The Business Voice



August 2020

Local Businesses Need Your Support During COVID-19

Social distancing is the name of the game. There is ample data showing that increasing space between people will slow the spread of COVID-19.

No doubt about it, COVID-19 has changed the way we shop locally. The biggest concern about shopping locally has been the fear of contracting the virus, which currently has no cure. Strict protocols such as limiting the number of shoppers; reducing store hours; employee handwashing regulations; hand sanitizing stations; contactless payment systems; and requiring face masks have become the new normal.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created many challenges for small, locally owned businesses, which are the backbone of our nation's economy. These businesses depend on in-person foot traffic for their revenue. Unlike most national retail chains, they adapt their products and services to meet their communities' needs. Dollars spent in locally owned businesses remain in the community.

Unlike major retailers, many small businesses generally do not have the cash reserves to sustain during these uncertain times. Some businesses have been forced to temporarily close, others have had to scale back or change their operations completely. Some businesses may close their doors permanently.

While it's easy to feel powerless in a time like this, there are still a few things that we can do to support our local businesses. <u>Source</u>

- Buy from local, independently owned businesses.
- Buy something extra.
- Leave a positive review on their social media pages.
- Be flexible.
- Don't forget about our local farmers' markets.
- Be generous. Tip well. Spread the news about the great service you're getting.



Chamber Membership

Membership with the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry does have its privileges. It unlocks the door of possibility for you and your business and it offers numerous benefits. Here are just a few we wanted to highlight.

For more information about the benefits listed below or other member benefits, please <u>email</u> or call the Chamber office at 712-755-2114.

SCCCI Conference Room & Meeting Space

One benefit of Chamber membership is having access to our conference room and meeting space. We can offer the ability for our members to host voice conference calls with up to 100 attendees, or webinars with up to 100 attendees. The webinars can be live or prerecorded.

Membership-101

Our Membership - 101 Educational Program is back and we're happy to provide this training on Tuesday, October 6, 1:30 pm - 3 pm via Zoom. This training is free to attend, but requires pre-registration by calling the Chamber office 712-755-2114 or email by Monday, September 28, 3 pm. The link to the Zoom training will be sent out to registered participants on Friday, October 2.

This program is available to all of our Chamber members. We strive to ensure that the program is engaging and interactive and encourage you to sign up.

Membership 101 will give you an advantage in promoting your business using the tools available through Chamber membership. Our goal is to have you grow personally, professionally, and to educate you on the many benefits we offer that are important to business success.

Topics of discussion include: Did You Know, Monthly Newsletter, Membership Directory, Member's Area Features, Advertising Opportunities, Traffic Catcher Site (TCS) Page, Committees, Ambassador Visits - Ribbon Cuttings - Business After Hours, and Q & A.

One-On-One Training is also available by appointment only.

Job Board

The Chamber's job board is an exclusive benefit available only to members of the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Chamber members can post their job openings at no cost. This job board promotes jobs located in Shelby County.

Members with employment needs, whether full-time or part-time positions, have a valuable asset in the Chamber's <u>website</u> and the free job board. Members in need of workers will find using the website to be an especially helpful way to get the word out about job openings.

The job board is located under the "Member Area Features" section with a dedicated area titled "Resources". Members can post jobs through the Member Log-In Page using your Username and Password. Once logged in, click on "Submit a Job Board" and fill out the form. You can even add an image. Once you are done, the Chamber will need to approve the job posting. Or send the information to the Chamber office and the staff will be more than happy to post the job for you. If you need us to resend your username and password or need to reset it, let us know.

Here are some Quick Tips for posting a job.

- ♦ If you don't have a username or password, call the Chamber office at 712-755-2114 or email Carol.
- ◆There is no limit to the number of jobs you can post.
- ◆"Copy/Paste" the job description from a Word.doc to save time when filling in details and qualifications.
- ◆The Chamber receives an email notification of the job posting and approves it before it goes "live".
- ◆ Each job position will be shown for 90 days. If the position is not filled within 90 days, it can be re-posted. Just let us know.
- ♦ When the position is filled, call or email the Chamber office to remove the position from the job board.

Traffic Catcher Site (TCS) Page

So what is a TCS page? It's your own unique, single page within the Chamber's website to promote your products, services, business hours, and everything else your customer and prospects need to know. It's a great way for you to create or enhance your online presence. Even if you have a website, the TCS page is designed to help deliver new prospects to your business. Here's a fun and interesting fact - the Chamber's Traffic Catcher Site pages receive over 500 views per month. Guess what? It's all free and part of your Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and Industry membership.

Chamber members that have a TCS page enjoy the extra exposure of having a customized page that allows tracking the number of views to their website. Members receive a monthly report via email. And if you have your own company website, the TCS page will provide a link to it.

You can create and publish your own unique web presence through the TCS. However, if you would feel more comfortable working through the process with a Chamber staff member, we would be more than happy to set up a time that is convenient for you and help you through the process.

Club Level Members

Platinum Plus Club Members

City of Harlan Harlar

Harlan Municipal Utilities N

Shelby County Shelby

Harlan Industrial Foundation
Myrtue Medical Center
Shelby County State Bank

Platinum Club Members

Conductix-Wampfler Monogram Prepared Meats, LLC

Gold Club Members

The Agency Insurance Essentia Protein Solutions FMCTC
Farmers Trust & Savings Bank Midstates Bank

Silver Club Members

Elm Crest Senior Living Community Panama Transfer
Markham Family Dental Associates, Inc.

Bronze Club Members

All Purpose Contractors, LLC CDS Global Counsel Office & Document
Cyclone Lanes Fareway Stores, Inc. Harlan Golf & Country Club
Harlan Sweets & Treats The Harlan Tribune Hy-Vee
Keast Motors Terry Knapp Real Estate KNOD Radio Station
Molded Products Nishnabotna Valley REC
Pitts Family & Sports Chiropractic Center, PC
Smitty Bee Honey, Inc. Stars & Bars Entertainment
Subway Town & Country Credit Union Victoria Station

Welcome New SCCCI Members

Danish Villages Improvement Organization, Elk Horn. Joined August 27

SCCCI Membership Renewals

The Chamber wishes to thank the following members who renewed their membership in August

Bauer's Shoe Store, Inc. * Farm Credit Services of America
Farmers Trust & Savings Bank * Four Seasons Travel Inc.
Harlan First United Methodist Church * Harlan Kiwanis Club *
Iowa Community Kitchen * Kohorst & Fischer Law Firm PLLC
Marne Elk Horn * Mrs. C's Home Décor * Milk & Honey * Mosaic
Museum of Danish America * Rubi J
Salem Lutheran Homes & Rehabilitation Center
Shelby County State Bank
Shelby County Farmers Mutual Insurance, Assn.

All Chamber Membership Renewals
Are Sent Electronically Through
Our Website, 30 - 60 Days Prior To
Their Due Date. You Can Also
Renew Your Membership Online
Via Our Website.

Chamber Gift Certificates

The Shelby County Chamber of Commerce & Industry offers gift certificates that are accepted at many of our area's retailers, restaurants, and professional services. The program is designed to promote and have consumers patronize Shelby County businesses. They make perfect gifts for employees, teachers, coaches, friends, and family. Gift certificates can be purchased in any denomination. There is no minimum purchase required. All major credit cards, checks, and cash accepted.

Certificates are easy to purchase. On our <u>website</u>, call the office 712-755-2114, or by <u>email</u>.

SCCCI Mission Statement: To create a climate of opportunity for business growth, economic development, and a high standard of living throughout Shelby County.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President
Ellen Walsh-Rosmann
Milk & Honey

Vice President
Steve Ineson
Four Seasons Travel

Treasurer

Gervas Mgonja

Town & Country Credit

Union

Past President
Steve Kenkel
Shelby County Board of
Supervisors

Board Member
Marie Bengford
H & R Block

Board Member
Tim Christopherson
Monogram Prepared
Meats

Board Member

Jahde Osborn

Courtside Marketing

Board Member Sheri Tyrrel Molded Products

Chamber Team

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Executive Director

<u>Carol McHugh</u> Administrative Assistant

<u>Debbie Stendrup</u> Membership/Events Coordinator