



2010



# Pigeon Chamber of Commerce



Member Newsletter

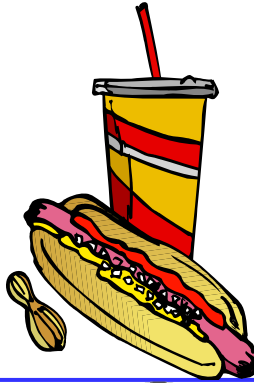
P.O. Box 618 Pigeon MI 48755 989-453-7400 [pgncofc@avci.net](mailto:pgncofc@avci.net)

## Hot Dog/Brat BBQ

Fundraiser Thursday, June 17th

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

At the Pigeon office of Bay Port State Bank. Proceeds benefit activities for the 2010 Pigeon Farmers' Festival. Delivery within 4 miles of Pigeon is available (min. order of \$15) Call 453-2225.



## Your Chamber Board

President :

June Schweitzer, Heaven's Little Angels

Vice President & Secretary:

Jodi Hurren, Northstar Bank

Treasurer:

Megan Romzek, Nietzke & Faupel, PC

Administrative Assistant, Tamara Gnagey

Members:

Brandis Mallais, Thumb National Bank

Karen Phillips, Bay Port State Bank

Kelli Braun, Scheurer Healthcare Network

Patrick Deer, Pigeon Chiropractic

Penny St. Cyr, State Farm Insurance



## 2010 Farmers' Festival

### T-shirts & Buttons



Farmers' Festival T-shirts are here!

Make sure you buy yours early, and get one for the whole family! You can purchase them at Amy's, Diamond Blue, Harjo's Ben Franklin, Lindas' Basket Case, Northstar Bank, Orr's Drug Store, Pigeon Dental, Pigeon Food Pride, Pigeon Hardware, Thumb National Bank, Scheurer Family Pharmacy & Village Qwik Stop. Buttons are also available at Shaggy J's Eatery & Pub but not at Pigeon Food Pride.

**Shirts: Childs \$10.00 Adults \$12.00 Buttons: \$2.00**

## Farmers' Festival Queen

It is time once again to be thinking of that special girl you want to have represent your business.

Give a teenage girl a chance to win a \$1,000.00 or a 2nd or 3rd place scholarship.



Being a Farmers' Festival Queen helps to build character and it is one more quality attribute they can add to their resume. See application and information on the Chamber of Commerce website.

## Other Information on Website for Farmers' Festival

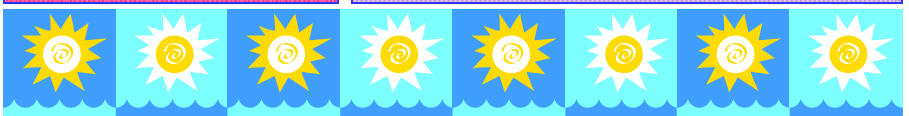
- Mud Volleyball Application
- Kickball Tournament Applications
- Money Drop Information
- Car Show Information

**WEB SITE: Remember to check our website for the Chamber & Farmers' Festival minutes at [pigeonchamber.com](http://pigeonchamber.com)**

## Upcoming Events

June 17	BBQ—Farmers' Fest. Fundraiser
July 21—25	Farmers' Festival
Sept. TBD	Customer Appreciation
October 7	Fall Harvest Celebration
October 31	Goblin Insurance 9:00 am—12:00 pm
November 6	Holly Day Open House
November 26	Christmas Town Lighting/Carriage Rides
November 27	Bean Soup/Carr. Rides
December 4	Lunch w/ Santa Secret Shopper 11:00 am

**Community Garden** sponsored by Pigeon Area Women's Club soon to be planted. For more information call Peg Hartman, 453-3714. Email address [peghartman@comcast.net](mailto:peghartman@comcast.net)



## KinderJam: Learning and fun for youngsters and their parents

By Dave Vizard

Olivia Delmotte is only 19 months old, but the toddler is fully aware of KinderJam.

"It's very surprising," said her mother, Amber Delmotte, of Pigeon. "Every Wednesday, I tell Olivia that today is music day, and she says, 'O-o-o-h, Miss Ami!' She looks forward to the classes, and so do I."

Miss Ami would be Ami Park and the classes that the educator teaches are part of KinderJam, a music and activity program that emphasizes the kinesthetic learning of pre-school skills and concepts.

Park, a native of the area, brought a KinderJam franchise to Pigeon earlier this year. The Laker High School graduate not only bought the franchise, but she also bought into the KinderJam concept.

"There's always some risk involved when you buy a franchise and launch a business," said Park, a new Pigeon Chamber of Commerce member. "But I really believe in KinderJam and I think it's perfect for Pigeon. In this day and age, parents want to give their children a head start going into school. There's nothing else quite like it in the area."

That's exactly what Delmotte had in mind when she and her husband, Scott, started looking for a fun educational program for their daughter.

"Not only is Olivia getting an introduction to the basics of learning, but the socialization skills she's picking up are really important," said Delmotte, who is an administrative assistant at Scheurer Healthcare Network. "She was a little shy at first but warmed right up to it."

KinderJam classes are conducted by Park each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Pigeon District Library. The 45-minute sessions cost \$40 per month (with a one-time \$10 registration fee). Park said the first class is free and she also offers a sibling discount.

The classes are designed for children aged 1 to 5 and focus on reinforcing basic preschool skills. For example, children learn to do an A-B-C Cheer and participate in singing an alphabet song. They learn to "celebrate our numbers" by practicing counting to 10, tracing the numerals on giant cards and using counting mats.

During the action-packed sessions, students take an imaginary field trip to the zoo "where they don't just look at the animals, but actually pretend they become one."

Parents join in the activities, participating in music, dance, stretching and team-work activities. Most casual observers of the classes would have a hard time determining who has more fun during KinderJam sessions - the parents or their offspring.

"Learning should be fun," said Park, who is a teacher by trade with plenty of training and experience. The former Ami Rathje has a bachelor's degree in Special Education, a master's degree in Reading Improvement from Central Michigan University, and 15 years experience in the classroom. She also has twin 2-year-olds, Linka and Wynn.

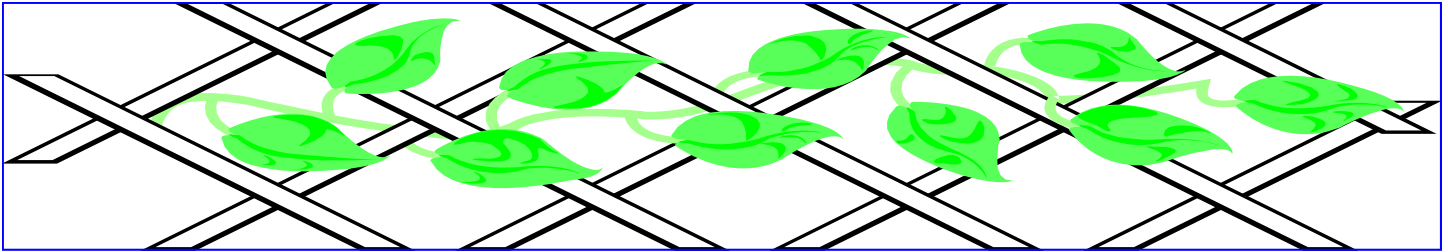
KinderJam was created and developed by an educator who is a military spouse. That's how Park, who is married to Lt. Aaron Park, a career Naval officer, was introduced to KinderJam.

"My husband is stationed in Djibouti, Africa, and I've been back in Pigeon for four months with our twins," she said. "We're awaiting new orders in about eight months, but I'm hoping that my business goes well and that someone will take it over when we leave."

About eight youngsters and their parents participate in the morning and evening sessions of KinderJam in Pigeon. Park said she is licensed for up to 20 pre-schoolers.

"I can also conduct classes at day care centers, birthday parties, community centers or other special events," she said. "Learning can take place almost anywhere, or at any time of the day."





As a new member of the Pigeon Chamber of Commerce, Dave Vizard volunteered to lend a hand wherever it might be needed.

Before Vizard could lower his hand from volunteering, he'd been recruited to use both hands and his noggin while helping with the Chamber of Commerce newsletter. The article today on KinderJam and its owner, Ami Park, is Vizard's first feature story for the Chamber newsletter. If you would like to be the subject of a future article in the newsletter, contact Tammy Gnagey at the Chamber office.

Vizard, who recently left his position as general manager of Seasons Change Home Health Care in Pigeon to form his own communications company to serve the Thumb of Michigan, is the former editor of True North Magazine and the News Editor of the Bay City Times. He was also a popular columnist for The Times for more than five years. Vizard can be reached at (989) 553-4804 or [vizard@avci.net](mailto:vizard@avci.net)

