

*Women*  
Marion County Chamber of Commerce  
**NETWORK**

In the planning stages for many months, the *MCCC* announces a new initiative for our women members. August 2011 will officially kick off the start of the *MCCC* Women's Network, and will be exclusive for *MCCC* members and their employees.

The purpose of the Women's Network is to enhance personal and professional growth of businesswomen and encourage participation and recognition of women in the community. The new program will provide a great opportunity for women owned businesses or women employees of Chamber members. In addition, it will include networking, leadership opportunities, education and events.

"We are thrilled with the launch of this new program and truly feel it has the potential to be one of the most successful initiatives for our Chamber," said Tina Shaw. She said that the *MCCC* Women Board members are serving as the steering committee, and are in the process of sending out letters to all members with the network details.

Plans call for an Open House and Kickoff Reception in late August, quarterly workshops, a special Women's Directory, and a Women's Conference featuring speakers, workshops, a trade show and other special events.

Major sponsors of the Women's Network are Rider Pharmacy, Monongahela Valley Association Health Centers, and Wal-Mart. "Our sponsors have really stepped up to the plate in support of the new program which allows the cost of participation to be minimal," Shaw said.

Membership will be open to any individual who is an owner or employee of a business or organization that is a member of the *MCCC*. A detailed brochure and application will be sent out to all members in the next few weeks. For more information, please call the Chamber at 304 363-0442 or email Tina at [tms@marionchamber.com](mailto:tms@marionchamber.com).

## City of Fairmont User Fee

The *MCCC* is making plans to host an event for Chamber members on the City of Fairmont's passed Street Maintenance Fee. The new fee was passed by the Fairmont City Council on May 10, 2011 and will become effective on August 1, 2011. Residents of the city will be charged \$2.00/week which will appear on their water bills, however, businesses will have to deduct the fee for residents that work in the City, but live outside of the city limits. Businesses will also be charged the fee; however, many different forms of exemptions apply.

"There are a lot of questions and some misinformation floating around, therefore, the Chamber, in cooperation with the City of Fairmont, felt it was in the best interest of its members to offer the event," stated Tina Shaw.

The City of Fairmont will be mailing extensive information packets to all businesses in June and the Chamber will be scheduling the event and notifying members once the packets have been received.

## CHAMBER CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF HESTON FARM WINERY



On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the *MCCC* hosted a ribbon cutting for the new Heston Farm Winery and Pinchgut Hollow Distillery. Under construction for the past few years, the new Winery hopes to attract visitors from all over and is now able to host business meetings and other events. Over 100 chamber members attended the event and helped cut the ribbon for the new business.

"Heston's has been a member of our chamber for many years and has supported local businesses throughout the county," said Tina Shaw. "We were honored to be a part of the grand opening and encourage all members to visit the Winery to see the unique and appealing architecture in addition to tasting the different types of wine that is made on site."

In addition to the Winery, Heston's Farm offers a beautiful pavilion and picnic area that can be reserved for celebrations or company events.

The *MCCC* would like to thank the Heston Family for supporting the Chamber and making us part of their celebration.

## Chamber's Small Business Committee Plans Agenda

The *MCCC* Small Business Committee, chaired by Lou Spatafore & John Dahlia recently met to discuss committee initiatives. Ideas being worked on are:

- ▶ Parking issues in downtown Fairmont
- ▶ Development plans for the former WV State Office Complex once it is demolished
- ▶ Technology Opportunities for Members
- ▶ Public Transportation issues for Marion County
- ▶ Meetings with mayors and councils in Marion County towns/municipalities

If you are interested in being on the committee, please call or email the chamber.

### FSU Wins NCAA Community Engagement Award

Congrats to FSU for winning the NCAA Community Engagement Award. The *MCCC* was proud to play a part in the initiative by hosting a community tailgate party prior to the West Liberty Game last fall. Thanks to all Chamber members who helped and participated in the week long celebration.

### CJ MAGGIE'S OPENS IN DOWNTOWN FAIRMONT

Five years ago, representatives from the *MCCC*, City of Fairmont, and County Commission contacted CJ Ryland's, owner of CJ Maggie's restaurant in Buckhannon. Looking for a nice eatery that would fit into our community, we felt that the CJ Maggie's concept would work well in Marion County.

Agreeing to come to the area and take a look around, Mr. Ryland's liked the downtown atmosphere and felt that Fairmont could be the place for his newest restaurant. Buying the former American Legion building, Ryland's and his contractors transformed the building into the new CJ Maggie's and quietly opened the doors on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the three weeks since it has been opened, word has spread throughout the community bringing in large crowds for both lunch and dinner. Thanks to CJ Rylands for believing in Marion County!

## Recap of MCCC Education Programs

The end of the school year marks the end of the Chamber's youth education as well. Coming off a very successful year, students in Marion County high schools this past year were given an opportunity to participate in Mad City Money, sponsored by the Fairmont Federal Credit Union; Youth Leadership, co-sponsored by the Marion County Board of Education; and Senior Forum, co-sponsored by the Marion County Board of Education.

"This was a great year for our students, and I truly feel that by taking part in these programs, the student becomes a well-rounded person and learns many leadership qualities," said Maggie Toothman.

Tina Shaw thanked the principals and staff of each high school for supporting the programs. "That kind of support, along with the support from Superintendent Tom Deadrick is vital in the success of the programs."

## MCCC to Partner with County Commission and Board of Education to present Bullying Seminar in September

Students in the Senior Forum Program this past year took a stand on bullying in schools. Along with their efforts to support legislation, they conducted surveys in the schools, developed a resolution, made presentations to both the Marion County Anti-Bullying Task Force and the Marion County Board of Education members.

Because of their efforts, the County Commission and Marion County Schools agreed to co-sponsor a day-long seminar conducted by Jodee Blanco, a nationally known speaker who is a bullying survivor, expert, and activist. Ms. Blanco will be in Marion County on September 12<sup>th</sup>, talking to both our high school and middle school students. In addition, she will conduct a special training session for teachers and a community-wide event that evening.

With the numerous types of "school bullying" occurring throughout the nation; physical, verbal, mental, and cyber, the administration of our schools felt the timing was perfect for such an event. Students return to school in mid-August this year, so the seminars are being planned early in the school year in order to be pro-active with the students.

Ms. Blanco has written several books about her life experiences with the most popular one being "Please Stop Laughing At Me." It is a true account of her life, as a bullying victim and a very inspirational story that details the suffering she encountered as a child.

The seminar will kick off a series of events, planned for the students and schools that will follow a year-long Anti-Bullying Program.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>June 16th</b> Business After Hours <i>US Cellular/ East Grafton Rd</i>	<b>5:00-7:00 PM</b>
<b>June 25th</b> Car Cruise In <i>FSU Duvall Rosier Field</i>	<b>12:00-3:00 PM</b>
<b>July 12th</b> Executive Committee <i>MCCC Conference Room</i>	<b>8:30 AM</b>
<b>July 19th</b> Full Board Meeting <i>TBA</i>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SLATED FOR AUGUST 10th



## Fairmont Rotary Launches "Fly the Flag" Promotion

In an effort to create patriotism, the Fairmont Rotary has kicked off a fundraising effort

called "Fly the Flag." For the five patriotic holidays; Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, and Veteran's Day, members and volunteers of Rotary will deliver a and place a 3' x 5' American flag in your front yard over the holiday and pick it up after the holiday. A plastic pipe will be inserted into the front yard, flush with the ground, to hold the 10' flag staff. The pipes are capped when the flag is not in use, so as not to interfere with mowing or other yard work.

The cost for each flag is only \$25.00 per year. Fairmont Rotary supports numerous local organizations each year including the United Way, Boy Scouts, Mountaineer Boys & Girls Clubs, WV Rescue Ministries, Fairmont Little League, Graduation Celebration (formally known as Project Graduation), and many others.

For more information on the project, please contact Tina at the Chamber at 304 363-0442.

**The MCCC Welcomes Newest Members. We look forward to working with you!**

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