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2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Kerri Kruse

APRIL 20TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

2023 Dexter CTA Retirement Tea Featuring Kerri Kruse

The Dexter CTA held their Annual Retirement Tea at the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Kerri Kruse graduated from the University of Missouri - Columbia with a Bachelor of Special Education K-12 in 1993 with certifications in MR, BD, and LD.

She also earned her Masters of Education from Southwest Baptist University in 1999.

She began teaching at Gracemore Elementary in Northern Kansas City for two years from 1994-1996.

Mrs. Kruse then returned to Dexter where she has worked at T.S. Hill Middle School, Southwest Elementary, Central Elementary and back to Southwest. She has also served as Varsity Basketball Cheer Coach from 2016 - 2022.

Mrs. Kruse is retiring with 27 of her 29 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Dexter Public School District.

Congratulations Kerri Kruse!

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The Dexter CTA held their Annual Retirement Tea at the Bearcat Event Center on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

Mrs. Tammy Freeman became the Dexter High School secretary on August 12, 2003.

She will retire at the end of June with over 20 years of dedicated and faithful service to the Dexter Public School District.

Congratulations Mrs. Freeman.

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2023 Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board

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[2023 Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board](#)

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce Board from left Vice President Janis Traugher, Board Member Dee Loflin, Board Member Zach Pounds, Secretary/Treasurer Karen Griffin and President Amy Haas.

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Las Brisas Named Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

MARCH 30TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Las Brisas Named Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Boathouse Wine Company.

Las Brisas opened its Bloomfield location in 2018. This was their 10th restaurant to open. This November they will celebrate 19 years of being in the restaurant business.

The Chamber and its members are so incredibly proud to have them in our community and we are thankful for all of our local citizens who support them.

The founding of Las Brisas has been a real embodiment of the American Dream and the entire Marquez family is incredibly grateful.

They were able to stay open during much of the Covid-19 pandemic utilizing their drive thru and keeping their employees working.

They have been a huge supporter of several Chamber Banquet events and have supported the Halloween Trunk or Treat event.

And they have given back to the community by supplying all of the Bloomfield school teachers with gift cards.

Their goal in the beginning was to provide us with delicious food and great service and they have accomplished that. They have crafted a place where one can come and enjoy eating with family. I believe it's a great place to feel at home. The food is delicious and the service is excellent.

The Bloomfield Chamber would like to recognize Gustavo Marquez, owner of Las Brisas, his family, and manager, Mr. Cesar Marquez by honoring Las Brisas with the Bloomfield Chamber Business of the Year Award.

Photo provided

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Peter Coutavas Named Bloomfield Chamber Man of the Year

MARCH 30TH 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

Peter Coutavas Named Bloomfield Chamber Man of the Year

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Boathouse Wine Company.

This “young” man is originally from New York, but he married a southeast Missouri gal named Maryann and ended up in Puxico, Missouri.

He recently became the Administrator of the IDA - Industrial Development Authority of Stoddard County in 2021. However he has served on the board for nearly 19 years. His main function is to create jobs, promote industry and promote tourism.

The IDA of Stoddard County office is located in Bloomfield on the Courthouse Square.

He was the former mayor of Puxico and currently serves as a city alderman. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force and is a member of the Dexter Elks Lodge. He also attends Chapel on the Hill Church.

You might think why is a Puxico man receiving a Bloomfield award. Well his latest endeavor has been working with the Chamber through the IDA in filling the empty buildings in downtown Bloomfield. He attends many Commissioner meetings and is always putting in effort to “rent out” the buildings that belong to the county so downtown Bloomfield will hopefully thrive again.

He also attends most every Chamber event and ribbon cutting and he has assisted with financial funding to many of the businesses in Bloomfield utilizing IDA monies. He is a huge supporter of Bloomfield and we are thankful for his endeavors in helping Bloomfield thrive.

The Bloomfield Chamber would like to recognize and honor Peter Coutavas with the Man of the Year Award.

Photo provided.

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