable to:  
**PARIS-HENRY COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

2508 East Wood Street  
Paris, TN 38242