

2011

Quarter 1

# The Buzz on the Bricks

**Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center**  
231 E. Wall St., Fort Scott, KS 66701 \* (620) 223-3566 \* [www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com)

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## Let's Keep in Touch!

One commitment of YOUR Chamber for 2011 is to keep you informed of events, happenings, and movements within the Chamber and the Fort Scott Area. We hope you enjoy this quarterly publication!

The Chamber also sends a weekly e-mail newsletter called "What's Happening in Fort Scott". If you are not receiving this communication, please let us know so we can make

sure we have your correct email address on file.

We also have two Facebook pages, so be sure to "Like" us on Facebook! One page is "Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce" and the other is "Fort Scott Tourism".

The Chamber also hosts quarterly Downtown "Meet & Greet" get-togethers for Downtown area business owners or anyone

interested in the events, programs and general development of Downtown. These meetings are the first Tuesday of each quarter from 8am to 9am at our gracious host location of life+style. Feel free to join us for complimentary coffee and a breakfast treat while we discuss OUR Historic Downtown.

## Spring Job Fair - May 25, 2011

The Chamber will be hosting a Spring Job Fair on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, 11am to 4pm, at the Danny & Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center.

We encourage employers small and large to register for a booth. Whether you have part-time or full-time positions available, looking for student applicants or more experienced employees, we hope to attract a variety of attendees.

Booth registration is \$50 for Chamber members

and \$90 for non-members. Registration includes one 8-foot table and chairs.

Contact the Chamber today if you are interested in having a booth.

### Funding available for training employees:

If your company will be hiring employees that need to be trained/re-trained for a position, there is funding available through the State of Kansas and the Kansas Industrial Training or KIT program. This program is designed to help firms

with "net-new job" creation. More information may be found on the State website [www.kansascommerce.com](http://www.kansascommerce.com). A representative of Kansas Works will also be on site at the Job Fair to answer questions on this or any other employment matters.

We hope you will join us! Don't delay... contact the Chamber today to register!



Check out this Downtown building for sale at 8 S. Main! Great condition – move-in ready! Great for office or retail.

Price: \$69,000  
Built in 1865  
2,200 square feet  
Upstairs can be used as living space or storage.



This building is in a great location at 7 N. Main. Price: \$40,000  
Built in 1880  
3,000 square feet

### Spotlight on Downtown

The Chamber has been hosting quarterly “Meet & Greet” meetings for Downtown area business owners and anyone else interested in attending. Our gracious host life + style provides wonderful coffee and tasty treats.

Several great ideas have come out of these meetings including the recent Spring Downtown Open House in conjunction with the opening day of Farmer’s

Market. The Chamber hosted the event with fun FREE activities for families and the stores were a “buzz” with shoppers, or maybe just lookers!

The Downtown Business Directory at the North end of Main Street has been updated. Thanks to Mayor Jim Adams for leading this project and working with the business owners on renewing or replacing their sign. Also,

thanks to those who advertise!

There are several nice buildings available Downtown that would house retail or office space. Please take note of the building we are featuring to the left. Contact the Chamber if you are interested in purchasing or leasing this building or any others.

Our next “Meet & Greet” is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 8am, life + style.

### USDA Grants for Improving Energy Efficiency

Does your business need to make some improvements? Would any of those improvements improve energy efficiency?

USDA has grants available for for-profit businesses making improvements to reduce energy needs. Some examples of qualifying improvements would be a new roof, new heating and air unit, and retrofitting

lighting or insulation.

Agricultural producers, including farmers and ranchers, who gain 50% or more of their gross income from the agricultural operations are also eligible.

The grants can fund up to 25% of the project’s total eligible costs. The minimum project size is \$6,000 and the maximum project size is \$1,000,000.

Hence, the grant will fund from \$1,500 to \$250,000 on a project.

For more information on these grants, you may contact the Chamber, view the application at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks), or contact Katie Casper in the Iola USDA office at (620) 365-2901.

We have local businesses taking advantage of these grants and you should too!

### Chamber Membership Benefit Tidbit

One benefit of your Chamber membership is use of the Chamber’s bulk mail permit. Bulk mailing may apply to a postcard, newsletter, or other type of mailing over 200 pieces.

The postage savings

amount to approximately half of the normal postage rates.

The address list used for the mailing needs to be “scrubbed” and verified for accuracy. If any bulk mail pieces are returned, the post office then charges

the regular postage rate for each piece returned.

Contact Nancy Cragg at the Chamber for assistance with your bulk mailing needs.

## First Quarter 2011 Recap

First Quarter has been very busy for Chamber and Tourism work. In addition to the Downtown happenings previously mentioned, following are other events and programs that have taken place year-to-date.

The Chamber has been working with KU Dept. of Journalism students on a marketing study for Tourism & Economic Development for Fort Scott. Nate Lyons, Frank Adamson, and Lindsay Madison went to KU and made a presentation to kick off the project and the students have traveled to Fort Scott many times over the semester gathering information and interviewing community residents.

A legislative update event

was held March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Ellis Fine Arts Center with great attendance. Sen. Bob Marshall and Rep. Caryn Tyson gave reports and answered questions on issues affecting our area and the State of Kansas.

The Chamber also hosted a candidate forum before the April 5<sup>th</sup> election for U-234, FSCC Board of Trustees, and Fort Scott City Commission candidates to give them an opportunity to state their reason for running for the positions and answer questions from the audience.

On the Tourism side of things, the Chamber is involved with the Freedom's Frontier Border Wars project, SEKTR (SE Kansas Tourism Region)

meetings and developing a day trip map for SE Kansas. We generated a mailing to nearly 300 area church and bank groups cultivating group tours, and we have placed ads in publications such as the Kansas City Star, AAA Journeys and Living Magazines, Kansas Country Living, Southeast Kansas Living, Travel Kansas and [www.civilwar.com](http://www.civilwar.com).

The Chamber has been working with several business owners that are interested in placing a business downtown from retail, offices to restaurants. One of those businesses, a local favorite, Papa Don's opened in May. Hopefully at least one other business will come to fruition soon!



*KU Marketing Study Presentation \*  
Tourism & Economic Development*



## Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration 2011

**"Fort Scott... Live it UP!"** was the theme for the 2011 Chamber Annual Dinner & Awards Celebration. It was a lively evening with Danny Thomas as guest speaker, a wonderful meal at Buffalo Grill/River Room Events and very deserving award recipients. Following were the awards presented:

Mayor's Citizenship Award:	Doris Jones
Keystone Award:	Don Stewart, Stewart Realty
Business of the Year:	Liberty Theatre & Crooner's Lounge
Small Business of the Year:	Iron Star Antiques & Such
New Business of the Year:	life + style
Agri-Business of the Year:	Tractor Supply
Business Person of the Year:	John (and Cindy) Bartelsmeyer
Community Spirit Award:	Kale Nelson
Young Professional of the Year:	Bryan Holt

### A special thanks to those who sponsored the event:

Lead Sponsors: Take Charge Challenge, Liberty Theatre/Crooner's Lounge, Mercy Health Center

Supporting Sponsors: Citizens Bank, City State Bank, Don's Spirits & Wines, Edward Jones Investments, Hammons Realty, Libation Station, Meeks Law Firm, Sekan Printing, Union State Bank, Van Patten's Heating & Air, and Westar.



*Doris Jones accepting the Mayor's Citizenship Award. Doris has been pianist for Rotary & Kiwanis for over 40 years.*

**SAVE THESE DATES for these Upcoming Chamber Events!**



*2010 Forks & Corks*

- May 25, 2011 Spring Job Fair, Ellis Fine Arts Center, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- July 12, 2011 Downtown Meet & Greet, life+style, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- July 15, 2011 Chamber Golf Classic, Fort Scott Golf Course
- September 17, 2011 Fall Townwide Garage Sale & Downtown Fall Festival
- September 20, 2011 Carson & Barnes Circus, Fairgrounds, 4:30 and 7:30pm
- October 4, 2011 Downtown Meet & Greet, life+style, 9 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- October 21, 2011 Forks & Corks, Liberty Theatre, 6:30 p.m.
- October 29, 2011 Downtown Halloween Parade, 11 a.m.
- November 10, 2011 Shop Downtown Open House, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- November 29, 2011 Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival, 6 p.m.
- December 15, 2011 Shop Downtown Open House, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

*Dates will be announced soon for an upcoming Ag Tour, Concerts in the Park, and Business After-Hours. Other community events may be found at [www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com).*

*Upcoming Chamber Coffee Schedule:*

- May 19, 2011 CDL Electric @ the Chamber
- May 26, 2011 Good Ol' Days, location TBA
- June 2, 2011 Lowell Milken Education Center
- June 9, 2011 Shelter Insurance
- June 16, 2011 Relay for Life, Frary Field
- June 23, 2011 Hospice Care of Kansas
- June 30, 2011 Bourbon County Master Gardeners, location TBA



*Patriot Flag Ceremony  
January 29, 2011*

**Volunteers Welcome**

We would accept volunteers for Chamber events with open arms! If you are interested in volunteering to help with any upcoming events, please let us know!

We are currently looking for volunteers to spear head a "Warm Welcome" committee that would seek out new residents moving to Fort Scott, deliver a welcome package to them, and give them a warm welcome to the community.

We are also looking for volunteers that have an interest in keeping an eye out for grants and assistance with writing grants with opportunities

that would benefit our community.

The Chamber will be hosting the world-famous Carson & Barnes Circus in September. If you are interested in being on a Circus Committee please let us know.

From time to time we would like to have a "Fort Scott" information booth at events such as Good Ol' Days where we would share our Calendar of Events, Community Guide and other information.

We have many needs to keep you busy! Let us know if you would like to help.



*Goody's Grand Opening  
& Ribbon Cutting*

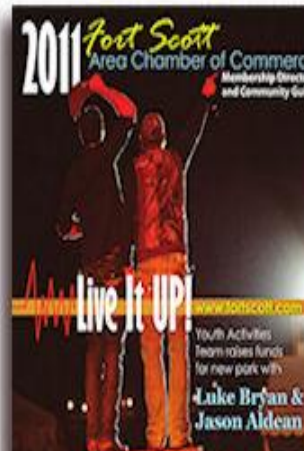
## Appreciation of our Members!

We are excited to announce that the Chamber is currently supported by 374 members! Thank YOU for your investment in the Chamber and our community.

The Chamber put a new spin on our Membership Drive last October. We invited three teams representing local organizations to have a friendly competition on recruiting new members. In return, the Chamber agreed to donate prize money back to those organizations based on the number of recruits, and a top prize to the overall winner. We would like to thank the FSMS VIP's, Fort Scott Community Foundation, and the FSCC Endowment Association/FSCC baseball team for your involvement in successfully gaining 48 new members during the drive. FSCC was the overall winner.

A "New Member Madness" event was held March 8, 2011 at the Lyons Twin Mansion. New and veteran members were invited to share information about their business and network with other Chamber members. Going with the "March Madness" theme, many members sported the colors of their favorite team!

## Membership Directory & Community Guide



*Special thanks to the Fort Scott Tribune for printing and assisting with our Membership Directory & Community Guide this year!*

"Fort Scott... Live it Up!" was also the theme of the 2011 Membership Directory & Community Guide. If you have not seen a copy and would like one, please stop by the Chamber or contact the Chamber and we will deliver one to you. We are EXTREMELY appreciative of all of you who invested in an advertisement. We have received numerous compliments on the Directory and we have a piece that we as a community can be proud to send out to businesses and individuals looking to visit or relocate to the Fort Scott area.

The directory is also linked to the home page of our website [www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com) and may be viewed as a flip book online.

*New Member Madness Event...*



*Membership Drive - FSCC Baseball Team*



The Chamber receives numerous requests via mail, email and phone calls for informational packets on Fort Scott. It truly is amazing how many inbound contacts we receive of people interested in moving to our town full of history, entertainment, and friendly neighbors.

Following is an email submitted through [www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com) on February 7, 2011:

*We would like any information on your town that you can send us. We have family who moved to town about a year ago and we're considering relocating to be near them because they love it so much!*

Is that awesome or what!

### **RENTAL HOME INFORMATION NEEDED!**

Do you have rental homes available in the Fort Scott area? If so, please let the Chamber know so we can include you on our list of realtors and landlords. We have MANY requests for rental homes for which we supply a list of landlords. It would be great if the Chamber had more specific information on the properties available (address, cost of rent, etc.). Thank you!

**Fort Scott Area  
Chamber of Commerce  
& Tourism Center**

231 East Wall  
Fort Scott, KS 66701

PHONE:  
(620) 223-3566

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(620) 223-3566

E-MAIL:  
fischamber@fortscott.com

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com)

Check us out on  
Facebook!



We have two pages:  
Fort Scott Area Chamber  
Fort Scott Tourism

**Chamber of Commerce 2011 Board of Directors**

Our **THANKS** to the Board of Directors for their commitment to the Chamber of Commerce and our program of work!

**2011 Board of Directors:**

Board Chair	Becky Tourtillott, Citizens Bank, NA
Board Chair-Elect	Bryan Holt, Union State Bank
Finance Chair	Jim Banwart, Jr., Diehl Banwart Bolton CPA's
Ex-Officio Board Member	Dave Martin, Fort Scott City Manager
<b>Community Promotion Division</b>	
Co-Chair	Cheryl Adamson, Courtland Hotel & Aveda Spa
Co-Chair	Martha Scott, Individual Member
Vice-Chair	Jim Pitts, life + style & Pro-Tech Home Services
Member	Jim Smith, Liberty Theatre & Crooner's Lounge
<b>Business Resource &amp; Development Division</b>	
Chair	Jerry Witt, Cheney Witt Funeral Chapel
Vice-Chair	Mark McCoy, McDonald's
Member	Jim Banwart, Jr., Diehl Banwart Bolton CPA's
Member	Kale Nelson, State Farm Insurance
Member	Julie Simpson, Fort Scott Tribune
<b>Member Relations &amp; Retention Division</b>	
Chair	Barbara Albright, Fort Scott Middle School
Vice-Chair	Annamarie Holmes, Mercy Physicians Group
Member	Bryan Holt, Union State Bank
Member	Deb McKenney, KOMB FM & Radio Shack
Member	Ron Query, Query Construction & Sycamore Grove Apartments

**Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center Staff:**

Executive Director	Lindsay Madison
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Cragg
Tourism Center Part-Time	Nancy Wimmer
Tourism Center Part-Time	Audra Young
Trolley Driver	Darrell Bloomfield

**Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center Hours:**

Monday – Friday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



231 East Wall  
Fort Scott, KS 66701

**COMPANY NAME  
STREET ADDRESS  
CITY, ST 22134**

