



January Newsletter

The holidays are over, the trees discarded, decorations put away. What now? We've been fortunate to have not been inundated with snow and inclement weather. This winter won't seem as long as last year. And to make it even better the seed catalogs are coming in the mail! While perusing the catalogs you can almost smell the freshly tilled garden and the warmer temperatures. Get paper and pen, start making a diagram for your garden. Then make plans to visit Alwerdt Gardens as soon as they have their spring plants.

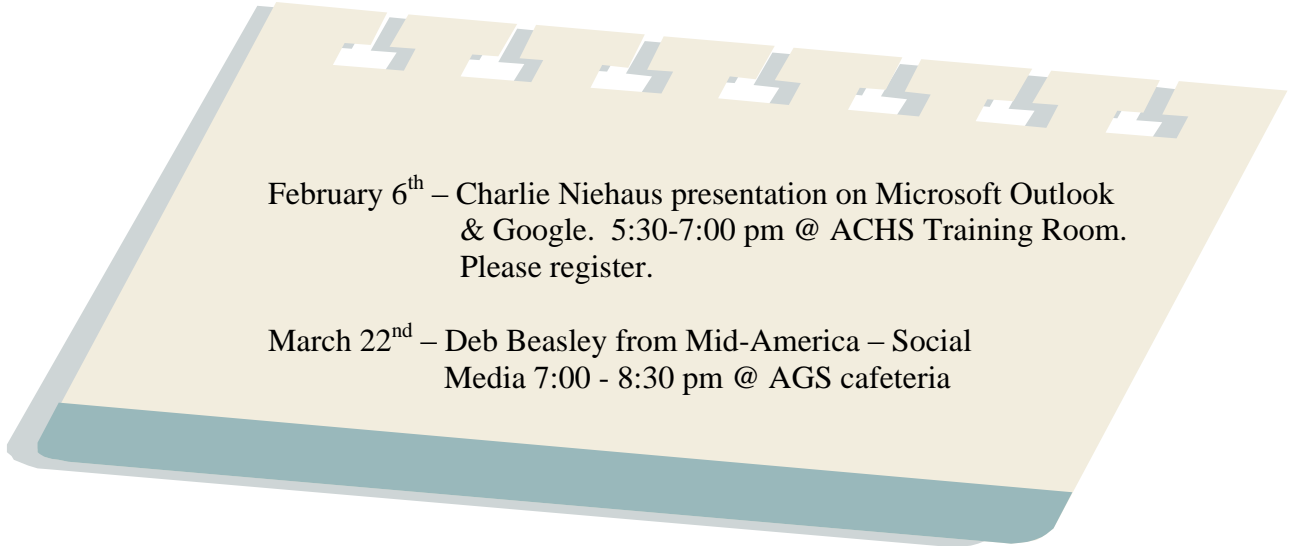
Have Quickbooks and need help but little funds? How about some free and local help?

The [Illinois Small Business Development Center](#) has been given a grant and has hired Kay Pemberton of Altamont to be an Accounting/Office Systems Advisor. Kay says "I am doing QuickBooks support and training as I had previously done, but now I am able to do it for free as well as Small Business startup and growth advising. We have a team of 5 advisors that can help businesses in areas from accounting/financial issues to marketing to growth issues to compliance to financing...even international trade, etc. There has been an advisor in Olney for many years, but they have recently obtained grants to expand their services and I am right here in town if I can be of service."

The Altamont Chamber of Commerce is having Kay Pemberton come to the Municipal Building on January 31st 11:00-12:00 and speak about the ISBDC. This is a free presentation. Everyone is busy and needs to manage their time wisely. So with that goal in mind bring your lunch along and eat and listen. Kay will inform you how she can help your business.

It isn't necessary to register but it would be helpful if you would let the Chamber know you are attending in order to have enough handouts printed (secretary@altamontchamber.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS



did you know?



1887 – The world’s largest known snowflake was 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick. It was found in Fort Keogh, Montana

90% - Fresh snow is made up of mostly trapped air-usually 90 to 95 percent. The rest is ice and the two together make a great insulator for your garden. Plants that are in the ground and covered with snow are more likely to survive than plants with only soil surrounding them.

Cooking spray isn’t useful just for keeping baked goods from sticking to the pan. In winter, spray it on your shovel and the snow slides right off.

Don’t throw out the rinds of oranges, lemons and grapefruits. Dry them and toss a few in your fireplace to add a spicy fragrance to your next fire.





Winter Bird Tips



- Not all birds go south for the winter. Chickadees, nuthatches, brown creepers, jays and woodpeckers all love peanut pieces. Add some to your seed mix or hang a special peanut feeder to attract extra attention.
- High fat, high-calorie suet is the perfect food to help birds get through longer nights and colder temps. Don't be afraid to place them right outside your window for prime viewing.
- Put out a seed block, making sure its heavy on high fat sunflower and nuts that birds love. Avoid seed balls with mostly millet and milo. Thistle is a winter must.

Still needing businesses willing to host after hours events.

Please contact the Chamber to schedule a time.

Secretary@altamontchamber.com



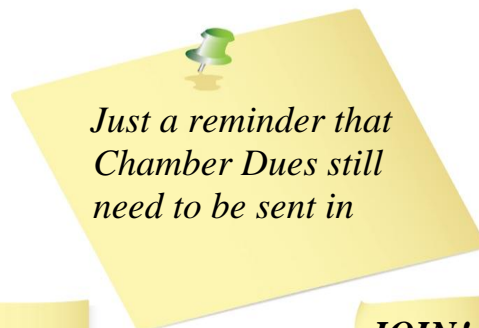
- Just in case you can't get out due to bad weather and have to keep the kids busy here's an easy idea.

Play Dough

Mix together 1 cup each of salt and water with 2 cups of flour.
Add more flour as needed for good consistency.

Divide into six balls; mix food coloring thoroughly into each.
Place in clean recycled jars, paint lids to match and add labels.

Refrigerated dough will keep for several weeks.



PO Box 141



JOIN!