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Joint Chamber Event Held at Historic Fitzpatrick House

Mixing hospitality and history, the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) recently hosted a special Business After Hours for three local Chambers of Commerce recently gathered for a unique networking event. Presently the "home" of the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), the historic Fitzpatrick House at Lewis University was the site of the Crest Hill, Lockport and Romeoville Joint Chamber Business After Hours held on Tuesday, March 19, in Romeoville.

Approximately 30 members were in attendance, and enjoyed the opportunity to combine conversation, commerce and culture. Attendees were treated to an evening of refreshments, as well as tours of the Fitzpatrick House, and its History Center. The current exhibit features photos of the Illinois & Michigan Canal as it progresses from southern Cook County to LaSalle County. Also on site is a recently-installed Route 66 Kiosk, featuring iconic places located along The Mother Road as a guide for local, regional, national and international visitors.

"Tourism is a powerful force, and has had a positive impact on all of our Corridor communities," according to Heritage Corridor CVB President/CEO, Bob Navarro. The CVB issues an annual Economic Impact Report, which consistently shows how popular the 94-mile Corridor is with staycationers, as well as regional, national and international travelers. Tourism is a source of employment and tax revenue for local towns, and local businesses benefit from those tourists, according to Navarro.

Tallgrass, an award-winning restaurant in historic downtown Lockport, donated a gift certificate for the door prize. Prize winner Vi Rank, of VR Agency, and a member of the Lockport Chamber of Commerce, was the lucky winner. Rank fielded many offers from prospective dinner guests who were eager to join her for an upcoming birthday dinner, marking her first trip to the culinary crown jewel along the Corridor.

The I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau promotes economic development and tourism along the counties and communities within the 94-mile historic Illinois and Michigan Canal. For information on this historic Fitzpatrick House at Lewis University, the new Route 66 Kiosk, CVB members, trip ideas and special events for all ages and interests, go to http://www.heritagecorridorcvb.com, or call 800.926.CANAL.

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