



Sallisaw focuses on Tourism in Oklahoma during month of April.

Commerce
Judy Martens, Executive Vice-President

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.

Chamber Introduces New Programs

In an effort to continue our goal of serving our Chamber membership to the best of our ability while increasing the economic vitality of Sallisaw, the Chamber is now working with local homebuilders and contractors. The first organizational meeting of this group was held on Monday, February 24th in the Chamber Conference Room. With a crowd of over 25 on hand, the meeting proved to be quite productive. Several ideas of how to increase the dialog between the contractors and the City were brought up with some positive solutions to each concern. It was also suggested that the homebuilders coordinate their efforts and place a model home on display at the upcoming Diamond Daze Festival. The Chamber will continue to organize the homebuilder's meetings until they can become an organization of their own. Mr. Mike Means from the Oklahoma Homebuilders Association will be meeting with this group on Tuesday, March 25th, 7:00 p.m. in the Chamber Conference Room. He will give the group insite on how to form their Sallisaw Homebuilders Association. All local contractors and homebuilders are encouraged to attend this meeting. Please come and support those who are looking at a positive way to make building in Sallisaw a better experience and more profitable.

Another new program that will be happening at your local Chamber will be the **Chamber Member of the Month**. The Chamber Board feels that it is time to start publicly

acknowledging the hard work and contributions of many of our Chamber members. Starting in April, a member will be chosen by the Board whom they feel explains the mission of our Chamber of Commerce. The decision will be based on longevity of membership, active participation and contributions through sponsorships each year. The winner will then be recognized in the Sequoyah County Times and given a plaque of appreciation. At the end of the calendar year, a Chamber Member of the Year will be chosen from the monthly winners and recognized at the Annual Banquet. Many other Chambers of Commerce have this program, and given the tremendous support from our members, we feel it is time to publicly show our appreciation to them.



Diamond Daze Planning on Fire!

As you can see, Diamond Daze now has a permanent logo. The full committee met and approved this as the official Diamond Daze logo to be used for all advertising of our festival. Be watching Your Times or go to sallisawchamber.com for updates and entry forms for all events. Festival dates are June 6th & 7th, with **family night** June 5th.

Tourism Buzz to be Held in Sallisaw

The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Conference Room will be the site for one of six Tourism Buzz Meetings held throughout the State of Oklahoma.

We feel very fortunate to have been chosen for this event. The meetings will feature open discussion on new tourism developments and on issues important to the tourism industry and its partners.

In Oklahoma, tourism is a multi-million dollar industry which provides jobs for many of our residents. For this reason, it is important for us to always be informed of new trends in tourism and share information and resources that aid us in reaching our full potential.

We encourage all Chamber members interested in the tourism industry to attend this great meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Robin at 775-2558 to make your reservation. The meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 8th. Several members of the Oklahoma Tourism

and Recreation Department will be on hand to answer questions and share information.

Another meeting of interest to you, the Chamber member, is a tourism meeting with the Cherokee Nation, the Chamber leadership and representatives from the Tourism Department on March 31st. Ideas for future attractions in Sallisaw will be discussed. If you would like to attend, once again, please contact Robin at the Chamber Office.

Site Certification Ceremony Held at Park

On Monday, March 3rd, the official Site Certification Ceremony for the Roy Frye, Jr. Industrial Park was held at the CASC, Sallisaw Campus, J.T. & Mary Jo Stites Multi-Purpose Room. Several staff members from the Oklahoma Department of Commerce were on hand to present the "Site Ready" Certificate to Buddy Spencer, President of the Sallisaw Improvement Corporation. The significance of this certification is that now, when prospective industries are looking for a location in Oklahoma, through the ODOC website, they will find that Sallisaw as over 30 acres ready for them to

purchase and begin building their facilities. The certification process is quite involved, somewhat costly and took several months to complete. But, increasing the visibility and worth of our park by doing this, is well worth the cost. Companies throughout the entire U.S. will now have an opportunity to see that Sallisaw is on the map!

The Sallisaw Business Incubator Up and Running!

Through the hard work and dedication of the Sallisaw Improvement Corporation, the generosity of the City of Sallisaw and a grant through the USDA, Sallisaw now has a Business Incubator. What does this mean? It means that we now have the ability to take in a fledgling business, offer them assistance in the hope that they will grow in employee numbers and in profit dollars. After a reasonable amount of time, one to two years, the business will then leave the Incubator and be stable enough to relocate in a larger facility. This is a great way to promote economic development in a rural area such as Sallisaw.

We are fortunate enough to have already filled our Incubator with a new and expanding company, IT Partnergroup which is already growing by leaps and bounds. A grand opening of the facility was held on Friday, March 7th in which representatives from the USDA, the City of Sallisaw and a host of community leaders were on hand to celebrate our success. All were extremely pleased to see what was once a shell of a building, used to repair tractors, be transformed into a facility that a professional business is proud to locate. One of the USDA representatives indicated that he would like to come back, take pictures of the Incubator and use it as a model for other communities who are interested in this same project. We encourage Chamber and SIC members to come by and walk through this great addition to Sallisaw.

Executive Board – 2008

- President** – Debbie Edgmon, BorgWarner
- President Elect** – Marley Abell, First Financial Center
- Treasurer** – Dale Wood, Armstrong Bank
- Past President** – Matt Caldwell, National Bank of Sallisaw

Board Members – 2008

- Larry Randolph** – Charlie's Chicken
- Buddy Spencer** – President, SIC-Blue Ribbon Auto
- Dwight Spencer** – Blue Ribbon Auto Group
- Kasey Moran** – TRAC, Inc.
- Darlene Pearson** – First National Bank
- Buddy Holt** – Red Bird Smith Health Services
- Jayne Hadley** – McDonald's
- Holly Martens** – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital
- Jeff Allred** – Journey Church
- Bill Baker** – Ex-Officio Member-City Manager
- Shannon Vann** – Ex-Officio Member-Mayor
- Ron Wyrick** – Ex-Officio Member-Superintendent of Schools
- Buddy Spencer** – Ex-Officio Member-Blue Ribbon Auto
- Judy Martens** – Executive Vice-President
Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

Community News

March Chamber Meeting Focuses on Red Cross

March is American Red Cross Month and also a time when our attention turns to possible devastating weather in Oklahoma. What better time to address the function of the American Red Cross in our community? We are excited to welcome Jan Hale, SW Region Communications Manager and DeLisa English, SW Region CEO from the Tulsa Office as our keynote speakers. Many of us are unaware of the functions of the American Red Cross in our community and through the nation. This meeting will give them an opportunity to educate our membership. We will be meeting at Western Sizzlin' this month on Wednesday, March 26th at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be served in the same style as is done for Lions Club. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

Sequoyah County Junior Livestock Show-Largest Ever!

The Annual Sequoyah County Junior Livestock Show was held on February 28th and 29th at the Fair Grounds. There were 68 FFA and 4-H students who made the Premium Sale with their animals. At the end of the night, we had logged in a record of over \$72,000 in purchases and add-on money for the students. The following week, more add-ons of approximately \$1500 were taken in at the Chamber Office. This is a record amount of income to these students. According to several of the Vo -Ag Instructors, the Sequoyah County

Sale is far larger than many other county sales in our area. Our hats off and great appreciation to the following businesses for purchasing animals at the 2008 Premium Sale: **American Farmer's and Ranchers Insurance, Armstrong Bank (all county locations), Blue Ribbon Auto Group, Cockrams' Meat Processing, Diamondback Steel, First National Bank of Sallisaw, Garner Meat Processing, Green Land & Cattle Co., Senator Richard Lerblance, National Bank of Sallisaw, Sallisaw Lumber Company, Sequoyah County Farm Bureau, Tulsa Stockyards, Wright Home Services, Ron Lockhart, Dr. Pat & Suzanne Sullivan and Piggley Wiggley.** The Chamber of Commerce will be able to start issuing the checks to the students within two days after all money from buyers is received. The last three years, all checks have been issued by the end of March. This year will be no exception to that rule.



April Membership Meeting Features CEO

Mr. Brad Carson, CEO of Cherokee Nation Businesses has graciously agreed to be the Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting speaker for the Month of April. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd, location TBA. You won't want to miss this great meeting as we welcome Mr. Carson to Sallisaw.

*HERE WE GROW AGAIN!
NEW MEMBERS FOR:
February 2008*

**Cellofoam North America
Jimmy Bell Real Estate Co.
Looper Construction
Black Diamond Services**

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

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

**Mr. Jiff
City of Sallisaw
Sharp's Dept. Store
First United Methodist Church
Cherokee Nation Career Services
Valley Land and Title Company
TenkillerProperty.com, LLC
Sequoyah Manor, LLC
Delores Mitchell
Perry's Office Supply
Marvin's Food Warehouse**

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.

March Character Trait Compassion

Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others.

Chamber Champs of the month!

A huge thanks goes to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who made the 2008 Sequoyah County Jr. Livestock Show the best, ever!!

Our thanks also goes to: Journey Church for sponsoring the March Character Banners and to Mallory-Martin Funeral Home for sponsoring the April Character Banners. Thank you both for promoting good character in our city!

Upcoming Events

March - April

- March 25 Home Builders Assoc. Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Civic Center
- March 26 Chamber Membership Meeting – Western Sizzlin’ – 12:00 noon
- March 27 Sequoyah County Jr. Livestock Show Buyers Appreciation Dinner – 6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds
- April 2 CASC Foundation Meeting – 12:00 noon, Western Sizzlin’
- April 8 State Tourism Buzz – Chamber Conference Room, 10:00 a.m.
- April 9 Chamber Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- April 16 SIC Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- April 23 Chamber Membership Meeting – 12:00 noon, Brad Carson, keynote speaker – location TBA

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED