Every day in the news, we hear news anchors and talk show hosts tout about the nation’s Monetary policies. But did you know that the nation’s Federal Reserve Banking system is greatly responsible for its formulation and execution?

Last Thursday, we had a wonderful opportunity to visit our very own Federal Reserve Bank located downtown on Main St. in KCMO. We had Chuck Morris talk to us and really explain what the FRB does, and how things are going in our nation today.

The Federal Reserve maintains a safe, stable financial system. They do this by maintaining a payment system, by regulating banks, and by conducting the monetary policies of the bank.

He told us that the goals of the monetary policy are to stabilize prices, monitor long term interest rates, and to maximize employment. He stated that inflation is the ultimate tax on money. And adding money by printing more money to the economy actually drives prices down. And increasing interest rates slows down the economy, while lower interest rates usually boosts the economy.

There are 12 Reserve banks across the country, mostly in the east. At the time there were less people in the western states, and that is why fewer banks exist there. Missouri is the only state that has two FRBs.

The US is still recovering from the worst recession since WW II. There is still high unemployment (7.9%). And housing prices are 30% less now than they were just a few years ago.

In order to grow our economy, we need to get people to spend, and get companies to produce and grow.

And when asked why the housing market has effected the economy so, it is not because of home prices, but all the other items not being bought because homes....
Airey, Doug  
Allen, Dick  
Ashurst, Amy & Chase  
Beckner, Pat  
Bell, Pickering, Wolverton, Morgan, Williamson  
Bell, Jim  
Phar, Mellott, Airey, Steiniger,  
Bovard, Zach  
Cunningham, Rick  
Darby, Mike  
Ashurst, Eidson, Felton, foster, Hutchison, Giordano, Hardin, Kessinger, Page, Coach Jen,  
Steiniger, York  
Dayal, Vivek  
Douglas, Kyle  
Ashurst, York, Eidson, Goodheart, Hawkins, Wolverton  
Eidson, Ken  
Emerson, Bill  
Felton, Sean  
Foster, Rod  
Hawkins, Darrell, Heriford, Phar, Giordano, Bell  
Giordano, Phil  
Foster, Mellott, Darby  
Goodheart, Alan  
Allen, Eidson, Mortko, Sirna, Janet & Rich Coleman, Wolverton, York  
Hardin, Das  
Hawkins, Darryl  
Mellott  
Heriford, Alan  
Allen, The Ashurst’s, Foster, Holk, Mellott, Morgan, Mortko, Oettmeier, Phar, Pickering, Shelton, Sirna, Steiniger, York  
Holk, Dan  
Hutchison, Ed  
Darby, Eidson  
Kessinger, Sandy  
Pickering, Darby, Felton, York, Sirna  
Knapp, Bruce  
Ladegaard, Arlene  
Mellott, Mike  
O’Bryan  
Morgan, Jeff  
Mortko, Sheri  
O’Bryan, Cliff  
Oettmeier, Bert  
Page, Brad  
Phar, Matt  
Picking, Chris  
Kessinger, Beckner, Hardin, Steiniger, Williamson, Dayal, Spencer, Douglas, Airey, Ashurst,  
Bell, Heriford  
Rapp, Bryan  
Wilkinson, Bell, Ashurst, Holk  
Shelton, Jennifer  
Steiniger, Wolverton, Goodheart, Douglas, Coach Jen, York, Dayal, Kessinger, Page, Heriford  
Sirna, Rich  
Steiniger, Wolverton, Giordano, Beckner  
Spencer, Neil  
Pickering, Wilkinson, Giordano, Beckner  
Steiniger, Keith  
Coach Jen, Wolverton, Bovard, Bell, Darby, Heriford, Eidson, York, Ashurst, Mortko, Linda  
Adams  
Stone, Janet  
Wilkinson, Sirna, Goodheart, Williamson  
Turner, Kevin  
Steiniger, York, Giordano, Mellott  
Wilkinson, Ann  
Stone, Williamson, Page, Shelton  
Williamson, Beverley  
Picking, Stone, Foster, Rapp, Spencer, York  
Wolverton, Rick  
Steiniger, York, Giordano, Mellott  
York, Kevin  
Bovard, Phar, Morgan, Wolverton, Steiniger, Darby, Giordano, Page

Guests:

SPECIAL NOTE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS FEB. 21
AFTER THE FACT AT BEVERLY WILLIAMSON’S DOCINK

(from Page 1)... are not being build the same they were just 3 to 4 years ago. Mr. Morris expects to have some moderate growth in the economy this year. He says that the economy is recovering, but it is taking longer than expected. Mr. Morris added that interest rates are at historically low levels and plan on staying there until at least 2015. He says the economy will continue to recover, as the employment rate will gradually decline, and inflation will continue to remain below long term objectives.

Then we took a tour of the facility (or as much of the facility as was allowed). We saw coins dating back to Civil War era to today, counterfeit bills, $10 million bucks, a pure gold bar. Then we headed to the cash counting room, where several people sorted and verified deposits being sent from banks to the FRB. So cool to see millions of dollars moving around and into the 3 story vault. So, you should thank Kevin York for making arrangements to see an amazing part of Kansas City’s business world. Check out the pics on page 3.