

SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.



FreedomFest Coming Soon!

MAY-JUNE ISSUE

**Sallisaw Chamber of
Commerce**

**Judy Martens, Executive
Vice-President**

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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2010 Diamond Daze Festival is Successful

The 2010 Diamond Daze Festival proved once again to be a success for the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce and the community of Sallisaw as a whole. The success is not measured by the profit made on the festival, but by the number of people attending and where they came from to enjoy the festivities. This year, thanks to the help of the NOW Coalition Youth Group, the Chamber has statistics to show all of the above. As cars entered the festival parking area, they were politely asked where they reside. There were visitors from as far away as New York, California, Mississippi and everywhere in between. Most of these visitors saw the signs as they exited off I-40 for a variety of reasons and decided to stay for the festival. By the number of cars recorded for Friday and Saturday, it is estimated that over 7,000 people attended the festival. All seemed to have a very good time, despite the extreme heat, and no one became ill or was injured. This is how the Chamber measures success. With the festival now entering its sixth year, it seems to run like a well oiled machine because of the many unpaid volunteers who selflessly give of their time. Even with the temperature reaching almost 100 degrees, they all worked with a great attitude and smiles on their faces. For this the Chamber Board says thank you so very much! A volunteer appreciation luncheon will be held in early July to properly thank these great people for their service to the community. Of course none of the festivities could

have been possible if not for the wonderful, faithful monetary sponsors who provide the funds for all the entertainers brought to the festival. From the Tori Mills Talent Showcase to the great Nashville headliners, all is made possible by these businesses and individuals. Our sincere thanks goes out to each of you! With 2010 behind us, the entire festival committee is already making plans for an even better 2011 festival.

FreedomFest Approaches

Once again this year, many of the local churches are joining forces to make the 4th of July a great event for all of Sequoyah County. A change in venue for this years festivities makes for an even better event. With the closing of Blue Ribbon Downs, it was necessary for the Chamber and the City to find a new location. The Sallisaw Public School Board and Superintendent Ron Wyrick have graciously agreed to allow us the usage of the Sallisaw High School Complex. With plenty of shade, cool grass and ample parking space this should prove to be an outstanding event. Many, many Chamber of Commerce members have pledge their contributions to purchase fireworks again this year in an amount exceeding \$12,000! As always, our great appreciation goes to Marley Abel and our Sallisaw Fire Department for making sure we are safe while enjoying the fantastic display of color! Along with the fireworks there will be inflatable bounce-arounds, lots of games, food and entertainment from various churches. The food will be served for a small donation starting at 6:00 p.m. All festivities begin at that time with fireworks starting at dusk. Come join the fun on the 4th!

Chamber Committee's are Hard at Work

Each of the six committee's formed at the last Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Board Retreat have met and are hard at work planning projects that will enhance the Sallisaw area. The Legislative Committee, chaired by Cheryl Mills has already planned three upcoming events. First, is the Legislative Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, June 29th. Second are the two Political Forums which will be held on Monday, July 19th and Monday, Sept. 27th. The Retail Committee, chaired by Michelle Mings has met and decided to hold an event designed to enhance our retail merchants late in the summer. Details of this will be coming very soon. The Education Committee, chaired by Dr. Kathy Harrell is in the process of developing a mentoring program that will involve local business owners educating our elementary and secondary students about what it takes to own their own business and make it successful. The Tourism Committee, chaired by Gary Schaefer is in the process of revamping the current Sallisaw brochure and exploring the

possibilities of acquiring a low powered radio station that would allow visitors on I-40 and local residents the opportunity to find out what activities and events are currently going on in the area. Dr. Amanda Trudeau the Chair of the Sallisaw Young Professionals Group and her committee have already had one mixer held at the Sallisaw Cherokee Casino and are planning another sometime in July. The interest in this group is growing with each meeting. Dr. Bob Wells, Chair of the Membership Committee has met with his members and developed a process for contacting each current Chamber member to see if their needs are being met and how the Chamber can best serve them. This committee will also aid in recruiting new members into the organization. As you can see, your Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is busy working for you and this community.

June Character Trait **ENDURANCE**

"The inward strength to withstand stress and do my best"

Thank you

JOURNEY CHURCH

For being our June Sponsor!

Executive Board – 2010

President – Dale Wood, Woody's Diner

President Elect – Dr. Bob Wells, Bob Wells, D.D.S. Family Dentistry

Treasurer – Gary Schaefer, BHC Insurance

Past President – Marley Abell, First Financial Center

Board Members – 2010

Jeff Allred – Journey Church

Kasey Moran – TRAC, Inc.

Mike Neer – National Bank of Sallisaw

Cheryl Mills – 7 Oaks Ranch

Dr. Kathy Harrell – Carl Albert State College – Sallisaw Campus

Michelle Mings – First National Bank

Dr. Amanda Trudeau – Total Eye Care

Terry Nation – Armstrong Bank

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-SIC Pres. - Blue Ribbon Auto

Judy Martens – Executive Vice-President

Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce

April Membership Meeting Brings NSU President

The Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce was very honored to have Dr. Don Betz as our April Membership Luncheon speaker. The crowd was extremely pleased to hear from Dr. Betz that Sallisaw has been chosen as one of four communities that will be included in a new program of assessing the educational needs of our residents. The other three communities are: Fort Gibson, Bixby and Pryor. Plans are being made very quickly to begin this program. NSU representatives will come into our community, listen to our students, teachers, administrators and community leaders as to what the specific needs of our citizens are. Dr. Betz is proud of and appreciates the long relationship between Sequoyah County and NSU. Another way NSU is trying to reach and improve the "well being" of our county is through a series of meetings and a Summit which will be held in the fall on the campus. This summit is the cooperation of NSU, the Cherokee Nation and the SACC-EZ Organization. Last year's summit was extremely informative and well attended. It is the hope of all those involved in the planning that this year's summit will be even larger. The idea behind the summit is "we will do better together than separately" stated Dr. Betz.

Chamber Chooses Members of the Month

Each month the Chamber Board of Directors chooses a "member of the month". This honor is based on the businesses ability and desire to give of their time, talents and treasures to the community of Sallisaw through the Chamber of Commerce. The April Member of the Month was *Aroma's Coffee Shop* and for May *Western Sizzlin'* was chosen. In January a list of all monthly winners from the previous year is voted on by the entire Chamber membership and the Member of the Year is awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet. Our congratulation to all Member of the Month winners!

Community News

Chamber to Hold Legislative Luncheon

Each year at this time the Chamber of Commerce invites our state legislators to bring an update from the past legislative session. This year's Legislative Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 29th 12:00 noon in the People, Inc. Conference Center. Because of the tumultuous year we have had with the state's budget shortfalls, the Legislative Committee of the Chamber decided to increase the interest and visibility of this meeting by not only inviting the senator and representatives who represent Sequoyah County on the state level, but to also invite our US Senators and Representative. Each legislator representing Sequoyah County in attendance will be given an opportunity to express their views of the last legislative session. As an added bonus to educate our members regarding past legislation and perhaps upcoming legislation for next year, we have invited Lt. Governor Jari Askins to speak to the group. At this time, we have received positive responses of attendance from: Lt. Governor, Jari Askins, State Senators, Jim Wilson, Richard Lerblanc and Kenneth Corn. State Representatives Bud Smithson and Ed Cannaday. If the U.S. Congress is not in session, we expect several of those legislators to attend, also. The Chamber is offering Corporate Table Sponsorships to current Chamber members for their seating convenience. Each table seats six and the sponsorship is \$100. Any Chamber member interested in sponsoring a table should contact the Chamber Office by Wednesday, June 23rd. Because of the non-profit status of the Chamber and People, Inc. no campaign materials of any kind can be distributed by any candidate attending the luncheon.

Informative Political Forums to be Held

Part of the obligation of a Chamber of Commerce is to keep our members and local residents informed of all political activity that may affect their lives and businesses. For this reason, the Legislative Committee will hold two separate political forums over the next few months. On July 19th, all candidates running for county, state and national offices will be invited to attend the first forum which will be held in the People, Inc. Conference Center at 6:00 p.m. At this forum, each candidate will be given a short time to introduce themselves, give their background and state the platform on which they are running. This one was purposely planned before the July 27th primary to insure each candidate has a chance to be heard. The second forum will be held on September 27th once again at People, Inc. at 6:00 p.m. At this forum the candidates again running for county, state and national offices will be allowed several minutes to introduce themselves and then will be asked questions from the audience that have been pre-screened. Obviously, there will be only one candidate from each political party running for the office at this forum.

As with the Legislative Luncheon, given the non-profit status of the Chamber and People, Inc. no campaign material will be distributed by the candidates or any of their representatives. These forums are strictly an informative venue for the public. All who filed for a county office were given an informational sheet regarding these forums in their packets at the time of filing. All state and national candidates will be notified by mail of the forums. Any candidate wishing to participate in the first forum should contact the Chamber Office as soon as possible. No one will be allowed to sign up the night of the forum as a program of candidates speaking will be printed ahead of time.

HERE WE GROW AGAIN! NEW MEMBERS FOR: Jan. & Feb. 2010

Fourteen Flags Museum Club
Abundant Life Church
Sallisaw Pharmacy
District Attorney Jerry Moore's Office
Edward Jones Investments-Vian
Immanuel Baptist Church

Thank you for joining the Chamber. Your commitment to making Sallisaw a better and more prosperous community is appreciated.

RENEWING MEMBERSHIPS

T & M Sand and Gravel
Delores Mitchell
Agent Funeral Home
Pilkington Real Estate
Taco Pronto - AOG
Julie Ferguson
Montgomery Law Offices
Cherokee Casino Sallisaw
Sequoyah County Publishing
Days Inn - The Indian Store
Dwight Mission - CASC
Olive Tree Antique Mall
Clif's Pharmacy - Dr. Bert Corley
Mallory-Martin Funeral Home
Sequoyah County Properties
Taylor Rental - ABC Cleaners
Calming Connections
Boys & Girls Club
Professional Home Hospice
Brushy Lake State Park
D & R Dozer & Backhoe
US Lime/St. Clair
McDonald's - Motel 6
KFC/Taco Bell - Sallisaw Inn
Factory Connection
Dan George, Attorney at Law
The Green House
Your Community Phone Book

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.

**MAY CHARACTER
TRAIT**

DISCRETION

*Recognizing and avoiding
words, actions, and attitudes
that could bring undesirable
consequences*

**Character Banner Sponsor
was:
PEOPLE, INC.**

*Thank you for being our
CHAMBER CHAMPS of the
month!*

Upcoming Events

June – July 2010

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| June 29 | Legislative Luncheon – 12:00 noon, People, Inc. Conference Center |
| July 4 | FreedomFest – Sallisaw High School Complex, 6:00 p.m. – Fireworks at dusk |
| July 14 | Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room |
| July 19 | First “Meet the Candidates” Forum – 6:00 p.m., People, Inc. Conference Center |
| July 21 | SIC Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber of Commerce Conference Room |
| July 29 | Lion’s Club Rodeo begins – runs through Saturday night, July 31st |



**Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce
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301 E. Cherokee
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED