



Raymore Chamber of Commerce Annual Joint Chamber Meeting April 26, 2011

Hosted by Raymore Chamber

Location: Holmes Hall

Handouts on tables:

- Raymore Rehabilitation Center, Celebrating 20 years, May 7th
- Children's Mercy Hospital, clothing room donations

Agenda

Welcome from Bryan Mallory

Invocation / Pledge by Jason Matters

CITY UPDATES

Belton: Art Ruiz, BCED – introduced by Jeff Fletcher, Belton Chamber of Commerce President.

Mr. Ruiz talked about some upcoming events and businesses that are changing the landscape of the Belton community. (1) Price Chopper is relocating from the Cass Shopping Center to 58 highway & Y. (2) The “road to nowhere” is being completed (3) a “big box” retailer will be moving into the area with a 200,000 square foot building. They plan to start construction Spring 2012 and be open sometime in 2013. (4) More affordable housing will be built.

Peculiar: Brad Ratliff, City Administrator – introduced by Kim Duey, Peculiar Chamber of Commerce President
Mr. Ratliff says he believes Cass County is the *Best Kept Secret in Missouri*. There is so much going on in and around our communities. Peculiar will see a new retirement community being built this year that is already sold out. Our cities/towns increased in population according to the last census with Peculiar showing an increase of 77% per capita. Peculiar is largely a housing community and not much business / commerce. The Economic Development needs to increase. \$325,000 was collected in property taxes this year. The government is working on developing a new / upgraded sewer system & expansion. 2011 projects will include working with Raymore on improving School Road. We all need to ask legislators to give local governments more. Mr. Ratliff says we need to put money on the front end and not on the back end as it is now. Putting money on the front end gives businesses money to get started in our communities.

Raymore: Juan Alonzo, Mayor was introduced by Tom Circo, Raymore Chamber of Commerce Treasurer
Mayor Alonzo thanked everyone for showing an interest in their communities by attending today's meeting. Raymore's upcoming projects include pavement maintenance and curb replacement. The City Council was able to change the requirement for curbs, sidewalks & driveways to make sure they stay in good condition longer. Included in the sidewalk project, neighborhoods will be connecting to each other. Also, North Madison will continue with the widening & road improvements all the way to Gore Road. Significant changes will be made to J Highway & School Road. Raymore has over 10 miles of trails which are all maintained by the City. Raymore showed 72% growth in the last census making it necessary to redistrict with 4 wards of equal number. 42% of housing permits issued in Cass County were issued in Raymore. To keep up with our “growing pains” it will include expanding our sewer systems. Firestone is going in east of Ryan's Restaurant & will be opening this year. Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the 2011 St. Jude's Greenhouse Give-A-Way located in Creekmoor.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Kuehl, Managing Director, Armada Corporate Intelligence introduced by Jack Hopkins, Raymore Chamber of Commerce Program Chairman.

Dr. Kuehl talked about our past & current economy & what we have to look forward to. His talk was very informative & inspiring. He gave us all a positive vision for our future unlike what we hear from our daily news reporters / analysis'. To learn more about Armada Corporate Intelligence go to www.Armada-intel.com.

THANK YOU / MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / ETC.:

- May 1st – Raymore Day @ the “K” – purchase tickets from the Chamber
- Children’s Mercy Hospital clothing closet needs clothes (handout on table with more information)
- Belton Chamber Golf Tournament – May 13th
- Go to www.Showmecasscounty.com to take survey
- Next Raymore Chamber of Commerce meeting will be May 24th, 11:30 @ Community Bank of Raymore

ADJOURNED