

# GRUNDY COUNTY

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

# Courier



[www.grundychamber.com](http://www.grundychamber.com)

### Celebrating Anniversaries

*Congratulations to the following business celebrating a milestone in December:*

#### 1 year

- Cardinal Sleep Disorder Centers of America
- Kramer DME
- Rent—A—Center

#### 5 years

- Mobil 1 Lube Express
- State Senator Gary Dahl

#### 10 years

- Dolphin Car Wash

#### 80 years

- Boy Scouts—Rainbow Council

*Celebrating an anniversary this year?*

*Let us know at the Chamber—call Peg at 815-942-0113 with the details.*

### Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Purchase a Chamber Gift Certificate!

From office staff and vendors to your hard to buy for Aunt, Chamber Gift Certificates make the perfect gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list! Keep a few on hand for those last minute holiday visitors or use them for party host gifts.

Keep in mind, Grundy County Chamber Gift Certificates can be used anytime throughout the year and can be given for a variety of purposes! So, whether you are looking to recognize an employee for attendance, service or safety, Chamber Gift Certificates will be a gift they appreciate.

As members, you are able to purchase Chamber Gift Certificates at no additional charge and updated redemption lists are always available on our website.

Grundy County Chamber Gift Certificates are only redeemable at Chamber member businesses.

### Trivia Nights Become Popular Fundraisers



Members of the **Eagles Club** won bragging rights at Morris' Trivia Night.

Local Police Departments team up with Special Olympics to host annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Trivia Nights. It's a great way to raise funds, build awareness and host a night of fun. The **Minooka Police Department** hosted their event on October 17 while the **Morris and Channahon Police Departments** held their events on November 14.

Each event encourages teams to get in the spirit by dressing up and decorating their tables to match their theme. Themes will range from a very general phrase to a specific movie or character. The teams try to correctly answer trivia questions in different categories. The winning team receive prizes, cash or entry to next years event. In addition, and perhaps the most rewarding, is of course, bragging rights for the rest of the year.



*"The number of teams have increased each year as have the amount of creativity they put into their table themes,"* said Doug Hayse, Minooka Police Chief. *"Our Department really enjoys hosting the event and are proud to be involved with Special Olympics."*

### Unemployment Security-Meeting Business Needs

Thursday, January 14, 2010

8:30 am- 10:30 am

**Quality Inn, Morris**

The Illinois Department of Employment Security will be presenting a workshop focused on their services. This workshop is designed for anyone who is responsible for employment services and unemployment insurance processing.

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Human Resource Staff, Business Owners, General Managers and anyone responsible for employment services.

A nominal fee will include all workshop materials and a continental breakfast. Call the Chamber at 815-942-0113 or email us at [info@grundychamber.com](mailto:info@grundychamber.com) register or for more information.

#### TOPICS TO BE PRESENTED:

An Overview of IDES Business Solutions – additional option for employers seeking skilled workers to fill job vacancies. Information will include use of Illinois Skills Match system, Veterans Programs, Hire the Future, Reentry Services Program, use of offices for recruiting, Fidelity Bonding, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, TaxNet, and labor market information.

**Employer Protests** – Information on the employers' right to contest claims and chargeability with emphasis on due dates of protests and what information should be included with written protests. Appeal rights will also be presented.

**Mock Adjudication Interviews** – Demonstration of the interview process with Unemployment Insurance Specialists addressing issues related to voluntary leaving, misconduct, and refusal of work.

*A Claims Adjudicator will be available to answer questions regarding unemployment insurance protest issues.*

## Board of Directors and Staff

### Board of Directors:

+ **Dianne Breslar**, *Immediate Past Chair*  
Chapin's Restaurant

**Chris Breyman**  
Grundy Bank

**Matt Fritz**  
Village of Coal City

\***John Galloway**  
Grundy County Board  
& Grand Rental Station

+ **Ken Goodwin**, *Treasurer*  
Goodwin & McDonald CPA's, PC

**Virginia Heubach Kelly**  
Morris Hospital & Healthcare  
Centers Foundation

**Michael McMahan**  
Village of Channahon

**Brent Newman**  
Grundy County  
Housing Authority

+ **Tom Nunheimer**, *Secretary*  
LyondellBasell Chemical

**Ted "Pidge" Smith**  
Advantage Realty

\* **Larry Tarman**  
GEDC Chair & Geo's Pizza

**Dr. Michael Throneburg**  
Grundy County Board

**David Trotter**  
Trotter Landscape Company

+ **Janice Unger**, *Chair*  
Mazon State Bank

\* **Derek Wright**  
Ambassador Chair  
& Northern Insurance Group

+ **Jim Zackavec**, *Vice Chair*  
First Midwest Bank

+ Executive Committee  
\* Ex-officio

### Chamber Staff:

**Caroline Portlock**, *Executive Director*  
cportlock@grundychamber.com

**Sarah Peterson**, *Membership Director*  
sarah@grundychamber.com

**Peg Berta**, *Administrative Assistant*  
pberta@grundychamber.com

**Mary Ann Kilbride**, *Coal City Office*  
maryann@grundychamber.com

### Chamber Ambassadors:

**John Adler**  
AFLAC

**Jess Alvarez**  
A Plus Home & Building Inspections

**Angela Baumeister**  
WCSJ / WJDK Radio

**Bridgette Boykins**  
Cleaning Solutions by Bridgette

**Candyce Connor**  
Twin Oaks Savings Bank

**Coleen Davis**, *Secretary*  
Big Brothers Big Sisters

**Terri Gilmoure**  
Country Financial

**Jackie Martin**, *Vice Chair*  
Proforma ProMediaAspire

**John Oltman**  
Good Night Sleep Center

**Maggie Robisky**  
First Midwest Bank

**Derek Wright**, *Chair*  
Northern Insurance Group

**Naomi Weiss**  
Standard Bank

### Chamber Meetings:

**Ambassadors Meeting**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 3:30 pm

**Business Expansion Network**  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 7:30 am  
at Holiday Inn Express

**Executive Committee**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 8 am

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:45 am

*Established in 1947, the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry's mission is to support its membership, promote economic development, and preserve and enhance the quality of life in our county.*

The *Courier* is a monthly newsletter produced by the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry office for its members. To submit information for the *Courier*, please contact the Chamber office.

## From the Director's desk...



### County-Wide Transportation System

The group known as the Grundy Transit Team continues to work toward a comprehensive transportation system for the County. Incorporating the County's GREAT System along with the various service providers will increase efficiencies and opportunities.

By developing a transportation system, it will give our area access to funds already earmarked for our County and a coordinated effort of all current operators will save on gas, personnel and time, offer a variety of vehicles to serve needs and create an easy, convenient process to request a ride.

A County-Wide Transportation system will make people in the community more mobile and allow them to live as independently as possible—which will bring new customers to your business and provide increased traffic to recreation areas. ***It will not increase taxes.*** Local match dollars will come from expenses incurred through programs already in existence & new contracts

The Transit Team's next steps are to continue:

- Working with current providers on a coordinated system
- Complete the grant process to secure additional funding
- Seek feedback from service providers, businesses and general public on needs
- Educate on process and progress
- Provide information to local communities and general public

To learn more, contact the Community Foundation of Grundy County at 815-941-0852.

**THINK • BUY • SHOP LOCAL**  
*Keep it in the County!*

### Shop Local Update

The Grundy County Chamber along with the GEDC, MDDP, Morris Daily Herald, the Grundy County Farm Bureau and Grundy Broadcasters are forming a network of local business owners, and community members who are committed to cultivating a vibrant local economy by promoting businesses that have made a commitment to our communities.

#### Our objectives are simple:

- Educate consumers about the economic, social and environmental benefits of supporting local businesses.
- Increase the amount of goods purchased locally.
- Connect businesses to one another and facilitate communication and collaboration between them.
- Provide materials and templates to businesses/communities to assist in developing local campaigns.

#### What can you do?

- Think about where you buy your goods and services—check into local options.
- Gas up your vehicle in your home town.
- Buy Chamber Gift Certificates for employee service / safety awards, client thank you gifts & personal gift giving.

# Member News & Briefs

**Crossroads Counseling Services** is pleased to announce expansions in its Morris and Minooka location office hours to include evenings and Saturdays. Contact them at [www.crossroads-helps.com](http://www.crossroads-helps.com).

Congratulations to *Laurie Halaska*, new Executive Director of the Galowich & Morris Family YMCA.

Congratulations to *Cindy Wilson*, Fire & Life Safety Education Coordinator for **Channahon & Minooka Fire Protection Districts**, on receiving the New Horizons Award by the IL Fire Inspectors Assoc. This award is granted to recognize someone who is actively involved and making a difference in their department's public education efforts.

Congratulations to Chamber Ambassador *Candyce Connor* of **Twin Oaks Savings Bank** on the birth of her son Gage.

Congratulations to *Jill Odom* who was named the new Administrator for **Heritage Woods of Dwight**. Jill is the former owner of **Quality Home Health** and is active with various organizations including **Grundy Community Volunteer Hospice**.

A big thanks to **Shirkey Veterinary Clinic** who assisted the **Grundy County Animal Control** by providing services to two dogs in need and available for adoption.

Welcome to *Julie Wilkinson* who has joined the **American Red Cross** Grundy County Chapter as Community Development Officer.

*Got news? Share it with others by e-mailing us at [info@grundychamber.com](mailto:info@grundychamber.com)*

Please note, the Chamber offices will be closed on December 25 and December 31 for the holidays.

## Welcome To Our Newest Members:

### **Allstate Insurance**

*Aaron Wehmeyer*  
1802 N. Division Street  
Suite 218  
Morris, IL 60450

815-942-1445

- *Provider of Auto, Home & Office Insurance as well as Life Insurance and Investments*

### **Morris Diner & Pancake House**

*Bob Rofalikos*  
1920 N. Division Street  
Morris, IL 60450

815-942-6887

- *Full service restaurant.*

Join us for this upcoming:

# Business After Hours

## December 10

5 - 7 pm

Sponsored by:

### First Midwest Bank

220 W. Main Street, Morris



Mark on your calendar...

# Business After Hours

## January 21

5 - 7 pm

Sponsored by:

### Morris Hotel Group

Gore Road, Morris



Great Food, Networking & Drawings! Bring lots of business cards!

*Business After 5 & Business After Hours are networking events where you could meet your next customer!*



Saturday, **January 30, 2010**

**Morris Dist. 101 Rec Center**

Make plans now to participate in the 2010 Home & Health Expo. **Scheduled one month earlier than in past years**—the Expo will again feature area products and services, spotlight local entertainment, offer a job fair and much more.



**Interested in promoting your products/services?**

Spaces are filling up! Download an Expo flyer from our website or contact us at 815-942-0113 for more details!



Do you know a group that is interested in performing ?  
Is your organization interested in selling concessions?

We have limited space / times available—  
contact us at the Chamber for details.

## Chamber Luncheon

### Best Practices—Learning From Others

Presented by:

Rich Mitchell, Proforma ProMediAspire &  
Eric Peterson, Peterson Computer Consulting

*Gain insight on what two business owners are doing to survive in these challenging economic times— Rich and Eric will help you incorporate what they have learned into your company.*

### December 15, 2009

11:30 am

### Maria's Restaurant

1591 N. Division, Morris

Cost is **\$15 per member**. RSVP (815) 942-0113  
or [info@grundychamber.com](mailto:info@grundychamber.com).

**Reservations must be made in advance!**

Parking available in back of building.

Luncheons Sponsored by:



909 Liberty Street  
Morris, IL 60450  
815-942-0113

660 S. Broadway Street  
Coal City, IL 60416  
815-634-8662

Your place for area information  
and business services.

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