



William Kincaid/The Daily Standard

Bob Thompson, a Rockford Chamber of Commerce representative and branch manager of the Peoples Bank Co., Rockford, passes out chamber information to Mike Bruns, proprietor of M. Bruns Plumbing, HVAC, & Electric, Rockford. The chamber held its fourth annual Rockford Business Expo on Saturday at the Rockford Community Building at Shanes Park.

## 32 local businesses set up at Rockford Business Expo

By WILLIAM KINCAID  
wkincaid@dailystandard.com

ROCKFORD — Visitors from a 50-mile radius, including Muncie, Ind., Coldwater and Van Wert, came to the Rockford Business Expo on Saturday at the Rockford Community Building to talk with representatives from 32 local businesses.

"A lot of people don't realize how many businesses there are in the local area," Rockford Chamber of Commerce representative Bob Thompson said.

Thompson, branch manager of the Peoples Bank Co., Rockford, said both local and outside people came to the Expo either out of curiosity or to make direct contacts for business.

During the fourth annual event, business representatives gave demonstrations or presentations, while attendants collected information at various stands.

Also on Saturday, the Rockford Fire Department held its pancake breakfast at the firehouse,

which Thompson said also was well attended.

Thompson updated The Daily Standard about the economic development going on in Rockford. The Rockford Area Development Corporation is trying to keep the village swimming pool open this year, as council has talked about closing it due to high maintenance costs, Thompson said.

Thompson said the corporation is seeking funding to either fix the current pool, a 37-year-old structure with a decrepit tile system, or build a new one. He said as of now, there is a slim chance the pool would open this summer.

Village Administrator Jeff Long has said the pool needs \$25,000 in repairs.

In other news, Thompson said there has been interest in the recently annexed 75 acres located on Rockford West Road. The land is open for both commercial and industrial use. He said there has been interest from both commercial and residential developers, but he did not provide specific information.