

Members' Messenger

BUFFALO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ISSUE 143

February 2016

Celtic Dinner: Saint Patrick's Day



The Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce invites the public to an evening of great food, entertainment and games on Saint Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, at the O'Bannon Community Center in Buffalo. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with \$5.00 admission. Enjoy traditional Celtic food including Corned Beef & Cabbage, Shepherd's Pie and Irish Stew. Homemade desserts will be served and there will be a Pie Auction!

Local entertainers will include:

- "Banjo" Jack Bowden with The Boggs Boys,
- Dan O'Callaghan,
- Shirley (Turner) Flippin & son, Ross Flippin

The event is a fundraiser to support the Celtic Festival & Highland Games, scheduled for September 9-10, at the Buffalo City Park and Fair Grounds.



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Area Events

- March Fridays
DAV BINGO
- March 9th & 10th
DAV Rummage Sale
- March 15th
Primary Election
- March 17th
Celtic Dinner
at the O'Bannon Center

Annual Chamber Banquet

The Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet will be April 7th, at Timberline Barn. Tickets are \$15 each. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and serving will begin at 7:00 p.m. Brick House Smoked Meats will be catering and students from the Skills USA (Vo-Tech) will be serving. This Banquet caps the year for the Chamber. It will be the election of

Officers. There will be a guest speaker and awards are given to the Large Business of the Year and Small Business of the Year. There will be a Community Service Award and The Cornerstone of the Community Award.

All members are encouraged to attend and celebrate another year with the Chamber.

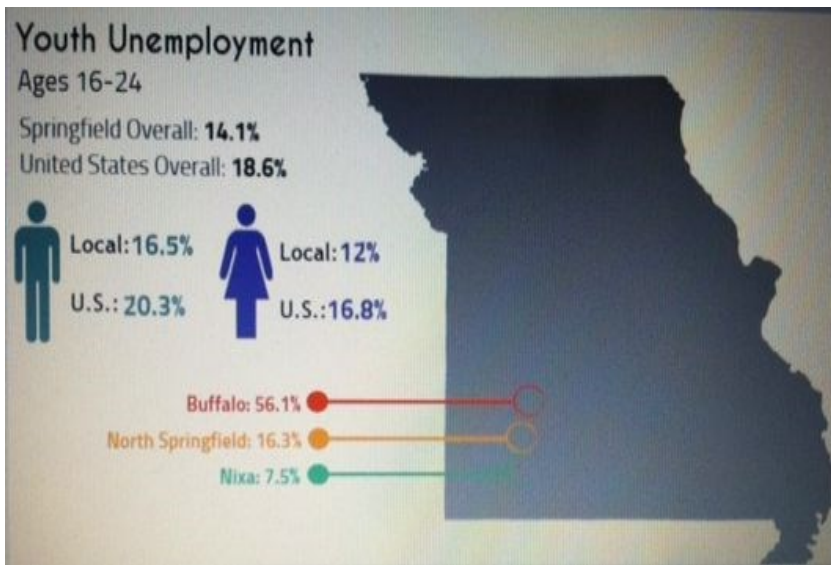
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buffaloareachamber.org



Buffalo's Youth Unemployment Rate: 56.1%

The Dallas County Technical Center is located at 33 Vo-Tech Road in Louisburg, Missouri. Students from Buffalo, Skyline, Hermitage, Wheatland, Weaubleau, Humansville, Fair Play and Halfway Schools participate in Career and Technical Programs which include Auto Mechanics, Collision Repair Technology, Welding, Graphic Arts, Health Science, and Computer Information Systems.

Buffalo has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in our area, according to the "MOmentum" workforce study. The second annual MOmentum: State of the Workforce Luncheon was presented by the Workforce Development Board on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at the White River Conference Center at Bass Pro. Over 300 local work-

force professionals were in attendance for the Director's Report on the State of the Workforce by Mary Ann Rojas, followed by a panel of industry experts.

"This year's survey reflects a continued upward trend in hiring and also presents opportunities for the regional partners to continue to work together to find ways to engage the workforce in meaningful career paths. We are especially encouraged by the employer engagement and their continued support and participation in finding ways to improve the quality of our workforce," stated Mary Ann Rojas, City of Springfield, Director of Department of Workforce Development.

Dallas County R1, the Missouri Career Center and the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce are working toward a better job outlook for the area's youth. We are hopeful that the upcoming Jobs Fair, April 28th at the High School, will not only help these students and members of the community find jobs, but will encourage them that there are jobs available in this area.

Executive Director's Corner

It is a very busy time of year here at the Chamber office. The Business Expo is in full swing. It seems that booth spaces are going to fill up early this year. So, if you or someone you know is procrastinating, send them in ASAP to ensure they get to participate! The Jobs Fair is also going very well. We have heard from about a dozen employers already and as it

gets closer to the deadline, I'm sure we will have a full house! If your business is interested in participating, please get in touch. Also, as a little reminder, our new year here at the Chamber begins in April. That means you will be seeing membership invoices by the end of this month. Our Annual Banquet will be April 7th, and I hope all of our members will join us. It is

a fun way to see a lot of people who are unable to attend the monthly lunch meetings. Finally, I hope to see everyone on St. Patrick's Day. The Celtic Dinner is going to be a blast, so come show your support. Bring a pie, or buy a pie! These fundraisers help ensure events like the Celtic Festival, the Christmas Parade and others will continue.



Roxie Flippin-Elliott