

TIPTON

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Where Dreams Happen

-Chamber Connection-

Chamber Board of Directors

Paul Stueland—President
Stueland Auto Center

Diana Waltz—Vice President &
Interim Treasurer
Citizens Bank

Kathy Laing—Secretary
US Bank

Don Young—Treasurer
City of Tipton

Jim Allen
Fields Men's Wear

John Dornfeld
Hawkeye Corporation

Denise Feltes
Pizza Hut

Tim Frerichs
Theisen's Farm & Home

Todd Miller
Tipton Pharmacy

Mike Pelzer
Community Insurance

Daisy Wingert
Daisy's On The Square

Doug Boldt—ex-officio
Tipton City Manager

Travis Alden—ex-officio
Community Development Director

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Newsletter for the Tipton Chamber of Commerce

Volume 2, Issue 2 Mar./Apr. 2008

Rolling Out The Red Carpet For RAGBRAI

By Travis Alden
Tipton RAGBRAI Executive Co-Chair



Unless you have been completely cut off from the outside world for the last two months, you know that Tipton will be hosting 20,000+ visitors on July 25th. As the final overnight town of the 36th running of RAGBRAI, we have a phenomenal opportunity to not only reap the benefits of that many people in town, but to out our best foot forward as a community and showcase our hometown.

With an economic impact of nearly \$2 Million per day, RAGBRAI is sure to benefit many of Tipton's local businesses. In addition, our community will be exposed to the thousands of riders and hundreds of thousands through extensive media coverage of the event. It's a safe bet that at least 95% of the riders will be in Tipton for the first time. This is quite an opportunity to attract new visitors, residents and even businesses to town.

The theme that Tipton will be incorporating into all of our publicity, hospitality efforts, community décor and RAGBRAI logo is "Rolling Out The Red Carpet". An idea proposed by Mayor Shirley Kepford, the theme has an instant visual appeal and will allow the entire community to have fun playing off that theme. We're currently holding a logo design contest which is open to the public.

Our local RAGBRAI team, which currently consists of an Advisory Board, Executive Board and chairpersons for nineteen different committees has been working hard to establish a plan to ensure a successful event. However, an undertaking of this size requires a unified community effort. We've already seen a huge level of interest from groups and organizations throughout the Tipton area. Chamber members will surely play a key role, not just as volunteers but also as ambassadors of our town. We need your help!

To serve on one of our many committees, please contact me at talden@tiptoniowa.org or 886-6350. We have a lot of work ahead of us but it's going to be a lot of fun! Stay tuned to the Tipton Conservative or look online at www.tiptoniowa.org for the latest RAGBRAI information.

9th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament is May 12th

The Tipton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce we will be holding our Ninth Annual Golf Outing on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. (please note the new start time). This event is open to both Chamber members, and any other interested parties. The event will be held at the Tipton Golf & Country Club.

\$150 entry fee per team consists of the following: 4 person best shot format (men, women or mixed groups); 18 holes of golf, lunch on the turn, raffle ticket, and contest prizes; tournament will be flighted. Registrations must be mailed by April 18th to: Becky Donohoe, 308 E. 4th St. Tipton, IA 52772

Other important notes: No rain date given. If inclement weather causes cancellation of event, all fees and donations will be refunded with the exception of cart rental reservation money. A short program will follow the golf outing to announce team placement, and contest prize winners.

Let's start off the new year with your continued show of support for the Tipton Chamber of Commerce and our community! We're expecting to fill up fast, so please send all fees and/or contributions by April 18.

For additional information, please contact Courtenay Villhauer at 886-3976 x.244 or Todd Miller at 886-2158. Entry form is attached to this newsletter.



Most Sincerely,
Tipton Chamber Golf Committee

Tim Beckler, Charlie Carlson, Becky Donohoe, Todd Huston, Todd Miller, Denise Smith, Paul Stueland, Kelly Thomas, Courtenay Villhauer

Staples Business Advantage a Great Partnership for Chamber

By Travis Alden

Tipton Community Development Director

Lincoln Dix, a Tipton Resident and Account Manager with Staples Business Advantage, joined the Tipton Chamber in 2007. Last year he set up a purchasing program allowing Tipton Chamber members to purchase items from Staples' extensive inventory at contract-level prices (approx. 20% off retail). This includes office supplies, paper, printers and much more. In addition, 5% of everything spent in this program goes toward a community rebate, to be presented to the Chamber each year for community projects.

The first rebate "grant" will be approx. \$1,000—which the Chamber Board has decided to use to replace the trees on the North end of the Courthouse Square in downtown Tipton.

Staples' Tipton Chamber program offers free next-day delivery and local account management. Pricing is upfront and orders are placed via the easy to use, best-in-class website www.stapleslink.com. While many Chamber businesses are using this program, there are still quite a few who are not. This is a great way to use a Chamber business for many normal purchases and ensure that as much local money is staying in the community as possible.

Please contact Lincoln Dix today at 1-800-693-9900 ex. 533 or Lincoln.dix@staples.com with any questions you may have, or to register your business to participate in this Chamber-only program. Yet another great benefit to our Chamber member businesses!



Annual Chamber Banquet A Big Success



Dan Conrad (L) of Liberty Trust & Savings Bank visits with RAGBRAI Director T.J. Juskiewicz after T.J.'s keynote presentation.

By Travis Alden

Tipton Community Development Director

On March 5, nearly 75 Tipton Chamber members gathered at the Tipton Golf & Country Club for the Chamber's Annual Banquet. After social hour, the crowd took their seats in the dining room for a welcome by Chamber President Paul Stueland. Hand-painted bricks depicting notable Tipton landmarks, such as the Carnegie Library and Old Jail, served as centerpieces at each table.

After recognizing the new 2008 Chamber member businesses, Stueland presented an award certificate to Chamber Treasurer Don Young in appreciation of his support of the Chamber during his tenure as Mayor. Chris Keller of Keller's Home Furnishings also received an award in appreciation of his many years as a Chamber Board member.

RAGBRAI Director T.J. Juskiewicz was in from Des Moines to give the keynote presentation—an exciting look at the history of RAGBRAI and what it will mean for the Tipton community this summer. The oldest, longest, largest bicycle touring event in the world, began 36 years ago as a small idea between two Des Moines Register writers. Juskiewicz fielded a number of excellent questions from the group, ranging from a rider's normal breakfast menu to the impact RAGBRAI will have on small retail shops.

The brick centerpieces were given away as door prizes to round out the night. Limited edition runs of these bricks will be available for purchase in the near future.

Accounting Firm Opens Tipton Office



The Chamber celebrated the recent opening of D.S. Webb & Company's Tipton office at 110 East 5th Street with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 16th. Pictured are (l-r) Chamber Treasurer Don Young, Chamber Board Members Tim Frerichs and Mike Pelzer, Chamber President Paul Stueland, business owner Duane Webb, Chamber Board Member Daisy Wingert, City Manager Doug Boldt, Chamber Board Member Jim Allen and Mayor Shirley Kepford.

Membership Reminder

If you haven't turned in your Chamber Membership for 2008, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have already renewed your membership for this year, we thank you!

Grasshopper Does Windows

Dan Kessler of Grasshopper Total Lawn Care and Tiger Stripe Parking Lot Service recently broke into the window cleaning business as well. Whether residential or commercial buildings, Dan will make sure your glass sparkles. Contact Dan at 563-889-2635.



GRASSHOPPER
Total Lawn Care
and Landscaping

Chamber Luncheon



We invite all Chamber Members, employees and interested parties to come together every other month to enjoy informative speakers and network with other local business leaders.

Thursday, March 27th—12:00pm
 Tipton Golf & Country Club—1143 Cedar Valley Road
RSVP is required by 5pm on Tuesday March 25th to 563-886-6350 or info@tiptoniowa.us

****Feel free to get your lunch as you arrive. Cost is \$7 per person—includes drink.*

AGENDA

Welcome—Travis Alden, Tipton Community Development Director

- Thank you to Ellis Ahrens for hosting and serving lunch
- Brief introductions and recognition of guests

Chamber Update—Paul Stueland, Chamber President

School District Update—Dick Grimoskas, Superintendent

City Update—Doug Boldt, City Manager

RAGBRAI Update—Travis Alden, Tipton RAGBRAI Exec. Co-Chair

Local Business Spotlight: RWD Travel

Presentation: Kelly Thomas, MECCA Services



Tipton Chamber Of Commerce

520 Cedar Street—Tipton, Iowa 52772—563-886-6350—www.tiptoniowa.us—info@tiptoniowa.us

Board Members: Paul Stueland-President; Diana Waltz-Vice President; Kathy Laing-Secretary; Don Young-Treasurer; Jim Allen; John Dornfeld; Tim Frerichs; Denise Feltes; Todd Miller; Mike Pelzer; Daisy Wingert; Doug Boldt-ex officio; Travis Alden-ex officio

Job Practicum a Benefit to Students and Businesses

By Amanda Lett
Tipton Community Development Intern

Seniors at Tipton High School have the option to participate in a job practicum internship with a company in Tipton and the surrounding area. To do so, seniors must first complete a class called career leadership with Shawn Kreman and go through an interview process to qualify. The interview is set up to simulate a real life interview for a job where interns have to tell a group of interviewers about themselves, what they are good at, and answer any questions they ask. After being accepted to the Job Practicum Program, seniors are to contact their host to set up their schedule. To complete the course, a minimum of forty-five hours must be met at the site.

Job Practicum helps young adults get in to the real world and see what businesses are like. Businesses can benefit by having someone work in their office for free while students get credits for interning in at a company that they are interested in. For many students, it helps them choose or decide if they enjoy a career by doing this internship.

Students are doing their internships in many different kinds of businesses. Kori Rekemeyer is interning at Jack & Jill Pre-school and spends her hours playing with and teaching young children. Brittany Foulks is interning at Prairie Hills with the Administrator's office learning how to successfully run an assisted living facility. I personally have learned a lot about the community while working with Travis Alden in the Community Development office. Any company can become a host site for students to intern. If interested, contact Laurie Worden by email at laurie.worden@kirkwood.edu or call her at (319)-398-1040. For local contact, call Mike Droll, Tipton High School's Guidance Counselor at 886-6121.

**TIPTON CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

PO Box 5
520 Cedar Street
Downtown
Tipton, Iowa 52772

Phone: 563-886-6350
E-mail: info@tiptoniowa.us
web: www.tiptoniowa.us

We're on the web!
www.tiptoniowa.us

Tipton Chamber of Commerce Member

Tipton, IA 52772

Tax Tips From The Pros

By Duane Webb
Webb & Company, P.C.

The best way to ensure you are minimizing your tax liability is to keep abreast of tax law. But consistent monitoring of the changes to laws can be difficult to keep up with, as Congress is constantly "tweaking" the tax code. Some of those recent changes are:

Long-Term Capital Gains and Dividends

The maximum tax rate on net long-term capital gains remains at 15 percent. For taxpayers in the 10 percent or 15 percent tax brackets, net long-term capital gains are taxed at 5 percent in 2007, and will be tax free from 2008 to 2010. To qualify as a long-term capital gain, the asset must be held for more than one year before selling. Capital gains on investments held for one year or less are taxed at regular income tax rates – as high as 35 percent. For collectibles held for more than one year, the maximum capital gains tax rate is 28 percent. Qualified dividend income from a domestic or qualified foreign company is taxed at a top rate of 15 percent (5 percent for taxpayers in the 10 percent and 15 percent tax brackets).

New "Kiddie Tax" Rules

Investors with children need to be aware that Congress has increased the age threshold of dependents subject to the "kiddie tax." Under the kiddie tax rules, a child's investment income over a certain threshold is taxed at the parent's tax rate. Before the rule change, the kiddie tax ended at the age of 14. At that age, the child's income was taxed at his or her own rate. Now, however, the kiddie tax applies until the year the child reaches age 18. For 2007, any net unearned income over \$1,700 will be taxed at parental rates if the child is under age 18. Beginning in 2008, the kiddie tax will be expanded to apply to many children under the age of 24.

Economic Stimulus Payments

Starting in May, the Treasury will begin sending economic stimulus payments to more than 130 million households. To receive a payment, taxpayers must have a valid Social Security number, \$3,000 of income and file a 2007 federal tax return. Eligible people will receive up to \$600 (\$1,200 for married couples), and parents will receive an additional \$300 for each eligible child younger than 17. Millions of retirees, disabled veterans and low-wage worker who usually are exempt from filing a tax return must do so this year in order to receive a stimulus payment. Be aware that identity thieves are already pushing scams involving stimulus payments.

Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)

Late in 2007, Congress passed a one-year patch for Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) relief in the form of expanded exemption. As the AMT defies most traditional tax savings strategies, it is best to consult with a CPA to find out how it may affect you.

Get Professional Advice

A CPA tax professional understands the business of taxes and finances and can review your overall financial picture to help you find winning tax strategies.

Contact Duane Webb at 563-886-3006 or duane@dewebb.com



Tipton Chamber of Commerce

Ninth Annual Golf Outing Entry Form

Monday , May 12, 2008
Shotgun Start @ 10:00 am
Please note new start time!!!
Tipton Golf & Country Club

Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

_____ Yes, I wish to enter _____ team(s) at \$150 per 4 person team.

I would like to reserve _____ carts for my team(s) at \$25.00 each (2 carts per team, if needed)

_____ Yes, I wish to Sponsor a hole (FULL @ \$100 / HALF @ \$50)

_____ Yes, I wish to Sponsor a hole contest prize (\$50 or more value)

Yes, I would like to volunteer the day of the event. (If yes, a committee member will contact you)

_____ In addition to our team(s) and/or hole sponsorship, we would like to make a cash/
raffle item donation of: _____

_____ We will not be able to enter a team or sponsor a hole, but would like to make a
cash / raffle item donation of: _____

Please return this form along with entry fees and/or raffle donations by April 18, 2008 to:

Becky Donohoe
308 E. 4th St.
Tipton, IA 52772
fax: 563-886-1238
phone: 563-889-0212
e-mail: donohoe5@iowatelecom.net

Please make checks payable to the Tipton Chamber of Commerce.

Call any committee member if you have questions (see below). If you would like us to stop by and pick up any raffle prizes or donations, please give us a call and we'll make arrangements.

Tim Beckler	886-3976	Charlie Carlson	886-6058
Becky Donohoe	889-0212	Todd Huston	886-3109
Todd Miller	886-2158	Denise Smith	886-6266
Paul Stueland	886-6054	Kelly Thomas	319-325-2933
Courtenay Villhauer	886-3976		