

CHAMBER CHATTER #25

Winter came for a few days then spring came back. This certainly hasn't been Tip Up Town, WINTERFEST or Snow Run weather this time around but 'the show must go on.' We hope you join us in winter fun at Winterfest/Outhouse Races (11a-4p) and the SnowPackers' Snow Run (beginning at 9a) this Saturday. We promise you won't freeze to death!! Both events have a place to get warm and a bonfire, with lots of activities going on at both sites. We hope to see you there.

The township notified us that the ice rink has not been a workable project at the park this winter, with the fluctuating temperatures. They will attempt a skating area at the lake, right by the hill, and north of the boat ramp.

Several businesses are sponsoring a snowman-building contest across the road from the Hen House Restaurant. Stop by the restaurant for more information. Nice cash prizes will be awarded. Think snow!

The Higgins-Roscommon WINTERFEST event will be held on the weekend of February 18th. Maybe they'll have better luck getting some snow and ice.

At the regular January chamber meeting, it was decided that we really need that new sign out on I-75 NOW, this spring. We won't wait for more donations to come in. We need to get the attention of vacationers as soon as possible. We received donations of \$1200, with the project costing \$4600+. (Donations will still be accepted.) A huge 'thank you' to those businesses, organizations, and individuals that donated. The sign will make you proud. We'll announce as soon as it's in place this spring.

At that same meeting, the chamber members generously agreed to provide \$500 to help with the cost of new decorations to 'light up St. Helen' during the next Christmas season. Jeremy Hickmott (town decorator) is already busy looking for 'good deals,' so as much as possible can be purchased with the dollars available. (Donations for this project will be happily accepted.)

Congratulations go out to Connie Barton of Century 21-Benjamin Realty, Dave Becker of Exit 222 Realty, and Michael Hodnett of St. Helen Realty, for each selling more than one million dollars in real estate in the area in 2011. Wow, and this is a bad housing market economy. Good job realtors! You make things look promising.

The medallion hunt has been going on since Monday. Clues were posted at the chamber office, the township offices, at BS Liquor and on our website. The medallion has been located after the fourth clue was posted.

A reminder to our business owners and organizations, that we have a nice marquee sign out in front of the chamber office. If there is a special event coming up that you want advertised, please let us know a week ahead, if possible. We'll be happy to advertise for you. We attempt to know what's going on in town but things can slip by. If there are volunteers out there, who would like to help us keep our marquee sign updated, we'd love the help.

Another reminder is regarding the last Animal Control Rabies Clinic before the pet license deadline. It will be held at the shelter in Prudenville on February 26, from 9 to 3. Rabies vaccines are \$10 and other pet vaccines are \$15.

THINK SNOW! Buy in Saint Helen, buy Michigan, and above all, buy American.