



MEADE COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

APRIL / MAY 2011

Members To Hear Progress Report At April 21 Dinner

Invitations have been mailed for the Meade County Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Awards & Leadership Installation Dinner.

It will take place Thursday, April 21, at the Farm Bureau Community Center at the Meade County Fairgrounds.

The event will start with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner served by Home Plate Family Restaurant at 6:30 p.m., the program at 7:15 p.m., and an auction of items donated by members at 7:45 p.m.

During the program, members and their guests will hear brief reports from three of the organizations leaders:

◆ President Kelly Roberts (Brandenburg Telephone Company) will focus on the importance of the Chamber of Commerce to its members and the community.

◆ Vice-President/President-Elect Vickie Bryson (Fort Knox Federal Credit Union) will discuss plans for the next year.

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As a reward for their support, all members of the Meade County Area Chamber of Commerce who attend this year's Awards & Leadership Installation Dinner will be entered in a drawing for a 42-inch LCD television.

The drawing will take place at the conclusion of the dinner.

"Everyone who attends will get at least one ticket for the drawing," according to Russ Powell, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

"And sponsors will get extra tickets based on their sponsorship level," he says.

Extra tickets will be on sale at the dinner for \$5 each.

Powell says the winner must be present when the drawing takes place.

Chamber Will Host Senator Mitch McConnell On April 28

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell will be in Meade County later this month for a coffee and meeting hosted by the Meade County Area Chamber of Commerce.

The session will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, at the Farm Bureau Community Center at the Meade County Fairgrounds.

"We're delighted to have this op-

portunity for our members to chat with the senator, hear him talk about issues in Congress that affect Kentucky, and to answer questions they have about those issues," says Russ Powell, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

McConnell will be introduced by Meade County Judge-Executive Gerry Lynn, a fellow Republican.

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Mitch McConnell

Members To Hear ...

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◆ Executive Director Russ Powell will unveil the organization's *Boost Meade* initiative, which has a goal of building pride among residents of the community and spreading the word to others about its value as a place to live and be in business.

In addition to the program, the evening will include:

◆ Installation of Bryson as president for the 2011-2012 program year.

◆ Installation of other officers – Joe Bartley (Meade County Water District) as vice-president/president-elect; Ray Cottrell Jr. (Ray's Ford-Mercury Inc.) as secretary; and Matthew Pike (Meade County Bank) as treasurer for another year.

◆ Installation of three members of the board of directors' Class of 2014 – Jason Sutton (Meade County Public Schools), Gary Chapman (First Federal Savings Bank); and Earl Fitzgerald (Arch Chemicals Inc.). Sutton's three-year term will be his first; he replaces Paul Poole (Meade County Public Schools), who was not eligible for reelection since he had served two consecutive terms. Chapman's term will be his second, and Fitzgerald's will be his first.

◆ Presentation of the *Community Achievement Award for Exceptional Service to Meade County* to an organization, business, faith-based group, club, non-profit organization, family or individual. This will be the fifth year the award has been presented.

◆ Presentation of the three awards given annually to Chamber of Commerce members – The *Arch Chemicals Award* for outstanding service and support by a business member during 2010; the *James W. Kimball Award* for on-going support by an individual; and the *Volunteer of the Year Award* for 2010.

◆ An auction of donated items to raise funds to help underwrite some of the Chamber of Commerce's community programs. Members who would like to donate an item for the auction should contact Auction Chair Jenna Turner (Farm Bureau Insurance) at 270-422-3979 or Jeannie Vowels, the administrative assistant at the Chamber of Commerce, at 270-422-3626 or jvowels@meadekychamber.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities

These sponsorship opportunities are available for this year's Awards & Leadership Installation Dinner:

◆ President's Circle – Dinner and reserved seating for ten; recognition on signage at entrance; recognition on table cards; recognition in banquet program; recognition during program; 40 chances for drawing for 42-inch LCD television at end of event. \$360.

◆ Vice-President's Circle – Dinner and reserved seating for eight; recognition on signage at entrance; recognition on table cards; recognition in banquet program; recognition during program; 24 chances for drawing for 42-inch LCD television at end of event. \$300.

◆ Director's Circle – Dinner and reserved seating for six; recognition on signage at entrance; recognition on table cards; recognition in banquet program; recognition during program; 12 chances for drawing for 42-inch LCD television at end of event. \$240.

Members who wish to be sponsors should either complete and return the response form that accompanies their invitation or contact Russ Powell, executive director at the Chamber of Commerce, at 270-422-3626 or rpowell@meadekychamber.org. The deadline is Monday, April 18.

◆ A drawing for a 42-inch LCD television, which will come at the end of the meeting. "Everyone who attends will get at least one ticket for the drawing," says Powell, "with sponsors getting extra tickets based on their sponsorship level." Extra tickets also will be on sale at the dinner for \$5 each, and, according to Powell, the winner must be present when the drawing takes place.

The deadline for sponsorships and reservations is Monday, April 18, according to Powell.

Individual tickets are \$30 per person, and each includes a chance for the drawing for the television that will end the event.

McDonald's Of Brandenburg April's Member Of The Month

McDonald's of Brandenburg is the Meade County Area Chamber of Commerce's Member for the Month for April.

It was selected because of its involvement in and support of the work of the Chamber of Commerce and its broad support of many community projects.

"McDonald's is a great community partner not only for the Chamber of Commerce but for the scores of organizations that have benefited from its generosity," says Kelly Roberts, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

"And, it's been a good provider of jobs, particularly for young people getting their first experiences in the work place."

McDonald's came to Meade County on January 1, 1993, when Vincent Tanner and his Tanner Management Company, which is headquartered in Hartford, opened the restaurant on the edge of River Ridge Plaza on Brandenburg's ByPass Road.

Now, Tanner operates eight McDonald's, with the others located in Morgantown, Central City, Greenville, Beaver Dam, Hardinsburg, and Leitchfield.

One of his first hires, when the restaurant opened here, was Anita Gibbs, who started as a crew member and worked her way up to become a manager. After working at other locations, she returned to the Brandenburg location four years ago.

Here, she oversees 57 employees who keep McDonald's going the 127 hours it's open each week.

That number of employees will increase by 10 or so within the next few weeks as the restaurant staffs up to allow both its lobby and drive-through window to be open around the clock, Gibbs says.

The start date for 24/7 service is May 1, she says.

Cesca Vadner, her administrative assistant who started work as a crew member six years ago, notes that a good number of the staff "are veteran employees. We value them, and they, in turn, work well for us."

What about McDonald's success?



Among the 57 people who staff McDonald's of Brandenburg are, from left, Cesca Vadner, administrative assistant; Kelly O'Riordan, crew trainer; Nicki Spiers, swing manager; Marylynne Oliver, crew trainer; and Rick Basham, swing manager.

Vadner cites three things:

- ◆ "Good customer service."
- ◆ "Friendly crew members."
- ◆ "Good value, especially in today's economy."

And, she says, training plays a key role here and at all of Tanner's restaurants.

"Training is a big thing with us," she says. "We have a three-day orientation program for every new crew member, and each one works side-by-side with an experienced person at every work station here."

McDonald's tries its best, she says, to support as many community projects as possible, mostly with food gift certificates. Among the recipients of that support have been the reading and attendance programs in Meade County's public schools and the youth reading program at the Meade County Public Library.

In some instances, support can include food and food-related supplies, such as help the restaurant has given the American Red Cross during disasters in Meade County.

Information about McDonald's of Brandenburg is online at www2.mckentucky.com/12220, and its telephone number is 270-422-5232.

Current operating hours are 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; 5 a.m. to midnight, Friday and Saturday; and 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.

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Chamber Will Host ...

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Although reservations aren't required for the event, Powell asks that Chamber of Commerce members let the organization know if they plan to attend so adequate refreshments can be available.

To do that, members may call 270-422-3626; email Powell at rpowell@meadekychamber.org; or email Administrative Assistant Jeannie Vowels at jvowels@meadekychamber.org.

McConnell currently is the Senate's Republican leader. First elected to that position in 2006, he is the 15th Senate Republican leader and only the second Kentuckian to lead his party in the Senate.

McConnell previously served as the Republican leader in the 110th and 111th Congresses and as majority whip in the 108th and 109th Congresses. He also served as chair of the Republican Senatorial Committee during the 1998 and 2000 election cycles.

First elected to the Senate in 1984, McConnell made history that year as the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat a Democrat incumbent and as the first Republican to win a statewide Ken-

tucky race since 1968.

McConnell graduated with honors from the University of Louisville, where he served as student body president. He also is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was elected president of the Student Bar Association.

He worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator John Sherman Cooper before serving as chief legislative assistant to Senator Marlow Cook and as deputy assistant attorney general to President Gerald Ford.

Before his election to the Senate, he served as judge-executive of Jefferson County from 1978 until he commenced his Senate term on January 3, 1985.

McConnell currently serves as a senior member of the Appropriations, Agriculture and Rules committees.

Married to Elaine L. Chao, who served as President George W. Bush's U.S. Secretary of Labor and is a former president of the United Way of America and director of the Peace Corps, he is the father of three daughters.