



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 9, 2009**

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***Barry County Chamber of Commerce & Barry County Economic Development Alliance  
bolster services with new Program and Membership Development Manger***

In an effort to expand resources to better serve local businesses the Barry County Chamber of Commerce and the Barry County Economic Development Alliance welcomes André Wiegand to their staff. Wiegand's title is Program and Membership Development Manager and in addition to building Chamber membership he will focus on developing and implementing programs supporting Barry County businesses. "I look forward to assisting the Chamber and the Alliance in accomplishing their goals and to developing and implementing new programs that will bolster business development and growth." said Wiegand.

Wiegand will work alongside President Valerie Byrnes to support several existing programs and services including entrepreneurial initiatives such as The Biz! business resource center, SCORE business counseling services and strengthening a buy local business philosophy. Wiegand will remain active with the countywide Tourism Council and continue his participation as a member of the Hastings Rotary Club.

Wiegand joins the county's business and economic development agencies after serving as the Executive Director of the county's arts and culture advocate, the Thornapple Arts Council (TAC). He looks to continue his countywide scope that served well at the arts council. "At the TAC I was always looking for ways to reach the entire county. We (TAC) expanded the Jazz Festival (to Delton and Middleville), the Arts Hop series (to Gun Lake and Delton) and recruited board members countywide. All of our communities have much to offer. I'm looking forward to working with them to promote their businesses. In the long run this will bring success for the entire county."

To go along with his new job, Wiegand and his wife Joy welcomed a new love into their life, newborn baby Lance Niven. "Joy and I absolutely love being parents. Having Lance inspires me to work for a better tomorrow for our county's next generation."

To learn about the business services offered at the Barry County Chamber of Commerce and the Barry County Economic Development Alliance please call 269-945-2454 or visit [www.barrychamber.com](http://www.barrychamber.com).

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