



Associated
Electrical
Contractors



Learn more about becoming a
Diamond, Platinum or Gold level Member
Call the Chamber office at
(815) 568-6680



What's Inside:

Chairman's Message 2
 New Members 3
 Women In Business 4
 Helpful Info From Score 7
 Contact Information 12

CHAMBER INSIDER

SPOTLIGHT ON Marengo Vision Center

Consider Polarized Sunglasses To Increase Ocular Health

The Marengo Vision Center has been providing eye care at 205 N. State for about 25 years. We have three optometrists available for eye exam, Drs. Thomas, Russell, and Ali. They can provide routine eye exams, medical eye exams, and contact lens services. The contact lenses available now can help almost anyone see without glasses. We have bifocal, daily disposable and colored contacts and specialized contacts for astigmatism. There are over 500 frames in our optical dispensary, including Nike, Disney, Versace, and D&G. We have sports glasses, kids glasses, and sun glasses.

With the summer sun just around the corner, polarized sun lenses should be something to think about. Polarized sun glasses look like regular sun glasses, but they have an extra component within the lens that reduces glare even more. The glare reduction reduces squinting and increases visual comfort, and protects your eyes from damaging ultra-violet light. UV light is known to cause cataracts, macular degeneration, and jelly-like yellow growths on the whites of our eyes. Glare from water surfaces and sun reflections off other cars are eliminated with polarized sun lenses.

Come Take a Look!

Marengo Vision Center
205 N. State St
Marengo, IL 60152
815-568-6508



Sharon Ettner, Banely Bernal, Judy Weiss

EVENTS *at a glance*

July

- 13th Marengo Union Tourism (MUTC) Info Seminar – 8am
- 17th Marengo Main Street Community Garage Sale – 7am-3pm
- 17th Main Street Rain Barrel Project - Unveiling of Rainy Day Barrels – 1pm
- 21st MUCC Board Meeting – 7:30am
- 27th Mixer – Frontier Ponds – POSTPONED

August

- 5th WIB Lunch – Self-Defense – Noon
- 5th MUTC Info Seminar #2 – 5pm
- 11th MUCC Member Meeting-Picnic in the Park – Noon
- 17th Mixer – C. Romano Photography – 5-7pm
- 18th MUCC Board Meeting 7:30am
- 21st Hooves to Heal Dinner & Ribbon Cutting – 5-10pm
- 24th Mixer-Intren, Inc. – 5-7pm

September

- 8th MCC Member Meeting – Election
- 9th Multi-Chamber Mixer – The Growing Scene – 5-7pm
- 13-17th Illinois Chamber of Commerce Week
- 15th MUCC Board Meeting – 7:30am
- 23rd MUCC Board Orientation – Noon
- 28th Mixer-Prairie Community Bank – 5-7pm

October

- 23rd SAVE THE DATE – CHAMBER 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY



116 South State Street
Marengo, Illinois 60152
Phone: 815-568-6680
Fax: 815-568-6879
www.marengo-union.com

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Carl Griffith



Happy Birthday America

Our country has just celebrated its 234rd birthday (your chambers 40th). Independence Day is a genuine reminder for us all to continue reaching toward our goals and objectives. Sacrifice, unity, and leadership are just a few characteristics of what our founding forefathers used to help our country claim its freedom. The Marengo/Union Chamber of Commerce operates with similar guiding principles and characteristics. It is the collective efforts of all its members and surrounding communities that will help continue the forward progression. We want you to be a part of this movement. Our country is experiencing some of the toughest economic times many of us have seen and will see in a lifetime. It is during periods such as this that our efforts and support of each other will help us all toward achieving the goals we have set forth for our families and our communities.

Staying competitive in the business market place is not an easy task, it never has been. There is competition, product price fluctuations, staffing, marketing, the list goes on. At the core of all of this is the business persons skill set and level of expertise. If you are successful, those components are certainly present. Also present, but maybe not as obvious, are the attributes of tenacity and persistence. Stay the course – when the going gets tough the tough get doing.

10,000 The Answer

Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon used to do a comedy routine (The Amazing Karnac) where Ed would give Johnny a sealed envelope which he would place to his forehead, then give the answer to a question "hermetically sealed" in the envelope. Funny stuff, check it out on <http://www.youtube.com>. Johnny's answer to this particular question would be 10,000 times. The question would be how many times did Thomas Edison fail before he succeeded in inventing the light bulb? His response: I did not fail 10,000 times I simply know 10,000 ways that won't work. It wouldn't be hard to imagine that he didn't have much of a golf game or that his social life was a challenge. Still this is good advice to all who have dreams and have miles to go before they sleep – stay the course.

Chamber Golf:

The Marengo/Union Chamber of Commerce is always actively looking out for the interest of our members and promoting Marengo/Union. Here are a few of our activities:

- July 13th – Marengo-Union Tourism Council Information Session - Learn what this tourism effort is all about and how it affects your business (8am - Marengo City Hall)
- July 17th – Marengo Main Street Community Garage Sale – visit the chambers booth and try one of the best lemon shake up's ever. They will be tall and cold and will go down great on what will be a very hot day.
- August 5th – WIB Self Defense Course at the Park District conducted by Hidden Paths Martial Arts owner, Kim Bauman.
- August 5th – Marengo Union Tourism – Information session open to all businesses (5pm - Marengo City Hall)
- August 11th – Picnic in the Park, General Membership meeting
- August 17th – Mixer at C. Romano Photography Studio
- August 24th – Mixer at Intren, Inc.

I hope you will take the time to come out and join us at one of these upcoming events. For more information call the chamber office or check out the website. These are great ways to support your business community and to network.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Chairman

Carl Griffith *Intren, Inc.*

Vice-Chairperson

Carla Weiss *Castle Bank*

Treasurer

Dawn Wagner *Prairie Community Bank*

Past Chairman

Lisa Rossow *Century 21 New Heritage*

Secretary

Marlene Slavin *Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce*

Directors

Rich Browne - *Marengo Auto Group*

John Kengott - *Farmers Insurance*

Pat Lawlor - *HyperStitch*

Kimberly Meyers - *Pollock Meyers & Eicksteadt, LLP*

Julie Remke - *CARQUEST of Woodstock*

Pat Signore - *Illinois Alliance Insurance Agency*

Ryan Varney - *Marengo Signs*

Dawn Wagner - *Prairie Community Bank*

David Wickboldt - *Harmony Computers*

Staff

Marlene Slavin, *President/CEO*

Nicole Shadle, *Executive Assistant*

Proud to serve the
Marengo Community.

- checking • loans • savings • debit card rewards • mortgage
- internet banking • medical banking • health savings accounts


CASTLE BANK

Investing in our communities since 1856.

677 E. Grant Highway, Marengo
815-568-7252 . www.castlebank.com

Member
FDIC

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Marlene Slavin



What a busy summer it has been so far this year! We've celebrated with Stan's Technologies their 50th Anniversary; the grand openings of two new businesses (Glo-Bowl Fun Center and White Lion Real Estate); enjoyed family fun at the Settlers' Day 'Spring Fling' and the annual Marengo Main Street Putt-Putt Day. We've gathered together to network at member businesses showcasing their facilities like Donley's Old West Steak house. We've met for lunch to learn more about tax law changes from Krista Piwonka, CPA and received financial updates from the State of Illinois presented by Senator Pam Althoff. Our golf enthusiasts got some pointers during the Chamber Golf Clinic at Marengo Ridge Golf Club and although our annual Golf Play Day was 'rained out' on the 23rd of June, we're ready to try again on July 7th. If the weather Gods are smiling upon us we'll have a great day and will be able enjoy our first Helicopter Golf Ball Drop fundraiser.

Behind the scenes, the Chamber Staff and committee members have been busy with the Marengo-Union Tourism Council projects, the 40th Anniversary Party (October 23rd) and the Chamber Community Guide.

We will be skipping the July general membership meeting as this tends to be the time people set aside for their family vacations. The next chamber member meeting and luncheon will be on August 11th (noon) for a 'Picnic in the Park'. This annual event is designed to get our members out of the office for an hour or so, to enjoy a picnic lunch and some relaxation. Dress is casual and so is our program. Don't forget to join us on Saturday, August 17th at the annual Main Street Community Garage Sale. The Chamber will be there with our delicious, icy-cold Lemon Shake Ups!

August too will be a busy month, starting with the second in a series of Informational Seminars hosted by the Marengo Union Tourism Council. (The first on July 13th). These presentations are designed to provide local businesses an in depth look at the Council's structure, marketing plans, business opportunities and much more.

Check out their new website at www.marenGUniontourism.com for a sneak preview.

On August 5th the Women in Business (WIB) will host a Self-Defense class at Marengo Park District lead by Kim Bauman of Hidden Path Martial Arts. Also scheduled are mixers at C. Romano Photography (17th) and Intren, Inc. (24th). Newest member Hooves to Heal is hosting a fundraising dinner on the 21st which includes a Ribbon cutting ceremony. Don't miss this opportunity to support a very worthwhile cause.

Yes, a very busy summer indeed! We hope you can join us for some of these upcoming activities. For those of you who faithfully attend the mixers and events, we thank you for your participation. You are invested in your business and community. Thank you for your continued support, we know how difficult it can be to juggle your calendar and make it to all of these activities. But keep in mind there is a pay-off; by supporting the community and each other's businesses, your business will surely grow and prosper. By working together we can accomplish our dreams and build a stronger economy in our community. It's up to us, to make it happen!

Steven G. Mortensen
Executive Vice President
Senior Credit Officer



800 West Grant Highway P.O. Box 255 Marengo, IL 60152-0255
telephone (815) 568-4100 fax (815) 568-4138
smortensen@prairiecommunitybank.com

NEW MEMBERS

The Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce welcomes our newest members:

Hooves to Heal

Patty Mozal and Debi Olsen
23711 Grant Hwy.,
Marengo, IL 60152
847-293-6176 or 847-707-7876
Riding therapy for children & adults with special needs.

Lucky Charlies

Danille Tegtman
203 W. Grant Hwy.,
Marengo, IL. 60152
815-568-8987
Upscale resale consignment shop.

Water's Edge Golf Course & Restaurant

Sara Wirkus
4005 N. Route 23,
Marengo, IL. 60152
815-568-5983
Great golf course and restaurant.

If you were given a 200 word advertisement in a highly visible media absolutely free, wouldn't you take it?



Well, the Chamber has done just that for every one of our members, but only 33% of you have taken advantage of this opportunity.

When we installed the new Chambermaster it enabled each of our members to add a 200 word advertisement AND HOT DEAL COUPON

to their chamber website directory listing. There is no extra cost. We sent letters to all members about 3 months ago telling you about this new website capability and providing you with a password which allows you to access your directory listing at any time to add or change information. Only a handful of businesses are participating.

Times are tough. We encourage you to use this website capability to advertise your business. If you cannot find the letter we sent previously and need the password information or if you have any difficulty accessing your file, please contact the Chamber office for assistance.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Chamber President Elected to Board

Marlene Slavin, President/CEO of the Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce was elected in June to serve a 2-year term as a Director for the McHenry County Conservation and Visitor's Bureau.

Stan's Office Technologies

Stan's Technologies celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 8th with a multi-chamber mixer.

Congratulations to Stan's for 50 years of excellent service!

Prairie Community Bank

Prairie Community Bank just released a video on YouTube. Check it out at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypsSO4w2JdY>

Edward Jones Investments

Edward Jones Investments announces Ralph Goodman will be managing the Marengo Office. Please stop in to welcome Ralph to the neighborhood. (821 E. Grant Hwy.)

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL BOOKS

Coming soon!

Time to start thinking about your advertisement in our 2010-2011 Football Book

Only 100 are sold but these booklets are kept by the purchaser for the entire football season. This means repeat exposure for your business.

Advertising rates are only:

\$50 Business Card size

\$100 Full page ad (6.5" x 3.5")

Reserve your space today!

815-568-6680



June Luncheon

The Chamber Women in Business welcomed Senator Pam Althoff as guest speaker for this bimonthly event. Members learned more about the workings in Springfield and the current financial condition of the State.



Upcoming Meeting

On Thursday, August 5th the WIB members will meet at the Marengo Park District for a lesson in Self Defense presented by Kim Bauman, owner of Hidden Path Arts in Marengo. Networking begins at noon.

Reservations are required. Lunch is provided by Rosati's and will include: Italian Beef, Mostacolli, salad & breadsticks. Cost \$15.

Call the chamber to make your reservation today!

WIB Welcomes our newest members

Diane Urban, Edward Jones Investments
Sara Wirkus, Water's Edge Golf Course & Restaurant
Danille Tegtman, Lucky Charlies

WANTED

Directors for Chamber of Commerce

We are looking for a few good people to serve a 3-year term on the Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors beginning in October, 2010.

Only those interested in helping businesses succeed and the local area economy grow need apply. Individuals offering dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and a positive attitude are desired. As an ambassador, representing the chamber, you need these attributes to qualify for the position.

Time commitment is minimal. Must attend one meeting per month and support Chamber events and activities when possible. For more information talk to one of our current Board Members (listed on page 2 of the newsletter) for the inside scoop, or contact Marlene at the Chamber office (815-568-6680).



LAST CHANCE.....

We are wrapping up the advertising spaces for the 2010-11 Annual Community Guide. If you wish to participate with an ad for your business, contact the Chamber ASAP.

Biz Card size	\$160
¼ Page	\$270 (includes 3 month ad on website)
½ Page	\$405 (includes 6 month ad on website)
Full page	\$725 (includes 12 month ad on website)

(All members receive a free directory listing in the community guide)

Other options available. For more info or to reserve space call: 815-568-6680
Or email: chamber@marengo-union.com

CHAMBER EVENTS

July

Tuesday July 13th
Marengo Union Tourism (MUTC) Info Seminar
– 8am Marengo City Hall

Saturday July 17th
Unveiling of Main Street's Rainy Day Barrels
– 1pm

Saturday July 17th
Marengo Main Street Community Garage Sale
– 7am-3pm Municipal Parking Lot

Wednesday July 21st
MUCC Board Meeting
– 7:30am

Tuesday July 27th
Mixer – Frontier Ponds
– POSTPONED

August

Thursday Aug. 5th
WIB Lunch – Self-Defense
– Noon Marengo Park District

Tuesday Aug. 17th
Mixer – C. Romano Photography
– 5-7pm

Thursday Aug. 5th
MUTC Info Seminar #2
– 5pm Marengo City Hall

Wednesday Aug. 18th
MUCC Board Meeting
– 7:30am (TBD)

Wednesday Aug. 11th
MUCC Member Meeting- Picnic in the Park
– Noon

Saturday Aug. 21st
Hooves to Heal Dinner & Ribbon Cutting
– 5-10pm

Tuesday Aug. 24th
Mixer-Intren, Inc.
– 5-7pm

September

Wednesday Sept. 8th
MCC Member Meeting
– Election

Wednesday Sept. 15th
MUCC Board Meeting
– 7:30am

Thursday Sept. 9th
Multi-Chamber Mixer – The Growing Scene
– 5-7pm

Thursday Sept. 23rd
MUCC Board Orientation
– Noon TBD

September 13th-17th
Illinois Chamber of Commerce Week

Tuesday Sept. 28th
Mixer-Prairie Community Bank
– 5-7pm

October

Saturday October 23rd
SAVE THE DATE - CHAMBER 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Past Mixers & Ribbon Cuttings

White Lion Real Estate

The Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce and the City of Marengo welcomed a new business to the community Tuesday night with a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony and a party atmosphere. White Lion Real Estate, owner/broker, Ellen Brunscheon, her family and staff welcomed a large crowd of well-wishers to the Grand Opening celebration throughout the evening. White Lion Real Estate specializes in both Residential and Commercial Real Estate.



Glo-Bowl Fun Center

16 lanes of fun, game room, snack bar, meeting rooms and the fabulous Trio Grille is now open! Stop in for some fun or a relaxing dinner.



Donley's Old West Steak House

Donley's Old West Steak House held their annual Mixer for Chamber members in late May. As always it was a great atmosphere for networking and excellent food!

Thanks for participating!



Helpful Info From Score

When Is A Contractor Not A Contractor?

There is no simple answer, as those who have run afoul of federal and state taxing authorities can attest. The contractor/employee line can be crossed in numerous ways. Here are some guidelines....

Consider Your Options: Contractor or Employee...

A great option for small businesses that don't have the resources or need for full-time employees, are independent contractors. In fact your small business may be built entirely on serving as an independent contractor to other enterprises. But before you hire one or more independents, make sure that relationship fits entirely within the IRS's definition of contract labor, and that both you and your contractors understand the rights and responsibilities of everyone involved.

Deciding who can legitimately work as an independent contractor and who must be given employee status has become a difficult matter for small business owners. You can't simply choose what's best for you. The IRS and equivalent state agencies are strict on worker classification issues.

Remember that independent contractors work for themselves. They operate their own business. You are their client, not their employer. You don't dictate their hours or control how they perform their work. In the eyes of most government agencies, a worker is an employee unless you can prove otherwise.

Contractors control when and where they work. Avoid setting a pattern of daily or weekly work hours dictated by your business. Also, independent contractors do not usually have a permanent or continuing relationship with the business and have time to pursue other clients. Plan to compensate contractors on a per-job basis, not weekly or monthly. And since contractors are paid to complete a set task, they may bring in others to help, at their discretion and on their payroll. They also should use their own tools and technology and be responsible for their incremental expenses.

Contractors can't be fired as long as they produce results that meet their contract specifications. Do not include them under any insurance or benefits coverage you have for employees. Independent contractors are subject to making a profit – or suffering a loss – based on their own skills and expertise. Always require an invoice before making payment.

Understanding the requirements of using independent contractors will help you better determine whether such relationships are right for your current business needs, or if you need to hire them as employees. Also make sure your contractors understand the rights and responsibilities involved as well. This will help prevent misunderstandings and potentially costly disputes over benefits and compensation.

Getting sound advice on management issues such as independent contractor status is vital for your small business. For help, contact America's free and confidential source of small business mentoring and coaching. SCORE is a nonprofit association of more than 12,000 business experts who volunteer as mentors.

To sign up for a free appointment at the location closest to you, go to ScoreFoxValley.org.



116 South State Street,
Marengo, IL 60152

info@marengo-union.com |
(815) 568-6680

Visit our new website at:

www.marenGOunionTourism.com

Dear Owner:

It is with great pride that we are contacting you regarding the Marengo-Union Tourism Council (MUTC). The newly formed MUTC was created to promote the Marengo, Seneca, Coral, and Riley Townships as a leading tourist destination for Chicagoland residents.

With the down economy, families are staying closer to the home. Trips to Disney World and the Wisconsin Dells are becoming less frequent as people cut back. Many families are still looking for recreational activities. Our area boasts four museums, at least eleven agri-tourism farms, three of the five campgrounds in the county, multiple wedding/party venues, and plenty of fresh air. We feel these places, along with others, make this area a desirable place to those who live in towns where cul-de-sacs, arterial road jams, strip malls and freeways are commonplace.

Your business is in a unique position to capitalize on increased day-trippers from the suburbs. As a result, we would like you to join this new coordinated effort. Please check your listing on this website www.marenGOunionTourism.com and e-mail us regarding any suggested changes or additions.

The Tourism Council will be holding two informational sessions. These sessions will allow us to introduce the MUTC to you. It is our goal that the MUTC can assist member businesses in the attraction of additional tourists to our area and our businesses. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13th at 8:00 AM. The second meeting will be held on Thursday, August 5th at 5:00 PM. Both meetings will be located on the second floor of Marengo City Hall.

Please plan to attend one of these two meetings. An RSVP is requested 24 hours prior to the meeting by calling 815-568-6680 or emailing us at info@marengo-union.com. If you cannot make these meetings please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you in advance for your time. We look forward to speaking with you on July 13th or August 5th.

Respectfully,

Steve DiMaria, Chair
Council Member, City of Marengo

Kathleen Carr, Vice Chair
President, The Growing Scene



The Romano 3rd Annual BLOOD DRIVE

Sponsored by The Woodstock Opera House,
C. Romano Photography & Cobblestone on the Square

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

11:00am – 4:00pm

121 W. Van Buren St. – Woodstock, 60098
Woodstock Opera House - Community Hall

Presenting donors receive a FREE VIP back stage pass to the Vans Warped Tour (Concert Tickets Purchased Separately)

To schedule an appointment please log on to www.redcrossblood.org or contact Cindy Romano at 815-568-1181 or photor1@juno.com and John Scharres at 815-338-4212 or jscharres@woodstockil.gov

Remember to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water prior to donating. Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome. Photo ID needed.



©2010 The American National Red Cross

Re-live the days of Summer breezes and lemonade stands

The chamber has started their own lemonade stand as an ongoing fundraiser.

Our first event was Putt-Putt in Marengo and we have scheduled several other events this Summer.



Join us at the Marengo Main Street Community Garage Sale – July 17th

And at the Illinois Railway Museum for Vintage Transportation Days – August 1st

We make the best “Lemon Shake-Ups” in the territory! Come sip a cold, icy refreshment on a hot Summer day.

Volunteers are needed at these events. Whether you can help for an hour or two, or all day, we need you! We have lots of fun and hope you can join us too!

Call Marlene to sign up (815) 568-6680

Company Is Coming

And we need your help!

More and more visitors are stopping in the Chamber office every day. With the advent of our new tourism effort we expect the traffic to continue to increase.

It's time to spruce up our office, but we need some help. We plan to paint, add new carpet and re-tile the bathroom. Can you lend a hand?

- We need volunteers to help move furniture, equipment & files.

- Help us paint the office.

Our funding for this project is very low.

- Do you have paint you could donate?

- Do you have about 30 sq. ft. of tile?

- We are accepting donations to pay for the carpeting.

- We need brochure holders, so we can advertise your businesses more effectively.

We will schedule a clean up date in August, since the Fall is considered 'Tourist Season' in McHenry County.

We appreciate anything you can do to help!

Call the chamber 815-568-6680 or email:
chamber@marengo-union.com



THE MARENGO-UNION TOURISM COUNCIL
MARENGO UNION
EXPLORING

Visit our new tourism website at:
www.marenGUnionTourism.com



HOW TO CONTACT THE CHAMBER

Phone: (815) 568-6680

Fax: (815) 568-6879

E-mail: chamber@marengo-union.com

Web site: www.marengo-union.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

Note: There are times when it will be necessary to close the office during normal business hours due to special events, meetings or even illness. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause any of the members.

The Chamber office is looking for more information and announcements about member businesses and their staff. Please send us your news. Deadline for newsletter entries is the 15th of the preceding month of publication.

NEW ADVERTISING RATES in 2010

Deadline: 15th of the preceding month

Current Rates for newsletter ads

	1X Insertion	6X Insertion	
Business Card	\$35	\$30	per issue
1/4 Page	\$45	\$40	per issue
Insert*	\$55	\$45	per issue
Calendar Sponsor	\$50	n/a	per issue

*8-1/2 x 11 sheet, one or two -sided. Advertiser must provide the Chamber with 300 inserts. Ads and inserts must be paid at time of reservation.

ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY

Typesetting/layout services available at additional charge. 6X rate applies to six ads running within a 12 month period.

For pricing on other Chamber media advertising, check our web site at www.marengo-union.com, or call the Chamber at 815-568-6680.

MEMBER²MEMBER DISCOUNTS

If you have a discount you want to offer your fellow chamber members, please call the office to participate; (815) 568-6680



The Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce
116 South State Street
Marengo, IL 60152

PRESORT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 44
MARENGO, IL
60152

Return Service Requested