

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE -
ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT IN
SALLISAW!



Sallisaw Chamber of
Commerce

Judy Martens, Exec. V. P.

DECEMBER 2007 ISSUE

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

December Character Trait:

Thriftiness – Allowing myself and others to spend only what is necessary.

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SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.

The Annual Christmas Parade for Sallisaw was held on Saturday, December 1st at 6:00 p.m. With the weather questionable all week long, everyone was relieved when the temperatures hovered around 60 and no wind to speak of for the entire parade evening. Over 40 entries lined up and paraded down Cherokee Street before a huge crowd of onlookers. As has been done in the past several years, cash prizes were given to the top three entries in the categories of schools, non-profits, and businesses. These prizes are made possible by generous Chamber members. This year we sincerely thank the following members for sponsoring our parade: **Cherokee Casino, BHC Insurance, Carson Plumbing, Aviagen, Clif's Pharmacy, Basin Oil & Transport, and the Sequoyah County Times.** Our congratulations go to the following groups and businesses on being our parade winners this year: 1st Place Schools - **Indian Capital Technology Center**, 2nd Place – **Boys & Girls Club of Sallisaw**, 3rd Place – **Boy Scouts of America**. 1st Place Business – **Wild Horse Mtn. BBQ**, 2nd Place – **Armstrong Bank**, 3rd Place – **Cherokee Nation**. 1st Place Non-Profit – **Akins Baptist Church**, 2nd Place – **Calvary Temple**, 3rd Place – **Price's Chapel**. Along with thanking our sponsors, we must not forget the great Chamber members who gave of their time to efficiently line-up the entries. **Marley Abell, Gary Schaefer and Larry Randolph**, we appreciate you guys! Also, what would a parade be without music? Our sincere thanks to **Chad Jasna**

and **Darren Stites** for each year blessing us with great Christmas music for not only the parade but the Annual Christmas Lighting. These guys are true friends of the Chamber of Commerce and we appreciate them very much.

Annual Merchant's Open House a Success

On Sunday, November 18th the Chamber of Commerce and the Sequoyah County Times sponsored the Annual Merchant's Open House. Once again, this event proved to be a success for many of our merchants. Adding the gift basket giveaway several years ago seemed to increase the number of shoppers out and about that day. The Chamber was able to secure enough items from participating merchants to fill five gift baskets making them worth over \$250. The day proved even nicer as many of the specialty shops were offering a percentage off on some or all items or were running specials on holiday items. The Chamber Office was quite busy with shoppers coming in to sample goodies and pick up a list of businesses that were open for the day. One more nice touch for the day was the horse drawn carriage rides provided by **Larry and Mary Lynn Lufkin**. Our congratulations to the following ladies who were fortunate enough to win the gift baskets: Jean Calhoun, Trish Peery, Linda Ford, Ethel McGowan and Missy Dahlem. All in all, it would appear that once again the Merchants Open House was a tremendous success for everyone involved. Our sincere thanks goes to all the merchants who made the event possible.

State Chamber Enlightens Crowd

Danna Fowble, Vice-President of the State Chamber Federation and Grassroots Development Dept., and Jim Mason, Vice-President of the State Chamber's Technology Initiatives educated the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce members on the value of being a member of The State Chamber. Danna explained that the State Chamber is trying to do a better job of educating rural Oklahoma communities on how important their membership in the organization really is. By being a member, rural communities can stay abreast of how their local legislators are voting on issue important to businesses, both large and small. Many of the recent bills passed that are pro-business affect the labor market not only in the metropolitan areas of Oklahoma but the rural job market also. The State Chamber also acts as a 'sounding board' for the local Chamber and an educational tool to help small chambers of commerce increase their membership and visibility. Jim Mason explained how legislation

begins through the introduction of bills to the legislators. He explained that there will be many proposed bills this coming year that will affect how we do business in Oklahoma and what issues The State Chamber will address and lobby for in 2008. Some of the main issues will be water, lawsuit reform, workforce development, education and eminent domain. The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce has in the past been an active member of The State Chamber. Danna Fowble also explained that she and her staff plan to do more "on site" presentations to rural Oklahoma Chambers of Commerce.

December Chamber Meeting Full of Fun!

The December meeting of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce will be full of fun as we are entertained by the Tommy Spears Middle School Choir. They will be bringing to us lots of wonderful Christmas music that will put even the grumpiest grouch in the Christmas spirit! Lunch will be a special treat catered by Alta Matthews of Sammy's Taco Ranch.

You won't want to miss this great meeting as we will also give away several wonderful table decorations and door prizes. The fun begins on Wednesday, December 12th, 12:00 noon at the First United Methodist Church. Lunch will cost \$7, each. Make plans to attend this great holiday event!

Chamber Plans Annual Banquet

Plans are already in the works for the Annual Awards Banquet of the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce which will be held on Saturday, February 9th. This year's banquet will once again be held at Choctaw Blue Ribbon Downs in their banquet hall. We are please to announce that our keynote speaker will be U.S. Congressman, Dan Boren. We feel sure that Dan will be greeted with a huge, welcoming crowd of Sequoyah County residents! The theme of the banquet will be "Celebration in the Heartland" and feature red and white decorations. Once again, there will be the social time from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the banquet starting promptly at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend this fun evening. Celebrate Valentines Day by bringing your sweetie to the banquet!

New Chamber Board Members Elected

In the recent election of the 2008 Chamber of Commerce Board Members, **Marley Abell**, Edward Jones Investments, **Kasey Moran**, TRAC, Inc., **Jeff Allred**, Journey Church and **Dale Wood**, Armstrong Bank were chosen to represent you, the Chamber member for a 3 year term. We are excited about this slate of board members as three of the four have never served. The complete list of candidates was sent to all Chamber members for their vote. All eight original candidates were extremely good candidates and therefore the vote was very close between them all. We embrace new, young members who bring fresh ideas to the Chamber.

Executive Board – 2007

President – Matt Caldwell, NBS
President Elect – Debbie Edgmon, BorgWarner Morse TEC
Treasurer – Terry Nation, Armstrong Bank
Past President – Cheryl Mills, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative

Board Members – 2007

Gary Schaefer – BHC Insurance
Larry Randolph – Charlie's Chicken
Buddy Spencer – President, SIC-Blue Ribbon Auto
Ronda Vinson – ARVEST Bank
Dwight Spencer – Blue Ribbon Auto Group
Terry Nation – Armstrong Bank
Darlene Pearson – First National Bank
Buddy Holt – Red Bird Smith Health Services
Bill Baker – City Manager, City of Sallisaw
Shannon Vann – Mayor, State Farm Insurance
Ron Wyrick – Superintendent, Sallisaw Public Schools
Jayne Hadley – McDonald's **Holly Martens** – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
Dr. Bob Wells, DDS – Family Dentistry
Judy Martens – Executive Vice-President
Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

Community News

Shop Sallisaw in full Swing!

The Shop Sallisaw Campaign for 2007 is in full swing as we speak! Below is a full list of the participating merchants. Each time you shop, dine or do a transaction be **sure to ask for your blue ticket!** Your ticket could be a winner! On Saturday, December 15th at 11:00 a.m. on the Library lawn we will draw winning tickets for CASH!! You could win one of five cash prizes if you have the lucky ticket in your possession. Visit these merchants and participate: **ABC Cleaners, Armstrong Bank, Aroma's, Arvest Bank, Blue Ribbon Auto Group, Brown's Tire Center, Charlie's Chicken, Clif's Pharmacy, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Cox's Corner, Factory Connection, Fillin' Station, 1st National Bank, Maria's, Mazzio's, Mobile MD, Mr. Jiff, National Bank, Ole' South, Sallisaw Ford, Sallisaw Lumber, True Value Hardware, Sammy's Taco Ranch, Sequoyah County Times, Sharpe's, Simple Simon's, Sonic, Sudden Link, Wal-Mart and Western Sizzlin'.** Let's keep Sallisaw dollars in Sallisaw by supporting this campaign.

Angel Tree Names Available

If you haven't done so, please call the Chamber of Commerce at 775-2558 and get an Angel Tree Name. We want to ensure that all children in Sequoyah County have a wonderful Christmas. Last year, Chamber of Commerce members took care of the needs of over 40

kids. This year, according to Mary Lynn Lufkin of Catholic Charities, they have 100 more children to provide for over last years number. The Angels are due back at the Chamber Office by Monday, December 17th. Please attach the angel to the outside of the wrapped present, return it to us and we'll do the rest! Again, if you haven't already gotten a name from us or your church, please do so. You will be blessed for your generosity!

February Chamber Meeting Combines with Character Council

If you serve on the Character First Council and thought we've forgotten you, do not fret! No, we have not disbanded or left you out! We've only taken a short break because of so many school, community and Chamber activities. For the February Chamber Membership Meeting we will be combining the efforts of both groups to bring Tad Bohlen from Baker-Hughes Oil Company, Centrilift Operation to Sallisaw. Tad is the General Plant Manager for the company's Claremore location. He is the supervisor for over 1000 employees and runs the company under the premise of the Character First! Program. All Character Council Members, Chamber of Commerce Members and other business owners/managers are encouraged to attend this great meeting. The date to mark on your calendar will be Wednesday, February 27th with the location TBA. In other Character Council news, we have been able to distribute the water bottles with many of the character traits listed on them, at several Chamber functions and during the Homecoming Parade in October. We will resume our regular meeting after Tad Bohlen presents to us in February.

**HERE WE GROW AGAIN!
NEW MEMBERS FOR:
October & November**

**HELP-IN-CRISIS
STITES QUALITY
CONSTRUCTION**

**CHARLES & LINDA MATTOX
HEALTH & WELLNESS CTR/**

***Thank you for joining the
Chamber. Your commitment to
making Sallisaw a better place is
appreciated.***

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

SALLISAW MAIN STREET

CARSON PLUMBING

FELT'S SHOES

**COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

WESTERN SIZZLIN'

**CHEROKEE NATION COMMERCE
GROUP**

ARVEST BANK

**CHOCTAW BLUE RIBBON DOWNS
TRAC, INC.**

***Thank you for renewing your
membership with the Chamber. With
your continued support, we can work
together in the growth and development
of our great community.***

MISSION STATEMENT

***The mission of the Sallisaw
Chamber of Commerce is to
enhance the economic vitality of
the Sallisaw area while striving to
create the best quality of life
possible for our citizens.***

Upcoming Events

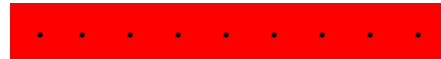
DECEMBER 2007 – JANUARY 2008

- December 11 Rilla Askew – “Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma” winner for 2007 visits Stanley Tubbs Library 11:00 a.m.
- December 12 Chamber Membership Meeting – 12:00 noon, First United Methodist Church
- December 15 Shop Sallisaw Campaign Giveaway – 11:00 a.m. – Stanley Tubbs Library Lawn
- December 17 Angel Tree Names due back to Chamber Office – wrapped gifts w/angel attached
- January 9 Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- January 23 Chamber Membership Meeting -ICTC Campus-12:00 noon

Chamber Champs!

The Chamber would like to recognize People, Inc. and Armstrong Bank for sponsoring our Character banners for November and ABC Cleaners and GRDA for sponsoring those in December. Thank you for your generosity and desire to see Sallisaw encourage good character.

Remember! The holiday season is here! Purchasing Chamber Checks is a way of pleasing everyone on your list while keeping sales tax dollars at home, in Sallisaw! Our appreciation to The City of Sallisaw for doing so for their employees! Thanks Mr. Baker!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

