

Marengo Chamber of Commerce  
January 27, 2016

14 member of the Marengo Chamber of Commerce met at 12:00 at the Marengo Public Library. A lunch was catered by Big G with each member contributing \$5 towards the cost of the lunch.

Budget numbers and committee members were discussed for the events for 2016.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Committee – possibly all chamber members

Budget - \$500 - \$2000 (depending on donations/vendors)

Watermelon Days: Committee - ?

Budget - \$300 - \$500

Fall Festival: 10/15/2016

Committee – Leanne Cronbaugh and Abby Kasper

Budget - \$1500

Christmas: Nothing decided yet. It was suggested the committee formed for the Christmas decorations meet and discuss possibilities. Donita Joens volunteered to join the committee already in place, Tony Hocamp, Theresa Ryan and Lonny Altenhoffen.

Christmas decorations: We have received donations from 7 business to sponsor new decorations for 2016. If you need a sponsor form, click on the link to the Chamber website

<http://www.marengoiowa.com/spaw/uploads/documents/SponsorADecoration.pdf>

Sponsors to date include Terry Babor DDS, Iowa Valley Eye Care, Johnston Insurance, Keystone Savings Bank, Leanne's School of Dance, Marengo Memorial Hospital, Marengo Family Medial Clinic.

Garth commented the Kiwanis will once again hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt. It will be the weekend before Easter. This led to a discussion on whether or not to hold an Easter Coloring Contest. In the past, MPC would have pictures in the paper for kids to color and return to sponsoring business. Contestants were divided into 3 age groups and Cathy Essick would go around a pick the winners. It was suggested instead of dividing into age groups and picking a winner, each contestant should get a participation prize of the sponsoring business choosing. Cathy will check into this.

As Marengo does not have a formal "Welcome Packet" for new citizens, a committee has been formed to draft a packet. Kim Nelson, Cathy Essick and Sandra Folkmann

Deven Markley, Marengo's new City Administrator, introduced himself and made a few comments on projects taking place. Nuisance clean-up around town and the possibility of groups volunteering, Phase 3 of the sewer project. He's hoping to see a lot of positive changes to Marengo in the coming years and he is going to be a visible presence in Marengo.

Garth commented one area needing addressed is affordable housing in Marengo in an effort to draw people here. This needs to be a joint effort between the City, business, banks and school.

Our business focus for January is Charles Capper Auto. Our Town Publications will be running that article. February is Brown's Hardware. Monica at MPC said they would be willing to do this monthly. Kim stated since both newspapers are Chamber members we need to come up with something fair for both. It was suggested to get a list for the year and give to both papers. Garth and Kim will discuss more and come up with a plan.

Kim reported Marcia Kilgard and the Marengo FFA are willing to once again plant flowers in the barrels. Members agreed the Chamber will cover the cost. It is asked of the business to water the barrels that are nearest to them.

Tony Hocamp was unable to attend the meeting, but emailed information to pass on:

### **Iowa County Economic Development Commission Laborshed Information Session**

As an important employer in Iowa County, you and members of your organization are invited to hear analysis of Iowa County workforce from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). IWD has spent the last several months studying workforce in Iowa County- at this session they will be reviewing their findings and taking questions from area businesses.

WHO: Iowa County Economic Development Commission and Iowa Workforce Development  
WHAT: **Laborshed Analysis (NEW REPORT!)** for Iowa County & Creative Corridor - includes wage data by occupation/job title and sector  
WHERE: Iowa County Kirkwood Center, 200 West St, Williamsburg, IA 52361  
WHEN: **Wednesday, January 27, 4-5pm**  
RSVP: Free to attend and invite colleagues or others you believe could benefit from this information. Registration is not required but really helps us with planning- please respond to this email if interested.

#### **Iowa County Economic Development Commission**

P.O. Box 569

Williamsburg, IA 52361

[319-730-1425](tel:319-730-1425)

[iowaCEDC@gmail.com](mailto:iowaCEDC@gmail.com)

(Kim and Garth attended this event for the Chamber)

“Also we have been officially notified that the Quad Graphics building is back on the market. The party that had an offer on the property along with 2 other Quad properties has backed out. Overall this is a good thing for Marengo because they were not expected to produce any new jobs for the community. Unfortunately the company that showed interest a while back has moved on to other things and does not sound interested at this point. ICEDC is actively helping to market the property seeking a better match for Marengo that will produce new jobs. Tony”

Donita Joens, Iowa Valley Superintendent talked about a project the school is involved in. The initiative is called CAKE partnerships. CAKE stands for Community And Kids in Education. CAKE partners will link the school and community together by having students learn about various professions as they go through grades K-12. Businesses can either go into the classrooms or the students can go to the place of business to learn more about a particular profession. Also, our students can help businesses through service learning such as: washing windows, cleaning up the grounds, beautifying a place of business, and many other small jobs. If any business is interest in partnering with the school in CAKE, please contact Donita at 642-7714 or email [djoens@ivcsd.org](mailto:djoens@ivcsd.org).

Reminder, if you have not paid your dues, please return them to Kim Nelson, PO Box 168, Marengo as soon as possible.

Next Chamber meeting will be held at the Marengo Library on February 24 at noon. Lunch will be provide by Big G at \$5 per person.