

UPCOMING CHAMBER MEETINGS & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

- Spring Clean-Up Committee Mtg, 4pm

THURSDAY MARCH 6

- Atchison Public Library, Kansas Reads Book Discussion @ 6:00 – “Bleeding Kansas”

FRIDAY MARCH 7

- Retail Committee Meeting, 8:15am, Chamber Offices
- First Fridays, Downtown Atchison, Starts at 5pm, Win \$50, Cupcake Contest

SATURDAY MARCH 8

- The Artist Box, Felt Shamrock Pins \$5.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome
- 95th Annual Chamber Banquet, 6pm, Atchison Heritage Conference Center

SUNDAY MARCH 9

- YOGA at Riverwood Winery, 9:30am, \$15, CALL 816-579-9797 for reservations.



HOT TOPICS
Including Gay Marriage, Deficit Spending, Education Funding, and So Much More Discussed At This Past Saturday’s Legislative Coffee with Guests Lynn Jenkins & Jerry Henry.



NEXT & LAST LEGISLATIVE COFFEE FOR 2014 SCHEDULED FOR SAT. APRIL 5.

This is your opportunity to discuss relevant issues with your elected officials in an informal setting. Sponsored by the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and AT&T.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



This Saturday is the 95th Annual Chamber Banquet! It’s amazing to think the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce is over 95 years old. . . just think of all the businesses that have been a part of the Chamber’s history here in Atchison. The banquet is always one of my favorite nights of the year. This year we will celebrate some of Atchison’s Treasures! I hope you’ll be there to enjoy the evening with us.

By the calendar, at least, Spring is just around the corner. We’ll plan to welcome it with our Spring Open House on March 13, 14 and 15. Fifty-four businesses are participating. Shop local and you could win one of six \$100 prizes! Watch next week’s news for all the details. Don’t miss the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday the 15th!

Our annual Farm City Banquet is March 25th. . . We’ll have tickets available to pick up next week! Join us for another fun evening including great food, prizes and fantastic entertainment! Don’t forget to bake a pie and enter the pie contest!!

Have a great week!

Jacquie Pregont
Jacquie Pregont, President

Guilt and The Sport of Buying Local

By Gracen Johnson, www.strongtowns.org, February 26, 2014



I spend a lot of time browsing through real estate listings, getting an idea of who owns the buildings I love most and the ones that make me cringe. The other day, I came across exactly the kind of retail storefront property that houses some of my favourite downtown destinations - lively location, exposed brick, beautiful windows, vintage street appeal. Rent is \$3,500 a month for ~3000 sqft. including parking. To my knowledge, there is nothing unusual about the rent but at the time the number burned into my brain. Locally-owned businesses line Main St. in Moncton, Canada.

CHAMBER NEWS (continued from page 1)

If you're a small business owner and take a gamble on this property, you've got to be bringing in over \$100 per day just to pay rent. Then there's the cost of your inventory, wages, marketing, administration, etc. When I think of how small the profit margins are on most of what I buy, and how infrequently I purchase items with large margins this all started to make my head spin. The cafés that serve as our offices, meeting rooms, and third places are earning mere cents on a cup of coffee. Our downtown art store is matching Amazon pricing while paying a team of top-notch staff. How do these places survive? Are the owners just in it as a labour of love?

I've long been a proponent of the buy local movement for the warm fuzzies. I crave the opportunity to become a welcomed regular at a few favourite places. I love the variety that independent businesses bring

to town centres everywhere. I love seeing people take pride in their work, and seeing a community take pride in its local businesses. Warm fuzzies are a powerful motivator but now I can bolster them with an even stronger one: guilt. Not a gross guilt that you want to shake off your back but a guilt carved out of admiration.

It was defined a week later for me in this beautiful interview on Fresh Air between Terry Gross and author Ann Patchett who opened a bookstore in Nashville:

It's not that I think no one should buy books online. [...] But I think that what's important is if you value a bookstore, if that's something that you want in your community, if you want to take your children to story hour, if you want to meet the authors who are coming through town, if you want to get together for a book club at a bookstore or come in and talk to the smart booksell-

ers, if you want to have that experience of a bookstore, then it is up to you.

It is your responsibility to buy your book in the bookstore. And that's what keeps the bookstore there. And that's true for any little independent business. You can't go into the little gardening store and talk to them about pesticides and when do you plant and what kind of tools do you need and use their time for an hour and their intelligence and then go to Lowe's and buy your plants for less. That you cannot do.

The good guilt reminds me that buying local is how I can help pick up the tab for my beloved town centre. It's frightening to me how quickly the places and people that I love downtown could be out of business. The window displays that spark warm nostalgia would be gone. The shop-owners that patiently explain why they stock that particular brand and how they test everything out themselves would no longer have an outlet for their passion and knowledge.

My partner has wanted to play drums since he was a little kid but could never afford a kit until this year. On four weekends, we walked over to the downtown music store, Tony's, which is staffed mostly by professional musicians to play and admire the electronic drum kit. Finally one evening it was waiting in boxes for us to bring home. The staff helped us carry it out to the cab. Tony's never rushed us or side-eyed as we tinkered with expensive equipment. There's invariably a teenager in the store, playing away on some special guitar they're saving up to buy. It's a happy place that embodies the whole journey of musicianship. My partner checked - he would have saved a handful if he bought the kit on Amazon. He considered doing so. But he realized that the Tony's experience, not just the drum kit was making his childhood dream come true.

Buying local has become a bit of a sport for us. We practice "reverse showrooming" - looking up reviews of a product online and then finding a local bricks and mortar retailer from which to buy it - and relish the feel-good of walking in a store and knowing someone will get commission.

The good guilt has turned me pretty price insensitive. That's not to say I'm flush with cash or that the independent retailer is more

THIS SATURDAY!

A RED CARPET AFFAIR | BLACK TIE OPTIONAL



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

THE ATCHISON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(800) 234-1854

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president@
atchisonkansas.net

MARY JANE SOWERS
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atchisonkansas.net

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expensive. It's just that once I meet my basic needs, it matters to me less how much I acquire than how I acquire it. To enjoy the placemaking benefits of unique local businesses, we need to make sure they can cover their rent too.

Social Media 101: FREE Kansas Tourism Webinar this Thursday



Are you a bit of a newbie in the Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus world? Feeling a bit overwhelmed about what all of these websites do and which ones you should be spending time on? Get trained by a top on-line marketer on the basics of using these tools to get visitors. Some of the benefits of attending this webinar: - Learn what fields are important to fill out in your Facebook About page - Get a tutorial on how to find potential customers who are using Twitter - Google + and Google Places overview - 20 suggestions on what to Tweet, Facebook post and update on Google +. - More

- Speaker: Doug Motel
- **Date: Thursday, March 6, 2014**
- **Time: 1PM to 2PM Central**
- Registration Fee: FREE for Kansas Tourism members (Use Coupon Code TravelKS)

Find out more and register online at <http://www.elearningu.com/public/535.cfm>

Blood Drive Sponsors Needed

The winter weather has taken a toll on the Local Blood Donations and Blood Drive sponsors are needed. The Community Blood Center has a great need for blood drive sponsors during the Months of May-June-July, and August. If you have a business, group or organization that would be willing to help by sponsoring a blood drive during this time please call or email:

Betty Tinker, Community Blood Center




SHOPPING & SPECIALS FROM 5-7PM!

THIS FRIDAY MARCH 7 ... WIN \$50!
Shop Late, Shop Local in Downtown Atchison on the 1st Friday of every month starting at 5pm. Specials, music, art and fun ... don't miss out!

bat@cbckc.org, 816-232-6791 Ext 1805, 800 -725-6791 Ext 1805.

Social Security Updates

The latest edition of the Social Security Update Newsletter is now available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/newsletter.

38th Farm-City Banquet Scheduled for March 25

The Atchison business community is invited to join us in celebrating generations of cooperation with the agricultural community in the Atchison area during the 38th annual Farm-City Banquet on Tuesday, March 25. The annual event will be held at the Atchison Heritage Conference Center and includes vendor booths, dinner and an entertaining program. We will also have the popular pie-baking contest again, so get those recipes ready!

The Chamber is currently looking for sponsors. Businesses can sponsor the event by purchasing tickets that will allow farm families to attend the event free of charge. We are also looking for door prize donations and booth exhibitors.

For more information or to inquire about sponsorships and donations, please contact Mary Jane Sowers, Chamber Projects Coordinator, at 913-367-2427 or send an email to projects@atchisonkansas.net.

A Full Weekend Celebrating the Arts in Atchison Set for April 25-26

The Atchison Art Association and the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce present you with a weekend of special events that will celebrate the arts in Atchison on April 25-26!

From the highly-anticipated Art Walk that stretches across Downtown Atchison, to the 2nd Annual Open Air Fair along the beautiful Riverront, artists from a variety of forms will be welcomed to our community. Make plans to join us as we celebrate the arts!

More details to come so stay tuned! In the meantime, if you have questions regarding the Art Walk please contact the Chamber at (913) 367-2427. For questions regarding the Open Air Art Fair, contact the Atchison Art Association at (913) 367-4278.

River Cities Community Credit Union Accepting Applications for 16th Annual Joseph M. Carrigan Memorial Scholarship

River Cities Community Credit Union is accepting applications for the Joseph M. Carrigan Memorial Scholarship. RCCCU awards \$750 to high school seniors towards their continuing education. This is the sixteenth year scholarships have been awarded.

Joe Carrigan was well known for his involvement in the community and was a

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founding member of the credit union. River Cities Community Credit Union established this scholarship in his memory.

A number of factors are taken into consideration in the choice of the recipients: involvement in school, grades, citizenship, involvement in the community and an essay on credit unions. Applicants or their parents must be a member of the credit union and high school seniors. In the essay, the applicant is asked to describe their association with the credit union and detail how it has been of service to them or to their family. Applications are available on RCCCU's website www.rivercitiesccu.com or in the office at 625 Commercial St., Ste. 6 in Atchison. Completed applications must be submitted to the credit union office by April 1st.

Last year's recipients were Sam Nolte of Atchison and Jared Hoffman of Effingham.

The Joe Carrigan Memorial Golf Tournament is held each year to fund the scholarship. This year the tournament will be held at Bellevue Golf Club on Saturday, June 14th at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in participating in the golf tournament is welcome to call the Credit Union at 367-1488.

**Upcoming Classes at
The Artist Box**

Visit The Artist Box at 731 Commercial for an exciting variety of classes this month! For more information, call 913-367-1037 or visit www.theartistboxllc.com.

- Saturday March 1st Mardi Gras Masks \$5.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome
- Saturday March 8th Felt Shamrock Pins \$5.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome
- Saturday March 15th Top O' the Morning Top Hats \$5.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome, fun hat to wear to the parade
- Tuesday March 18th Irish Eyes are Smiling 5-8pm \$20.00 enjoy Irish influenced drinks, snacks and friends while you create an art project (yet to be decided) over 18 years of age please.
- Saturday March 22nd & 29th Paper Mache Mushrooms \$15.00 10am all ages welcome, must attend both dates



browse the latest spring products

take advantage of open house specials

shop during open house weekend at the following locations and enter to win one of six \$100 prizes!

ALPS Grocery	CVS	KFC/Taco Bell	Sears
Always Blooming	Dairy Queen	Long John Silver's	Snow Ball 8th Street Bistro
The Artist Box	Dillon Tire	Lopez de Mexico	Subway
Atchison Animal Clinic	Gambino's Pizza	Main Street Decorating	Sunsetters of Atchison
Atchison Eye Center	Gateway to Kansas Shops	Maria's Mexican Restaurant	TABS Unlimited
Atchison Outfitters	Gerber Electric	Pepper Mill & Co.	Taco John's
Atchison Taxi & Courier	The Hardware Store	Poor Richard's	Tacyn's
Bakers 9th Street, LLC	Hays Sheet Metal,	Quick Stop East	Travel Center of Atchison
Blair Milling	Heating & Cooling	Quick Stop West	Van Dyke Grocery
Body & Soul Nutrition	Heritage Tractor	R&S Automotive	Vintage Gypsy
Carrigan Lumber	Hi-Nails	Reckless Designz	Warming Hut Gift Shop
Casey's General Store	Hilligoss Shoe Store	Ruby's Landing	@ The Santa Fe Depot
Coin Mart	Jerry's Again	Runyan Jewelers	Willie's Bar & Grill
Cottage of the Seasons	Kex Rx	Schweser's	Willow Brook

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to finish project

- Saturday April 5th Decorate a Metal Cross \$5.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome
- Saturday April 12th Funky Junk Art \$10.00 any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome
- Saturday April 19th Dye an Egg \$2.00 per egg any time 9am-3pm all ages welcome Egg have inside cleaned out so they will never spoil

Events at the Atchison Library

Tuesday, March 4th

- Twisted Stitchers Needle Craft @ 6:00 – beginner to advanced

Thursday, March 6th

- Pre-school Story time and Crafts @ 10:30 – All about Pizza
 - Kansas Reads Book Discussion @ 6:00 – “Bleeding Kansas”
- Monday, March 10th
- Pre-school Story time and Crafts @ 10:30 – Bugs Everywhere

Seeking Vendors for Downtown Funky Junk Flea Market - Apr. 12

Downtown Atchison is having a Funky Junk Flea Market April 12th & is seeking vendors. Inventory must consist of merchandise that is: vintage finds, retro items, antiques, upcycled pieces, repurposed pieces, upcycled jewelry. Booth price \$10. E-mail, Susan Turnbull, Downtown Coordinator, at susant@cityofatchison.com for more info.



A tchison
ARTWALK

friday
april 25 2014

Experience local art in a variety of media, from paintings and photography to sculpture and mixed media, as you stroll the historic streets and businesses of Downtown Atchison. You don't want to miss this unique “love of art” event where you'll enjoy live music, food, and drinks along the way!

800.234.1854
www.atchisonkansas.net

f /visitatchison @atchisonks

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIP FOR 38 YEARS

38TH ANNUAL FARM-CITY BANQUET
TUESDAY, MARCH 25
4:30-7:30PM
913-367-2427 FOR DETAILS

BOOTHS - DINNER - PIE CONTEST - ENTERTAINMENT



Downtown Atchison

Invites you to compete in 1st Friday Cupcake Contest
March 7th 4-6 pm

Contestants must bring 3-4 dozen medium size cupcakes

The public will sample and judge the winner
Categories: Prettiest-Most Delicious-
Most Creative-Best In Show
\$25 Gift certificate awarded
Winner announced at 6:45 pm

If using nuts in your cupcakes, please label clearly

No entries with alcohol allowed
Check in at Gateway To Kansas Shops or
The Artist Box
Contact susant@cityofatchison.com

NEWS

HIGHLAND

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ATCHISON REGIONAL & TECHNICAL CENTER
VISIT DAY

MARCH 11th, 2014

11:30 am - 7:00 pm



Stop by to visit with admissions representatives,
financial aid, and enjoy a hotdog.

- Visit with an advisor about future enrollment.
- Visit with registrar about transfer and degree questions.
- Visit with Tech Center instructors and tour programs of interest.

No appointment necessary.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call **913.367.6204** or hcctc@highlandcc.edu

WWW.HIGHLANDCC.EDU • 1501 W. Riley, Atchison, KS 66002



ATCHISON • KANSAS
Saturday April 12, 2014 | 9AM-5PM



facebook.com/visitatchison

NEWS

1st Annual
**ATCHISON CITYWIDE
GARAGE SALE**

Coming May 31, 2014

One man's trash is another man's treasure! A first for Atchison, this is a must-attend event as residents and stores alike participate in this community sale which includes a booklet of participants and locations. You are sure to find more than a few treasures at this exciting event! Call (800) 234-1854 or visit atchisonkansas.net for more information.

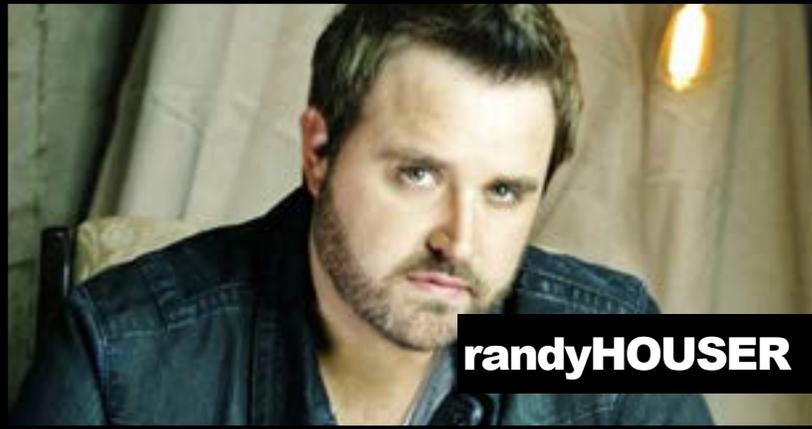
Rural Atchison Residents or Locals who have treasures to sale:
Space will be available for rent at 400 Block of Commercial parking lot. Booth space is limited & will be placed in the order of receipt. Booths will be marked on "The Map" and are \$10 per space. Maps will be available with description of your sale on May 30th at 5pm for \$1 cash only.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!

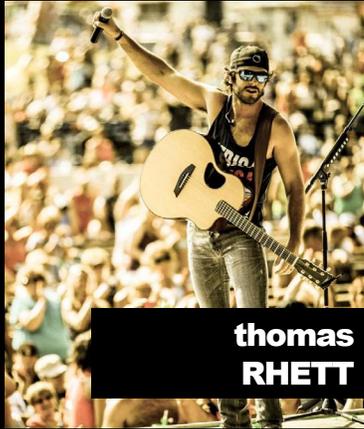
Additional Information, contact Angie Parker at the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, 913-367-2427, atchisonkansas.net

LAKEFEST 2014 7.18.14

**Gift Certificates on sale NOW!
CALL (800) 234-1854**



randyHOUSER



**thomas
RHETT**



**danielle
BRADBERRY**

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ATCHISON ART ASSOCIATION



OPEN AIR FAIR

HOMEGROWN ART, FOOD, & CULTURE
APRIL 26, 2014, ATCHISON RIVERFRONT

Join us for the Atchison Open Air Art Fair on Saturday, April 26th between 10am-5pm along Atchison's beautiful riverfront. This European-style open market is a fresh approach to the exchange of ideas, innovations and creation. This event will feature booths by Artists/Artisans, Farmer/Growers and Vintage items (aka funky junk) along with performance art, music, classes and demos from our artists.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A BOOTH:
913.367.4278
WWW.ATCHISONART.ORG

GET YOUR ST. PATTY'S DAY LIGHT-UP "FLARE" AT THE WARMING HUT GIFT SHOP!

PLUS ALL Bird Feeders - 50% Off

NEW Train-Themed Goodies for the Little Ones!

PLUS ... Jewelry, Snacks, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Finger Puppets, Snacks, and MUCH MUCH MORE!

STOP BY TODAY!

**OPEN Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm
Sundays 12-4pm**

**200 South 10th St.
(Next to Taco John's)**

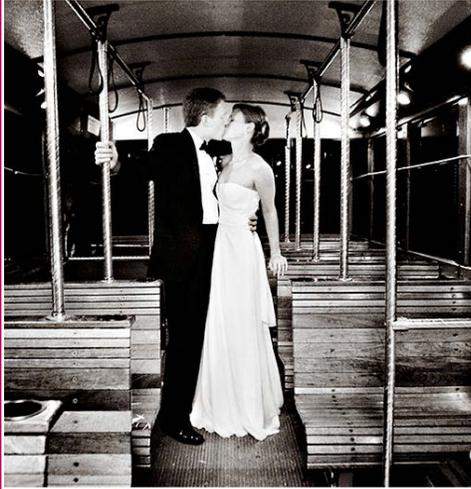


RESERVE THE ATCHISON TROLLEY for your Wedding Day!

CALL TODAY!

\$140 first hour
\$100 per additional hour(s)

(800) 234-1854




SAVING THE BRICK & MORTARS
OUR NATION IS BUILT ON

the350project.net

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Make a Bright Impression in Atchison...



BANNER ORDER FORM

BUSINESS NAME: _____ CONTACT: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PREFERRED BANNER LOCATION*: _____

*We will work to try and get your banner as close to your requested is possible. Exact placement is not guarantee.

I would like to order the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ Large "It's a Great Day in Atchison" Banner.....\$150
(30x60, Sunbrella® fabric, up to 5-year life span, stays up 365 days a year) | _____ Small Seasonal Banners, Set of (4).....\$200
(23x51, vinyl material, up to 3-year life span, one banner for each season) |
|--|--|

TO ORDER YOUR BANNER(S):

Please return this form to the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, 200 S. 10th Street. You may also call our offices to place your order at **(913) 367-2427**, or email your order and information to marketing@atchisonkansas.net.

Each banner will include your business or organization name at the bottom of the banner in all caps. Rates are for Chamber members. Please contact us for non-member rates.

RESPONSE REQUIRED BY MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014.