



Dixon Area Business News

VOLUME 125, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2011

Chamber Focus...

December's Business After Business (BAB), will be at Commerce Towers Thursday, December 15th, 5 — 6:30 pm. You won't want to miss it! The December BAB traditionally sees exceptional attendance. Pull out the full page BAB flyer from this newsletter, post it at work, and encourage others from your business to attend. The more, the merrier!

Citizen of the Year Nominations due December 16th

Each year since 1982, the Citizen of the Year Program has honored individuals who have served our community above and beyond their business or occupation. The Citizen of the Year program is co-sponsored by the Dixon Area Chamber and the Telegraph.

Your assistance in identifying those individuals and organizations who should be candidates for these prestigious awards will be greatly appreciated. Nomination forms are available from the Chamber office. Help us recognize volunteers in our community and create publicity for the good work they do. Here's a list of previous award recipients.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **New Required Poster**
(page 2)

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Citizens of the Year:

1982 Paul Berrettini
1983 Jerrald James
1984 Robert Shomaker
1985 Robert Mansen
1986 Gary Gehlbach
1987 Joan Sheridan
1988 Helen & Elwood Cruse
1989 Bob Gingras
1990 Isaac "Ike" Mercer
1991 Tom Durband
1992 Bill Reigle
1993 Linda Brantley
1994 Jane Marshall
1995 Jeff Lovett
1996 Darryl Vandervort
1997 Stan Weber
1998 Jim Nelson
1999 Nancy Varga
2000 JoAnn Guthrie
2001 Doug Lee
2002 Larry Reed
2003 Al Knickrehm
2004 Sylvia Montavon
2005 Walt Lohse
2006 Nate & Ida Johnson
2007 Dave Schreiner
2008 Winston Murray
2009 James E. Dixon
2010 Rick Munson

Businesses of the Year:

2008 Sauk Valley Bank
2009 Sauk Valley Properties
2010 The Next Picture Show

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients:

1994 Arnold Spangler
1995 Donald R. Lovett
1996 Ray Neisewander, Jr.
1997 Bill & Jean Thompson
1998 Pat Jones
1999 Robert Hartzell
2000 Harold Rhodes
2002 Bill Wadsworth & Carol Ortgiesen Wadsworth
2003 Dean Butterbaugh
2006 Stella Grobe
2009 Alice Collins
2010 Terry & Bonnie Nichols

Future Leaders Award Recipients:

2007 Lauren Roth
2008 Tom Demmer
2009 Blaire Sambdman
2010 Jenny Koch

Organizations of the Year:

1999 Dixon Men's Garden Club
2000 Dixon Elks Lodge No. 779
2001 Al Morrison Baseball
2002 Dixon Habitat for Humanity
2003 The Leydig Center
2007 The Dixon Lioness Club
2008 Veterans Memorial Park Commission
2009 Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center
2010 Dixon Community Food Pantry

NEW REQUIRED POSTER

**National Labor Relations Act
Employee Rights Notice Posting**

Get it Free!

As of January 31, 2012, most private sector employees are required to post a notice advising employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act. The notice should be posted in a conspicuous place, where other notifications of workplace rights and employer rules and policies are posted. Employers also should publish a link to the notice on an internal or external website if other personnel policies or workplace notices are posted there.

You may download and print the notice from this website: <https://www.nlr.gov/poster>. You may also call 202-273-0064 and copies will be mailed free of charge.

See www.nlr.gov for further information about the posting, including a detailed discussion of which employers are covered by the NLRA, and what to do if a substantial share of the workplace speaks a language other than English.

Chamber Ambassadors

Ribbon Cutting



On Wednesday, December 14th, at 10:30 am, Chamber Ambassadors will participate in a ribbon cutting for **Dollar Green** located at 118 N. Peoria Ave. in Dixon.

See the Member News column of this newsletter for information about a December 17th Grand Opening Celebration at this new retail store.

SAVE THE DATE:
CHAMBER GALA FIESTA
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012
DIXON ELKS LODGE #779

Why you should care about online sales tax legislation

Think the debate on online sales tax only applies to online retailers? Think again.

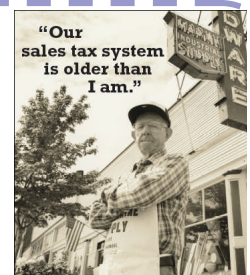
From brick-and-mortar to multichannel to online pure plays, if you're in retail, you need to know about three legislative proposals currently under consideration by Congress. Why? Because if passed, online sales tax collection changes will significantly impact your business, be it online or offline.

We live in the days of omnichannel retailing, where retailers strive to keep their brick-and-mortar roots while leveraging innovative digital technologies that improve the customer experience. But unlike most of their online counterparts, brick-and-mortar retailers must comply with 7,600 different state and local sales tax systems – creating two separate systems, one online and one offline which are blatantly uncompetitive and unfair.

But sales tax fairness is about more than fairness among retailers – it's about protecting small businesses and local retail jobs that are crucial to America's towns and cities. Should federal legislation pass on this issue, state and local governments

would receive \$24 billion in additional revenue to support essential services – like teachers, police officers, firefighters and ambulance crews.

It's NRF's view that businesses need a 21st century tax system that works with 21st century retail. And now is the time for Congress to act.



Today's retail industry is rapidly changing, but America's outdated sales tax policy is stuck in the past – picking winners and losers and hurting local merchants.

We need a 21st century system that ensures a simpler, more uniform collection of sales tax – to protect small business jobs, provide states with much-needed revenue for vital services, and keep our communities economically healthy.

It's time for Congress to help Main Street businesses keep their doors open. Please act now to pass a sales tax fairness bill.

Visit www.RetailMeansJobs.com to learn more.
National Retail Federation
The Voice of Retail Worldwide

Copied from: <http://blog.nrf.com/category/public-policy/>
Written by Margaret Case Little, Director, Communications
National Retail Federation

Schedule of Events...

CHAMBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 8, Noon
Chamber Board Room

BAB

Thursday, December 15, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
at Commerce Towers

CHAMBER TALK LINE

Tuesday, January 3, 8:15 am
WIXN AM 1460

CHAMBER AMBASSADORS

Thursday, January 5, Noon
Sterling Federal Bank (Southside Office)

FIESTA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, 8 am
Chamber Board Room

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, Noon
Chamber Board Room

CHAMBER BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 12, Noon
Chamber Board Room

BAB

Thursday, January 12, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
at The Next Picture Show

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DINNER

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 6:00 pm
Amber Room at Timber Creek

Business Card Drawing Winners November BAB

Joe Stithem, MO-ST Plumbing & Mechanical
Doug Mossholder, M & M Construction
Laura Bock, Sauk Valley Properties
Bonnie O'Connell, Heritage Square

November BAB Raffle Winner

Ken McMunn

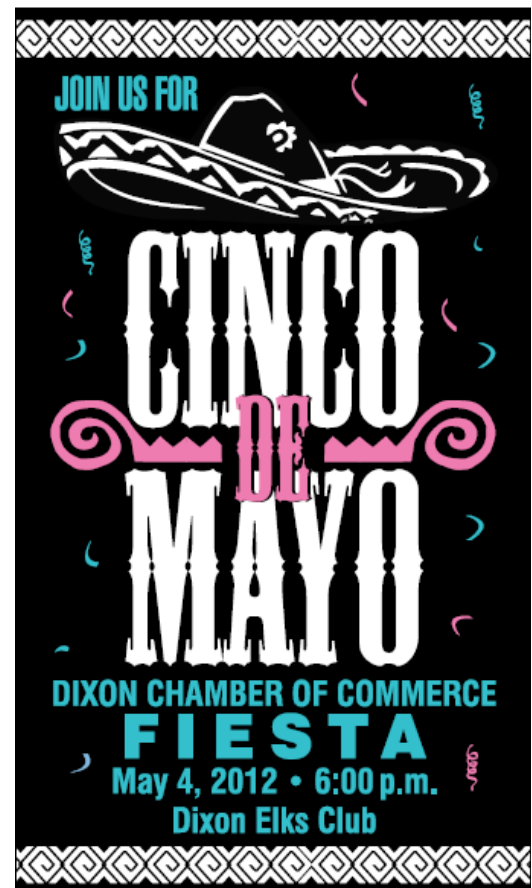
We welcome...these new Chamber Members:

DayByDay Media

Ken Hauck, Owner
1620 Sauk Road
Dixon, IL
815-797-9703
www.daybydayshowcase.com
Publishers

Dollar Green

"Max" Mamoon Abdulla, President
118 North Peoria Avenue
Dixon, IL
815-677-9275
Retail - Dollar Stores



Member News...

Vicky Turner receives CRS Designation

Vicky Turner, a Dixon Realtor, has been awarded the Prestigious Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) Designation by the Council of Residential Specialists, the largest not-for-profit affiliate of the National Association of Realtors. Realtors who receive the CRS Designation have completed advanced courses and have demonstrated professional expertise in the field of residential real estate. Fewer than 31,000 Realtors nationwide have earned the credential.



Home buyers and sellers can be assured that CRS Designees subscribe to the strict Realtors code of ethics, have access to the latest technology and are specialists in helping clients maximize profits and minimize costs when buying or selling a home.

Vicky Turner is a sales associate with United Country Burke Realty in Dixon, IL. She is a member of the Sauk Valley Association Board of Realtors. Vicky is also serving or has served on the following Boards: Dixon Chamber of Commerce, Dixon Chamber Ambassador, Dixon Main Street, Lee County Master Gardeners, Hospice of Rock River Valley, Sauk Valley Association of Realtors, and the Petunia Festival Board. She is one of twelve realtors in the State of Illinois to be chosen to serve on the IAR Leadership Council. Vicky was also just appointed as a Governor to the Real Estate Institute.

Submitted by: United Country Burke Realty

Sign Language Classes offered by NICIL

Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL) is offering a **Beginner's Sign Language Class** beginning Wednesday, January 11, 2012 until February 29, 2012. Classes will be held at KSB Hospital in the large dining room from 6:00—7:30 pm. A **Conversation/Advanced Class** will on the same days and at the same location from 7:30 to 9:00 pm.

Class size is limited. Pre-registration and pre-payment of \$30 is required. Books can be purchased at the class. To register, call the Center toll-free at 1-888-886-4245.

Submitted by: NICIL

Submission requests for "Member News" are accepted in written format only, preferably by e-mail. The Chamber reserves the right to edit submissions due to staff, time and space limitations. Member news is available only on a first-come, first-served rotating basis.

Email your news to vickidixoncc@gmail.com.

You are invited to a Grand Opening Celebration at Dollar Green

Everyone is invited to attend a Grand Opening celebration on Saturday, December 17th at the new **Dollar Green** store located at 118 N. Peoria Avenue in Dixon. Owner Max Abdulla plans to serve lunch-style refreshments (soup, hot dogs, etc.) from 11am—3pm. Please stop by.

Submitted by: Max Abdulla, Dollar Green

Blackhawk Waterways is Bringing Facebook to Our Partners!

Have you wanted to be more involved in social media advertising but just didn't know how to get started? Statistics show that Facebook's advertising platform is by far the most developed and widely used social network and it is easy and inexpensive to use. With over 5 million Facebook users worldwide your marketing reach can be much more targeted and speak to the audience you are trying to reach. If you think now is the right time for your business to go "social" but you're not sure how to launch your own Facebook advertising plan, Blackhawk Waterways CVB wants to give you the opportunity to get your business out in the "social world" by providing Facebook assistance. For a short time, we will be offering your business, event, or not-for-profit organization the opportunity to work with Amy Trimble of Trimble Consulting & Promotion Inc. to create an advertising plan for your Facebook page. Amy will come to your office and show you how to go about creating and understanding Facebook advertisements. Your consultation will include teaching you how to:

- Choose your Target Market
- Choose Key Words
- Establish a Budget
- Create an Ad
- Analyze the Effectiveness of your Campaign

As a service to its tourism partners, Blackhawk Waterways will cover the cost of Amy's initial consultation and partners will pay for any ads run. This opportunity will expire December 31, 2011 and will be on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in exploring this new and exciting promotional opportunity, please contact Amy directly at amytrimble5@gmail.com or 815-238-8672 to set up an appointment.

Submitted by: Diane Bausman, Executive Director
Blackhawk Waterways CVB

**DIXON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
HOLIDAY BUSINESS AFTER BUSINESS**



**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 15, 2011
5:00-6:30 PM**

**TO BE HELD AT
COMMERCE TOWERS
2ND FLOOR ATRIUM
215 EAST FIRST STREET, DIXON**

YOUR HOSTS:

KSB HOSPITAL

KSB MEDICAL GROUP

EHRMANN, GEHLBACH, BADGER & LEE, LLC

WIPFLI LLP



FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS. MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE.
ENJOY REFRESHMENTS. **BRING YOUR BUSINESS CARDS.** ENTER TO WIN DOOR PRIZES.

B A B

2011

Chamber Officers:

Matt Hermes
Chairman of the Board
Heartland Realty II, LLC

Tim Broos
1st Vice Chairman
KSB Hospital

Joann Sheridan
2nd Vice Chairman
Sterling Federal Bank

Jenny Koch
Treasurer
Wipfli LLP

Chamber Directors:

Eric Brantley
Train's Jewelry Store
Ed Bushman
The Telegraph
Tad Kerr
ComEd Energy Services

Barb Majeski
Manpower Staffing Services
George Mobarak
Rock River Ready Mix
Todd Neisewander
Raynor

Bonnie O'Connell
Heritage Square
Shawn Ortgiesen
City of Dixon

Sandy Schuler
dezine

Rick Schulz
Walmart

Darryl Vandervort
Lee County Industrial
Development Association

Emily Vivian
Ehrmann, Gehlbach,
Badger & Lee

Will Yount
Yount Insurance Services

Ex-officio:

Joni Ehnen
Dixon Chamber
Ambassadors

Josh Albrecht
Dixon Main Street

Jim Seeberg
Lee County Board
Chairman

James Burke
Mayor, City of Dixon

Chamber Staff:

John R. Thompson
President/CEO

Vicki L. Carlson
Vice President

Kaye King
Executive Secretary

Adrienne Keeley
Secretary

2011 TOP TEN

Our Top Ten Dues Investors - Thanks for your support!

Dixon Direct
Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Lee
First National Bank in Amboy
Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital
KSB Medical Group

Midland States Bank
Raynor Garage Doors
Spectrum Brands
Sterling Federal Bank
Walmart

***** 150% CLUB MEMBERS *****

This extra support is truly appreciated!

AZZ Galvanizing of Dixon, Inc.

Anne's Garden Center

Brown Construction

Clifton Gunderson LLP

Comcast Cable-Internet-Phone

Comfort Inn of Dixon

DC Computers

Ehrmann Gehlbach Badger & Lee

Franklin Grove Bank

Heartland Realty II, LLC

Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Centers

Jacobs Builders LLC

Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital

KSB Medical Group

Ken Nelson Auto Group

Kreider Services, Inc.

Lee County Republican Central Committee

LRB Distributors

Mechanical, Incorporated

PLN Mutual Insurance Company

Preston Schilling Funeral Home

Raynor Garage Doors

Rock River Human Resource Professional Assoc.

Rock River Ready Mix, Inc.

VFW Post #540

Wipfli LLP

WIXN AM & River Country 101.7

Kathy Yount

Chamber Ambassadors

2011 Officers:

Joni Ehnen
President
The Brandywine

Laura Bock
Vice President
Sauk Valley Properties

Sarah Smith
Secretary/Treasurer
Cloud 9

Julie Brady
Sterling Federal Bank
Ed Bushman
Sauk Valley Media
Michael Clark
WSDR, WSSQ, & WZZT
Tim Crawford
Crawford Realty
Angie Dallam
Clifton Gunderson LLP
Melissa Glessner
US Bank
Sally Hanrahan
BEST, Inc. / WIA
Kim Hvarre
Hvarre Painting
Pat Jones, Jr.
Jones Funeral Home

Matt Keegan
Ward Murray Pace & Johnson
Michelle Knight
First National Bank in Amboy
Diane Langenfeld
Appraisal Associates of
Northwest Illinois
Ed Lynott
WIXN AM/River Country FM
Melissa Mehrens
AAA Home Builders LLC
Meghan McCullah
Edward Jones
Nancy Nesyto-Freske
Journey Yoga
Jill Pfeiffer
Dixon Healthcare & Rehab
Gary Presley
State Farm Insurance

Ashleigh Reaver
Sauk Valley Bank
Linda Ross
Ken Nelson Auto Group
Rick Schulz
Walmart
Jackie Short
KSB Hospital
Coral Tichler
Community State Bank
Deb Trancoso
BorgWarner
Vicky Turner-Pence
United Country Burke Realty
Susan VanSickle
Fifth Third Bank
Chris Wolfe
Manpower

**Dixon Area Chamber of
Commerce & Industry**

101 W. Second Street
Suite 301
Dixon, IL 61021

Phone: 815-284-3361

Fax: 815-284-3675

E-mail: dchamber@essex1.com

www.dixonillinoischamber.com

... Making a difference in our community.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4

Mailing Address Line 5

*"2011 is our 125th year
promoting the Dixon Area!"*



Holiday Greetings

from the Chamber Staff -

John, Vicki, Kaye and Adrienne

