

Mexico trip expands Chamber ties

The bond between Springfield and its sister city of Tlaquepaque, Mexico, became even stronger last month.

A delegation of 10 representing the Chamber and the Springfield Sister Cities Association were on hand March 14 as Tlaquepaque officials dedicated "Springfield Plaza" in recognition of the friendship between the two communities. Chairman of the Board Ann Marie Baker represented Mayor Tom Carlson at the plaza dedication ceremony and expressed Springfield's gratitude for the generous gesture.

The Springfield Chamber contingent also participated in festivities marking the 25th Anniversary of the Tlaquepaque National Chamber of Commerce. The two Chambers signed a cooperation agreement last year to conduct annual exchanges for staff and volunteers, and to match members of both Chambers with business opportunities in the United States and Mexico.

The group met with the new Mayor of Tlaquepaque, José Hernán Cortés Berumen, to learn about his economic development goals for the city.

The Springfield delegation included: Chamber Chairman **Ann Marie Baker**, UMB Bank; Chairman-elect **Doug Pitt**, ServiceWorld Computer Center; Immediate Past Chairman **Mike Briggs**, Willow Brook Foods; Chamber board member **Mike Hoeman**, Springfield R-12 Board of Education; Chamber

President **Jim Anderson**; Executive Vice President **Brad Bodenhausen**; **Joe Jenkins** of Jenkins Diesel Power and Country Road Collection; **Loren Lundstrom** of Ozarks Technical Community College; and

Araceli and **Michael Hanks**, representing the Springfield Sister Cities Association.

Springfield and Tlaquepaque have been Sister Cities since 2003. During the past four years, numerous exchanges in the fields of arts, culture, education, sports and music have already been established. Tlaquepaque is located adjacent to Guadalajara and is renowned for the arts, crafts, handmade goods and home furnishings made there.



Chamber to celebrate small businesses during Small Business Week May 7-12

The Chamber will once again collaborate with other organizations to present programs to celebrate and foster the entrepreneurial spirit that flourishes in our community.

Small Business Week is May 7-12. A full schedule of events will be published in the May edition of the Springfield Spirit.

One highlight of the week is the Chamber's signature event, the W.

Curtis Strube Small Business of the Year award luncheon where the Chamber honors small business achievement in the Springfield area and announces the 2007 Small Business of the Year award recipient. Presenting sponsor of the event is BKD, LLP.

For more information call 862-5567 or go to www.springfield-chamber.com.



SMALL BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR

Award Luncheon

Presenting Sponsor: BKD, LLP

Date: May 9

Time: Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Location: University Plaza

Convention Center

Cost: \$25 per person

Register: 862-5567 or

www.springfieldchamber.com