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# Bloomfield Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins'

APRIL 16TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Bloomfield Chamber Holds Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins'

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce held a Ribbon Cutting for Country Pickins Flea Market in Bloomfield.

Located in the heart of our city, the Bloomfield flea market is a haven for collectors, bargain hunters, and anyone who appreciates the charm of the old and unique. Unlike traditional retail stores, every item here has a story to tell. From vintage clothing and antique furniture to handcrafted jewelry and rare books, there's always something new to discover.

Country Pickins Flea Market is a unique Flea Market offering clients a wide selection of quality products at great prices!

“We value our good relationship with our vendors and welcome you to visit us!”

There are four locations currently - Bloomfield, Poplar Bluff, Sikeston, and Doniphan.

Hours at the Bloomfield Location are Wednesday through Saturday 10 - 6, Sunday Noon - 6 and Monday 10 - 6. Closed on Tuesdays.

On May 3rd at 5 p.m. they will have a Sip N' Shop Event!

Follow them on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#).

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## Speaker Set for 18FORE Life Banquet on May 31st, Reserve Your Tickets Now

APRIL 10TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Speaker Set for 18FORE Life Banquet on May 31st, Reserve Your Tickets Now](#)

"We have an incredible lineup for this year's 18Fore Life banquet," commented Scott Kruse. "Your support has never been needed more as we pile up up close to 60 names on the waiting list, that's \$60,000 that is needed!"

The 18FORE Life banquet will be held on Friday, May 31st at the Elk's Lodge. Tickets are \$30 each so be sure to reserve your tickets now!

Professional Cellist Jenn Cornell will perform prior to dinner at 6:00.

Keynote Entertainer/Speaker will be Mack Dryden. He is a hilarious comedian and cancer survivor. He has even survived an African prison!! That will be an entertaining story.

"This dude is funny and will not only have use in stitches," stated Kruse, "But he will inspire and motivate with his message!"

The Love Offering recipient guest speaker this year will be Cody Fulkerson. He is a Dexter native and cancer survivor and will give his testimony. "If you haven't met Cody, you will be inspired by his determination, courage and faith!" continued Kruse.

Coach Jame Frakes will "Toast to Ben". He was Ben's college baseball coach at Dyersberg State. "Coach Frakes will have a couple of stories from some of Buzz's wilder days in college," Kruse said.

As always SEMO Selfie with Chad and Melanie Calvert will keep the funding with great music, karaoke, and of course the selfie booth. Silent Auction-some amazing autographed prints and other nice items will be available to bid on.

CELEBRATE~GIVE~REMEMBER "We are pushing towards \$4 MILLION in Love Offerings!!!!!!!"

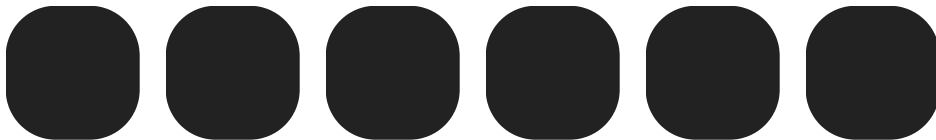
## **CLICK HERE TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET!**

The Ben Kruse 18 FORE Life Charity Golf Event is our staple event and the reason this charity organization was founded. In the fall of 2000, four friends stood around a kitchen late one night-early one morning and discussed the thought of organizing a golf tournament. They acted on the idea and in 2001, the first 18 FORE Life golf tournament took place on June 23rd! The goal of the charity, at the time, was to raise money for The V-Foundation. The group of volunteers quickly stumbled onto the idea of sending love offerings to area families fighting cancer. The immediate response from letters and thank you cards were impactful and proved something special was possible. In 2004, founder Ben Kruse was taken from us in a tragic accident. . The golf weekend is a party full of hugs, handshakes, laughter, smiles, and memories shared. Our tag line is Celebrate | Give | Remember and we are proud to say all of this is accomplished in a big way every first weekend in June as 500 banquet attendees and 386 golfers gather for a guaranteed great time

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# Guethle Named Community Bank President at First Midwest Bank

MARCH 28TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Guethle Named Community Bank President at First Midwest Bank

The Board of Directors of First Midwest Bank announced that Chris Guethle has been named the Community Bank President for the Dexter market.

Guethle has worked for First Midwest for nearly 15 years, specializing in commercial and consumer lending. He will manage the bank's two Dexter locations while continuing to serve the residents of Dexter and the surrounding communities as a lender. Guethle steps into his new role under the mentorship of Jerry Dorton, who will continue as Executive Vice President of the bank group.

"We're very pleased to have Chris transition into a leadership role," said Jerry Dorton. "Being a Dexter native, his commitment to his hometown combined with his experience in banking will be a great asset to our customers and the community."

Chris earned both his bachelor's degree and Master of Business Administration from Missouri State University and graduated with honors from the Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking. He and his wife, Maddie, live in Dexter with their three children. Chris is an active member of First Baptist Church in Dexter, serves on the Southeast Health Foundation Board, and is a proud supporter of the Dexter Bearcats.

Guethle's office is located at First Midwest Bank's main bank location on Business US 60 in Dexter.

First Midwest Bank is a family-owned community bank headquartered in Southeast Missouri. Our belief in serving customers with midwestern values has led to steady local growth, long-standing customer relationships, and the ability to make meaningful investments in the communities we call home. Since its founding in 1964, First Midwest has met the financial needs of consumers and businesses with an extensive suite of banking products and services.

Under the Midwest Bancorporation holding company, the First Midwest Bank group has assets of over \$1.2 billion and operates 19 locations throughout Missouri, including Cape Girardeau, Dexter and Springfield. For more information, visit [www.onemidwest.com](http://www.onemidwest.com). First Midwest Bank is a member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

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## Dexter Chamber 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Greg Mathis

MARCH 22ND 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Dexter Chamber 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Greg Mathis

The Dexter Chamber of Commerce held their annual awards banquet on Friday, March 22, 2024. Since the Chamber began 80 years ago, the theme was the 1980s. Members dressed in their best 80s themed clothing and the Elks Lodge was decorated in 80s theme!

Alisha Trammell, Dexter Chamber Executive Director presented the Lifetime Achievement Award.

In the pursuit of a purposeful existence, the objective is not immortality but the creation of something lasting.

Tonight, we pay tribute to an individual whose enduring legacy has compelled the Dexter Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to bestow upon him the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Across his extraordinary journey, this individual has epitomized the highest standards of service, leadership, and philanthropy, embedding himself deeply within our community for several decades.

Operating with understated efficiency, this individual thrives in the shadows, attending to needs without seeking acknowledgment. Beyond the anticipated acts of kindness, such as providing warm shelters for stray cats after spaying and neutering them, his benevolence extends to unexpected moments of compassion.

In 2009, following the aftermath of the ice storm, he personally transported individuals and families to warming centers, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to our community.

Similarly, in 2021, when a tornado struck, he once again purchased and distributed sandwiches to those tirelessly engaged in cleanup efforts.

In his earlier years, he dedicated fifteen years to coaching little league baseball and donated his time as the voice of the Dexter Bearcats for over a decade. His active participation in the Dexter Lions Club for more than two decades culminated in being honored as Lion of the Year.

Serving on the Chamber Board of Directors and as a past president, he was duly recognized as Dexter's Man of the Year.

Anyone, make any guesses as to who we are honoring tonight? Let me give you a few more hints.

This individual harbored a deep desire for the Dexter community to have an informal gathering to inaugurate the Christmas Season.

In 2009, he took the initiative to organize the inaugural Dexter Christmas Reading, an event that has since become an annual tradition, uniting hundreds of citizens around fire pits, Christmas carols, and the story of Jesus' birth.

A passionate advocate for our local hospital, he dedicated a decade of service to the Mercy Stoddard Regional Board of Directors.

His contributions, spanning decades, have undeniably left a permanent mark on every facet of our community.

What truly distinguishes this individual is not merely the extensive list of his accomplishments but the profound impact he has had on countless lives. However, the most extraordinary element of tonight's presentation lies in the element of surprise.

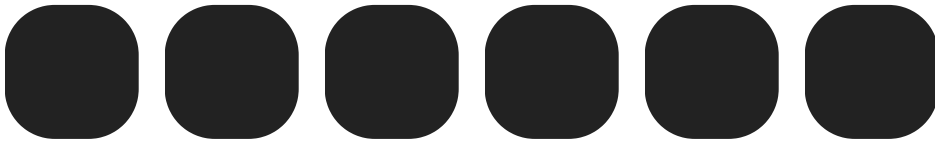
Had he been notified in advance, he undoubtedly would have attempted to redirect the award to someone else, showcasing the selflessness that characterizes this extraordinary man.

With deep gratitude and profound admiration, it is my esteemed honor to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to none other than Mr. Greg Mathis.

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## Dexter Chamber 2023 Citizen of the Year - Ashley Miller

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Lisa Baker, Chamber Director presented Citizen of the Year.

The Citizen of the Year award is not merely a recognition of an individual's accomplishments, but a jubilation of the profound impact one person can wield on a community.

This year's recipient exemplifies the values of dedication, compassion, and service to others that form the very essence of our town.

Through unyielding efforts and an unwavering commitment, Ashley Miller has left a deep-seeded mark on the lives of numerous individuals, creating a lasting positive change in our community.

Her actions consistently go above and beyond, demonstrating a willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure the well-being of our area. With an ever-watchful eye, she seeks out where she is needed and dives in to offer assistance.

In her role as the owner and operator of Jacksons Florist & Gifts, Ashley has been a beacon of light during families' darkest days and a source of additional joy during celebratory occasions, such as weddings and school dances.

Her legacy is destined to transcend generations, particularly through her son, Levi, who has begun to contribute alongside his mother.

Since 2010, Ashley has played a pivotal role in the Historic Downtown Dexter Association, faithfully serving as its President for the past six years.

Her volunteerism spans countless hours dedicated to long-standing community events like Fall Fest, Moonlight Madness, and The Christmas Tree Lighting. These events aim to draw people to our community and encourage residents to support local businesses.

In honoring Ashley today, we also pay tribute to the spirit of community that unites us.

It serves as a moving reminder that each of us possesses the power to shape the world around us.

It is with profound honor that I present the 2023 Citizen of the Year award to none other than Ashley Miller.

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