

**Raymore Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009**

The General Membership meeting for April was the annual joint Chamber of Commerce dinner bringing together the cities of Belton, Peculiar, and Raymore. The dinner meeting was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the Lion's Club building in Peculiar, Missouri, and was hosted by the Peculiar Area Chamber of Commerce. Registration and networking started at 6:00 PM with appetizers provided by UMB Bank of Peculiar. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Peculiar President, Kim Duey, welcoming everyone. The invocation was delivered by Larry Boucher, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A dinner buffet catered by Affordable Elegance of Raymore was served.

The business meeting was convened during which an overview of the economic development in each community was delivered.

Art Ruiz, Belton Economic Development Corporation, announced that Park College was looking at Belton as a possible site for a satellite campus. Belton had received approval for Enterprise Zoning and Odessa Auto Auction was looking at Belton as a future site.

Brad Ratliff, City of Peculiar, announced that Peculiar had been named the fifth largest city in Cass County with the fastest growth per capita. The city is in the process of working up a master plan by conducting forty meetings during which the residents will be asked what they ultimately want their city to look like. An eight million dollar bond was successfully passed to construct the new interchange on 71 Highway and is scheduled for completion in fall of 2009 or spring 2010. The new interchange will represent a "powerful" artery and will help to create jobs in Cass County, which up to now has been Missouri's best kept secret.

Juan Alonzo, Mayor of Raymore, also agreed that the new interchange will be a huge boon for retail business and office space. Creekmoor Golf Course is an excellent facility and an added attraction to Raymore. The University of Missouri has offered to come to Raymore to help small businesses formulate business plans and models. Since they are willing to come to Raymore, businesses won't have to travel to Warrensburg. Mayor Alonzo commented that when he first took office, most of Raymore's tax dollars came from housetops. Now a large portion of Raymore's tax dollars come from businesses that have moved to Raymore. Raymore has applied for 33 million dollars in stimulus money for streets and roads. He emphasized that it is not just a matter of each individual city, Belton-Peculiar-Raymore, promoting itself, but that we need to raise awareness of Cass County as a whole.

The featured guest speaker for the evening had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances, so the membership was entertained by J and Nancy Cantrell from the Lutheran Church in Harrisonville.

After the entertainment concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin L. Noe
Secretary