

Chamber looking ahead to annual projects

Written by

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The Washington County Chamber of Commerce met for their first monthly meeting of the new year on Thursday, January 24, 2013. This month's meeting, sponsored by Frontier Communications, was held at the Awareness Building in Salem.

There was very little activity at present for board president Hank Jacoby to report on, but he was already showing enthusiasm for the Chamber's annual events, many of which are already hitting their planning stages.

Tentative dates have already been set for the Friday Night on the Square festivals. The spring iteration is scheduled for the night of May 17 and the fall, or "classic", Friday night event should take place on September 20.

The Friday Night on the Square festivals have become one of the Chamber's most popular events, bringing in over 3000 visitors to Salem last year. Anita Bush, marketing director, announced that sponsor and vendor applications for the spring festival would be available soon.

The Chamber has also tentatively scheduled the Eikosi festival for August 31. Eikosi, a celebration of local agriculture and business, is the county's newest festival and was held for the first time last fall. The Chamber board has been looking into ways to retool the way Eikosi is set up to help it grow and find a wider audience.

Planning has also begun for the annual Light Up the Courthouse project. A plan to place speakers playing holiday music around the Square during this past holiday season fell through, however, the Chamber will attempt to implement this idea again for the 2013 season.

Among the list of recently added members to the Chamber of Commerce was the Washington County Food Bank. The food bank received member status as a result of being sponsored by 1st Harrison Bank. Jacoby encouraged those present to consider sponsoring a organization like the food bank.

He said it only costs \$40 per year to sponsor a nonprofit and that by doing so, local businesses would be helping these charitable organizations to receive the same benefits as other Chamber members.

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce holds their monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month. If you are interested in attending February's meeting, email info@washingtoncountychamber.org.