

# Carroll County Chamber News

**For week of January 25th, 2010**

If anyone has something they want to have included in our weekly updates, please email me at [chamber@carrollcountyky.com](mailto:chamber@carrollcountyky.com). If you get it to me by Thursday, I will include it in the following week's news.

## Member Events & News:

**The News Democrat**, in partnership with The Chamber of Commerce, and Tourism, is working on the 2010 edition of Discover Carroll County, the guide to living, working, and playing in the community. In addition to being distributed through the newspaper, it is also used by Chamber, Tourism, the school district, local government, and industry. Copies are also available at local hotels and are placed in rooms at most of these establishments. Over 7,500 copies of this award winning publication will be distributed. To take part in this publication, please contact Deborah Garrett or Jeff Moore at the News Democrat, (502) 732-4261, or email [dgarrett@mycarrollnews.com](mailto:dgarrett@mycarrollnews.com) or [jmoore@mycarrollnews.com](mailto:jmoore@mycarrollnews.com). The deadline to participate is Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**General Butler State Resort Park-** Perfect Harmony Weekend, February 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy yourself for a weekend getaway! Special dinner theatre package only \$275.00 + tax per couple. This includes meals, lodging, a tour of the Butler-Turpin house, and dinner theatre. If wishing to book a cottage, guests would pay rate difference, along with the package price, and would receive a \$20.00 discount on cottage rate. If you only want to attend the Dinner Theatre, the price is \$35.00 per person + tax.

**God's Special Little Hearts-** We provide care packages to families who have a child or children, who have been diagnosed, hospitalized, and/or have underwent open heart surgery for a congenital heart defect. A special fundraising walk will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church in Owenton from 11-6

**Round About Guide will publish its annual Bridal Section as part of its February edition. Target bridal customers with an ad in this popular section. Call 1-800-343-3005 or email [info@roundabout.bz](mailto:info@roundabout.bz). for rates and information. Other upcoming special sections include the Spring Home & Garden, and the Golf edition.**

**Carroll County Community Health & Safety Fair-** The 2nd annual Health & Safety Fair is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> @ the National Guard Armory, beginning at 8:00 a.m. For more information, contact Kathy Rarey at 502-525-7256.

**Masterson House Cookbooks** are still available from the Port William Historical Society for \$21.20. Books contain over 400 recipes as well as some wonderful pictures of Carroll County history. Books may be purchased at the following locations: The News Democrat, Carroll County Tourism, Carrollton Main Street office, and River Dance Salon in Ghent. Call Sam Burgess at 502-525-0907 or Deborah Garrett at 732-4261 or David Hendren at 347-0135.

Add your event here! Send the date, time, and information.

### **Member to Member Exchange:**

**Happy 2010 to all Carroll County Chamber Members! Now that a new year is upon us, it's a great time to set some new business goals to start the year out right. If decreasing the cost of your employee group health insurance plan is a goal you would like to achieve, the Chamber Health Insurance Plan is an option to consider. There is a significantly discounted program available to you *as a member* of the Chamber. For more information on this program, please contact Jennifer Brown at Phil Brown Insurance Agency at 502-327-6966, or [jenniferbrown@philbrowninsurance.com](mailto:jenniferbrown@philbrowninsurance.com). Thanks!**

### **Chamber Events and Happenings:**

Renew your membership to the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, or join now! Great networking opportunities, discounted group health insurance and more! Contact the chamber today for more information. (502) 732-7034.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carroll County's Got Talent Auditions

Center stage is once again calling you!!! Auditions will begin Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Carroll Co. Public Library from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All ages, acts, and audiences welcome. Contact the Chamber office by Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to sign up and for more information. Our office is at 511 Highland Avenue, or you can email Bret Calhoun at [b.calhoun@carrollcountyky.com](mailto:b.calhoun@carrollcountyky.com), or call 502-732-7034.

Below is an update offered by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce on legislation currently being considered in Frankfort and the progress of this week. These are issues you may be interested in as a **business leader**.

### **Taxes and Budget**

The budget continues to dominate Frankfort. This week, it led Gov. Beshear to announce a number of new cost-saving measures for state government and pay reductions for top staff. It also seems to be leading to a push for a significant expansion of the sales tax to services.

This week, State Treasurer Todd Hollenbach and UK's Martin School hosted a tax symposium to discuss the state's tax code. Several legislators were in attendance including Senate President David Williams, who noted a serious mood to look at Kentucky's tax code and House A&R Chairman Rick Rand, who announced a working group formed by Speaker Stumbo to work on a tax reform proposal based in part on the two tax bills below.

**HB 13** (Wayne) would raise individual income tax rates for persons making more than \$75,000 per year, add an earned income tax credit for low income individuals, decouple the estate tax from the federal law and impose a sales tax on several selective services.

**HB 78** (Farmer) would expand the sales tax to all services, lower the rate from 6 percent to 5.5 percent and eliminate all income taxes including the corporate, LLET and individual income taxes.

Thursday, Speaker Stumbo indicated he favors reducing Kentucky's sales tax to 5 percent and eliminating the corporate income tax. His proposal would make up this revenue by eliminating tax exemptions and ensuring "residents and businesses are paying their fair share." It is unclear how many businesses would see additional tax burdens under this plan. Stumbo is expected to release details of his plan soon.

Conventional wisdom would suggest that significant tax changes will be unlikely in an election year; however, with significant budget shortfalls, there appears to be a more serious effort to look at taxes than expected. The Chamber continues to believe policymakers should focus on spending reform first. The Chamber has provided lawmakers with a series of money-saving recommendations in its most recent publication, [The Leaky Bucket](#).

## **Education and Workforce Development**

**Transfer of Credits** – [HB 160](#) (Rollins) requires the Council on Postsecondary Education to develop statewide transfer procedures for college credits and align lower division coursework across postsecondary education institutions. This Chamber-supported bill is awaiting action by the full House.

**Options for Intervention** – [HB 176](#) (Rollins) would provide more options to the education department and local school councils to intervene in low performing schools. The bill will help the state's application for Race to the Top funds and was signed by the governor this week. Time constraints – the application is due Tuesday – prohibited an amendment that would have added a charter schools provision which could have enhanced the state's application for federal funds.

**Early Graduation** – [SB 67](#) (Winters) would promote early graduation for high school students who fulfill rigorous academic requirements. The bill allows for students to continue on to either a technical and community college or a four-year university with financial aid from the state. This Chamber-supported legislation awaits action by the Senate Education Committee.

## **Government Modernization**

**Unemployment Insurance** - [HB 242](#) (Floyd) requires an employee who received unemployment benefits and was subsequently convicted of embezzling funds to repay the total amount of benefits received to the unemployment insurance trust fund. HB 242 is awaiting action in the House Labor and Industry Committee. Click [here](#) to review the final report of the Governor's Task Force on Unemployment Insurance.

## **Health and Wellness**

**Physical Activity for Kids** – [HB 52](#) (Wuchner) requires schools to integrate into the school day 30 minutes per day or 150 minutes per week of vigorous physical activity in order to reduce childhood obesity. This legislation awaits action in the House Education Committee

**Wellness Program Protections** – [HB 165](#) (Damron) is Chamber-initiated legislation to allow employers to charge a different premium on health care plans for smokers and exempt wellness plans with smoking cessation programs from discrimination statutes. This bill awaits action in the House Banking and Insurance Committee.

