

WINDMILL

February 2011

In This Issue

- Chamber Membership Dues
- Made in Montana Marketplace
- Meeting Minutes - January
- Meeting Minutes – February
- Manhattan Community Corner
- Montana Chamber Choices
- February Calendar
- Economic Development Summit
- Thank you

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Chamber Membership

Please make sure to pay your Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Membership dues. We will be sending out e-mail reminders. Thank you!

Made in Montana Marketplace

The made in Montana marketplace is the premier venue where producers of Made in Montana products and wholesale buyers do business. The 2011 Made in Montana Marketplace Event will be presented by the City of Great Falls and the Montana Department of Commerce, Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at the Mansfield Convention Center of the Great Falls Civic Center. The annual, two-day trade show connects wholesale buyers from across the region with the people who produce products that qualify for the Made in Montana program. If you would like to register or need more information on this event check out the website: greatfallsmt.net/events/madeinmontana/.

Minutes from the General Meeting, January 18.

The master of ceremonies was Paul Jones.
The guest speaker was Andy Malby, Editor of the Belgrade News.
The invocation was given by Bob Dewit.

CHAMBER MEETING

Paul Jones called the meeting to order.

Treasurer's Report

- Checkings: \$3,117.56
- Savings: \$ 15,007.73
- CD: \$ 1,150

OLD BUSINESS

- 2010 Chamber Accomplishments
 - Membership:
 - 147 Chamber Members
 - Farmers Market mid June to August
 - Potato Festival held in August
 - Christmas Stroll was held on December 11th.
- Departing Directors:
 - Dave Hebner
 - Wilma Jones

NEW BUSINESS

- The following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

- President: Paul Jones
- Vice-President: Jon Blanchard
- Treasurer: Joan Oldenburger
- Director: Sheri Venema
- Director: Becky Petrick
- Director: Crystal Browning
- Director: Available
- Telephone Directory
 - 2000 copies distributed free to residents & businesses in the Manhattan-Amsterdam-Churchill area.
- Future Meetings – 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm at Parkhaven

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes from the General Meeting, February 1

Paul Jones called the meeting to order.

Present were Paul Jones, Jim Albrecht, Pat Figgins, Joan Oldenburger, Crystal Browning, Sheri Venema, Sue Hiedeman, Wilma Jones and Susan Douma.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account: \$1,279.42 Savings: \$15,007.73 CD: \$11,150.00

Paul welcomed the new Board Members who attended: Crystal Browning and Sheri Venema. Becky Petrick did not attend.

Old Business

- ❖ Banquet Report – Paul reported 48 people attended and which was less than last year. It went well at the Garden Café, next year we will go to the Oasis. The correct income from the banquet was approximately \$100.00. The speaker, Andy Malby did a great job. Next year we will need to find a location for the Meeting part of the banquet. Wilma commented that the bios of the candidates need to be sent out as they were not sent this year.
- ❖ Banner Poles – Paul thanked Pat and Jon for getting the poles installed and putting the Seasons Greetings banner up.

New Business

- ❖ Yellowstone Country Grant (Due February 28, 2011) – Paul explained that the Yellowstone Country Grant board will only allow the Manhattan Visitor's Information Center(VIC) to apply for \$2000.00. If the Chamber takes this money we must be open from Friday of Memorial Day weekend through September 30 with a minimum of 24 hours per week. In addition the Chamber must pay between \$7.50-\$10.00 per hour worked. Due to the inability to meet the requirements, Pat made a motion to not apply for the Yellowstone County VIC Grant. Joan seconded. The motion passed.
- ❖ Potato Festival – A question arose between the Potato Festival committee and the Board regarding decisions that need to be made. Paul stated that the Board will need to make the decision if it affects the Chamber's bottom line and otherwise the PF committee can make the decision. Also, the theme needs to be decided in March. Susan will be sending previous suggestions for the theme. Pat suggested that we not have a theme and use the Centennial of the incorporation of the Town of Manhattan as our theme this year.

- Sponsorships– Each Board Member is asked to take 4-5 businesses to contact for Potato Festival Sponsorships. Susan will be sending via e-mail sponsorship packets for the Potato Festival to the board members.
- Committees – A sign-up sheet was passed around for board members to take on one or two aspects of the Potato Festival.
- ❖ Shakespeare in the Park – The cost to bring the Shakespeare in the Parks here is \$1200. Do people know that the Chamber hosts it? There are two potential dates: July 16 or September 3, both are Saturdays. We will take the Saturday if there is not a date available a week after PF and before Saturday, September 3. Paul added in the future we might want to include Shakespeare at the end of the Potato Festival. A motion was made to accept the Saturday September 3 unless we can have an alternate date a week after Potato Festival and before September 3.
- ❖ Any Additional New Business – The Centennial of the incorporation of the Town of Manhattan is this year. How do we want to pursue this?

Motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm.

Manhattan Community Corner

Thank you to Nancy Bates from At Home On the Range for her excellent article! Would you like your company highlighted in the Business Spotlight section of the Manhattan Community Corner? Then let us know! We are actively seeking businesses and information on community events to put into this advertising piece.

Montana Chamber Choices



Ways to Improve Your Heart Health for 2011

Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program offers several ways to improve the heart and performance of your business in 2011. The following benefits can uniquely increase collaboration at your worksite, raise the energy level and make you look like the best boss ever.

- **Stop heart disease.** Yes, it's already February the month of cupid hearts and heart disease awareness. Heart disease kills more US men *and* women than any other disease. Luckily you and your employees can take steps to reduce their risk at work and at home.
- **Quit.** 70% of current smokers say they want to quit, are you one of them? Call the Montana Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW to get free cessation counseling, a free personalized quit plan, 6 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy (gum, patches, or lozenges), discounts on prescription cessation drugs and more.
- **Shape Up Montana.** High cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and excess weight are all risk factors for heart disease and miraculously each of these can be reduced, controlled or resolved by participating in the statewide, team-based Shape Up Montana physical activity (or weight loss) challenge. Montana

Chamber and Montana Chamber Choices customers receive a 33% discount off of the \$15 fee to participate in the competition by registering by February 9th at www.shapeupmontana.org/shapeupcc11.html.

- **Get your WellVision exam.** High blood pressure can be detected through a thorough eye exam. Luckily, as of January 1, 2011 all employees covered by Montana Chamber Choices health insurance have a VSP vision benefit that includes a \$10 copay at a VSP provider for an annual WellVision exam and eyewear discounts. Schedule your appointment today.

- **Buy-up.** Help the heart by insuring it. Every Montana Chamber Choices employee health insurance customer has a \$5,000 base life insurance policy and the opportunity to buy-up additional life insurance. Prices are outrageously low (\$1.05 a month for \$10,000 of coverage for a 34-year old, for example) so call your Montana Chamber Choices agent today and help the heart beat more easily.

February Calendar

February 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 pm General Mtg. - Parkhaven, Board Mtg. After	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Last date for info to be included in the March Community Corner	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Economic Development Summit

The City of Bozeman will host its first-ever Economic Development Summit in a two-part series, Feb. 17 and 24.

The Summit is designed to inform the area's small business operators of strategic moves the City is taking to improve collaboration with the business community, to nurture an entrepreneur-friendly environment, and to seek input from members of the business community as it moves forward.

In large part, the City is employing a strategy called 'economic gardening,' a tactic designed to support and grow local business before spending resources to recruit large companies to the area. Many of the Economic Development Council (EDC) recommendations that the Commission approved last month are direct action items derived from economic gardening principles.

Headlining the first day of the series is Dan Ripke, a national leader in economic gardening strategy and a contemporary of the strategy's co-founder, Chris Gibbons. Ripke will present at 7 a.m. on Feb. 17 at the Emerson Cultural Center's Crawford Theater. The event, which includes coffee and pastries, is free of charge and open to the public; registration is requested by Feb. 15 to 587-3113 or mkappes@prosperabusinessnetwork.org.

Ripke will address the importance of three key facets to a successful economic gardening program: providing critical information to businesses, investing in a functional infrastructure that contributes to a high quality of life, and encouraging innovation through active connections.


"As the EDC, we felt it important to be proactive and have an open dialog with small business owners on the work we've been conducting. We hope they will be pleased and feel that it is in their best interest," said EDC Chair Chris Westlake.

As a follow-up to Ripke's presentation, the EDC will host roundtable discussion groups at 7:00 a.m. on Feb. 24 at the Best Western Gran Tree Inn; these discussion groups are also open to the public and refreshments will be offered free of charge. Registration is requested by Feb. 21 to 587-3113 or mkappes@prosperabusinessnetwork.org.

"It is important for small businesses to be aware of, and more importantly, to inform, the goals, objectives, and metrics to which we will hold ourselves accountable. So, we put together this Economic Development Summit series as an opportunity for them to participate."

Westlake added, the series "is also a great opportunity to promote 'active connections' within the business community, which are fundamental to achieving innovation and opportunity as a community. We are hopeful for a good turnout and a productive, beneficial summit."

Thank you



Thank you so much for being a member of the Chamber! Please do not hesitate to contact us with your comments and suggestions. We are here to serve you!

If you would like to make a difference in our Chamber and our community then please come to our general meetings – the first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 pm at Parkhaven. We would love to hear your opinion!