

# SALLISAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Racing Toward the Future, while cherishing the Past.*



*Thank you Chamber Members  
for the Fireworks!!*

## JUNE-JULY ISSUE

Sallisaw Chamber of  
Commerce

Judy Martens, Executive  
Vice-President

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SALLISAW

A CITY OF CHARACTER!

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual of Diamond Daze Festival in the Books!

The 2017 Diamond Daze Festival, which was the 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the event, was another success in the record books. The crowd this year was not the largest by far, thanks to Mother Nature. We've decided that the threat of rain is just as devastating as actual rain when it comes to scaring off the crowd. We do estimate approximately 4000 people entered the festival grounds over a three day period. Everyone had a good time, no one was injured and town seemed to be busy all week-end. This is how we measure the success of Diamond Daze.

Additional dollars spent in Sallisaw, along with positive media coverage means the Chamber is doing its job. We started the festival off this year with beautiful weather for the Battle of the Bands on Thursday night, June 1<sup>st</sup>. A big congratulations to **Matt Garland and the Shotgun Reunion** for winning first place and getting to open for **Craig Morgan** on Friday night, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Friday brought a great crowd out to see ACM winner **Craig Morgan**, along with a good crowd at the carnival area. Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> started off great with 53 entries in the car show despite the constant threat of rain. Our sincere thanks to Chandler Collision for once again sponsoring this event for us. The **High Steaks Rollin' contest**, sponsored by **Guardian Angels** was the best steak cook-off to date. We had 28 cooks from a four state region vying for first place of \$1,000 and a free entry to the World Steak Cook-off. Total prize money of \$3,100 was give away. Great Plains Amusement

Company along with many arts, crafts and food vendors rounded out the day's activities until the concerts got going at dusk. Unfortunately, the rain did not hold off until after the Saturday night concert. The Collin Nash Band didn't get to complete their portion of the concert, but most certainly gave a very pleasing performance while on stage! As the rain subsided, Phil Vassar came on stage in a big way and gave an amazing concert to all who braved the storms to be there. Luckily, he was able to get his entire concert finished and spend some time with concert goers for autographs and photos! Throughout the entire festival, the crowds could enjoy helicopter rides and other games and attractions. As always, an event of this magnitude can not happen without the aid of **MANY Chamber Members and their sponsorships and also the hundreds of volunteers who make this thing run smooth.** Our sincere thanks to everyone who made our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Daze very special!

## Date Change for 2018 Diamond Daze!

For several reasons, the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has decided to change the date of the 2018 Diamond Daze Festival to June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. We feel that this change will take the festival away from a very busy weekend. For several years Diamond Daze has competed with the Old Fort Days Rodeo and other local events. The new dates should eliminate these conflicts.

## Legislative Committee to Hold Luncheon

The Legislative Committee, chaired by **Cheryl Mills** will hold its Annual Legislative Luncheon on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. As always, a huge crowd is expected for this informative meeting. The Luncheon will be held in the People, Inc. Conference Center starting at 12:00 noon. State Senator Mark Allen, State Representative Ed Cannaday, and State Representative John Bennett all three plan to be on hand to give their thoughts and perspectives of this past legislative session. The Chamber is selling Corporate Tables for the event for \$100 which entitled the purchaser to several “perks”. The deadline to purchase a Corporate Table is this Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to purchase a table for your employees to have a nice lunch and be informed about the “state of our State”, please contact the Chamber by the deadline. We will give special recognition to those who purchase Corporate Tables in the

Sequoyah County Times and on KXXM 105.1. The Chamber would like to thank the members of the Legislative Committee for their hard work on this event and other programs that bring the opportunity for our members to connect with their legislators. Keeping open communications between the Chamber Members and our legislators is a key function of all Chambers of Commerce. This is one of the main benefits of being a member of your local Chamber of Commerce. We will also hold political forums as we enter the upcoming election year. This is a time for all residents of Sequoyah County to be educated by those running for political office.

## Leadership Class Takes Off with Great Success

Leadership Sallisaw/Sequoyah County is now in its fourth year and is proving to be quite a successful program. It is provided by the Sallisaw Chamber of Commerce as part of the Program of Work which is established yearly by

the Chamber Board of Directors at their Annual Board Retreat. The objective of this group is to promote leadership through learning, by providing informative sessions each month, focusing on different areas in local education, county and city government, law enforcement, health care, and local history. The May session brought speakers from all three of our local educational entities; Bryan Warner from CASC, Dr. Curtis Shumaker from ICTC and Scott Farmer from Sallisaw Public Schools. In the June session, the class learned about the workings of the City of Sallisaw from City Manager, Clayton Lucas II. In the July session Jeff Mayo will present a very interesting talk on the history of Sallisaw and Sequoyah County. The Leadership Sallisaw class members are a diverse group of leaders from all types of industry and business. They appear to be learning a lot about the local community and also about each other. The old cliché, “Learning is Fun,” is actually true for them! This class is completely full and monthly attendance has been great. There are nine sessions of the Leadership Class and also a visit to the Sequoyah County Jail system. The group may also be able to plan a trip to the Capitol in the late spring during the 2017 Legislative Session. Hats off to **Nan Stites** for heading up this committee and to this group of Sallisaw leaders for investing in the future of our community through education.

### **Executive Board – 2017**

**President** – Cheryl Mills, Seven Oaks Ranch  
**President Elect** – Jeff Mayo – Sequoyah County Times  
**Treasurer** – Gary Schaefer- BHC of Oklahoma  
**Past President** – Shannon Vann – State Farm insurance

### **Board Members – 2017**

**Glenda Callahan** – National Bank of Sallisaw  
**Holly Bormann** – KXXM 105.1 The Mix  
**Terri Daniels** – Armstrong Bank  
**David Martin** – Sequoyah Memorial Hospital  
**Bryan Warner** – Carl Albert State College  
**Nan Stites** – Tom Stites and Associates  
**Rhonda Nicholson** – Perfectly Posh Designs  
**Mike Meece** – Clif’s Pharmacy  
**Clayton Lucas, II** – Ex-Officio Member-City Manager  
**Jim Hudgens** – Ex-Officio Member-Mayor  
**Scott Farmer** – 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

*A leader is one who  
knows the way, goes the  
way, and shows the way.*

**John C. Maxwell**

## **Community News**

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July Partners Chamber and Churches**

The Chamber of Commerce will once again partner with some of the location churches to bring a new dimension back to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. As has been done in the past few years, the entire event will be held at the Sallisaw High School Complex. There will be games and activities held on the 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The Chamber, Immanuel Baptist Church, and 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God Church will be serving hotdogs, chips and bottled water during this timeframe. All of which will be free to the public. At 8:30 all games and activities will be shut down in preparation for the fireworks which will begin at dark. The fireworks will be set off behind the baseball fields. We would like to give our sincere thanks to the following churches for agreeing to participate in this outreach ministry: **Immanuel Baptist, 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God, Elim Full Gospel, Journey Church, Blue Ribbon Chapel, Dwight Mission, Christian Motorcycle Association, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, and Trinity Lutheran.**

### **Chamber Plans Upcoming Luncheons**

After taking a break from our Monthly Chamber Membership Luncheons in July, the Chamber will start back up in August. Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> with Chad Ford, the Outdoor Recreation Planner from the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge as our keynote speaker. The meeting will be held in the Seminar Room of ICTC and as always, we will begin at 12:00 noon so mark your calendar now and plan to attend. In September we are making plans to visit and have lunch at Dwight Mission.

### **Chamber Holds Ribbon Cuttings**

The Chamber of Commerce was proud to hold several ribbon cuttings this past spring. Each of these indicates positive growth in our community. First, we held one for the new Sallisaw Animal Care Facility which was constructed on the grounds of the old facility.



*Sallisaw Animal Care Facility  
3-30-17 Ribbon Cutting*

After much anticipation, we were proud to be a part of the Grand Opening of the new Sallisaw Sports Complex. This gorgeous facility is funded by a sales tax increase passed by the Sallisaw residents. We can look forward to seeing an increase in our sales tax revenue because of the many tournaments that will be held on these grounds.



*Sallisaw Sports Complex 4-20-17  
Ribbon Cutting*

Here we grow again! We are excited to add Taco Bueno to our Chamber of Commerce Membership. We feel this restaurant will be a great addition to Ruth Street!



*Taco Bueno 4-28-17 Ribbon Cutting*

***HERE WE GROW AGAIN!  
NEW MEMBERS FOR:  
April, May, June***

**Taco Bueno**

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

### ***RENEWING MEMBERS***

**Ok Blood Institute  
Clif's Pharmacy – Economy Inn  
Dwight Mission  
White's Jewelry  
All Pro River Valley Realty  
Taylor Rental – 14 Flags Museum  
Tahlequah City Hospital Found.  
Agent-Mallory-Martin Funeral  
Home – White's Jewelry  
McDonald's – The Green House  
Chandler Collision Center  
Boys & Girls Club of Sequoyah  
County  
Factory Connection  
Fullbright Auto Wash  
Marilyn Craghead  
US Lime-St. Clair Co.  
Parley Hubler, DDS  
CIMA Hospice  
Motel 6 – Super 8 Motel  
Days Inn - Farmers Ins.  
Steve MacDonald – Edward Jones  
D&R Backhoe and Dozer  
State Farm Insurance  
Hog Creek Salvage & Auto**

*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

## July – August 2017

*Our sincere thanks to all the great Chamber Members who sponsor our fireworks display and to Marley Abell and our Sallisaw Fire Department for always keeping us safe while bringing a fantastic show to our residents!*

*You all are the Chamber Champs for July!*

- July 4** Annual Fireworks Show – Sallisaw High School Complex – Games/Activities at 6:30 Fireworks at dusk
- July 12** Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- July 19** SIC Board Meeting – 12:00 noon, Chamber Conference Room
- Aug 3-5** Lion’s Club Rodeo – 8:00 each night, Sallisaw Rodeo Grounds
- Aug 10** First day of School for Sallisaw Public Schools
- Aug 23** Chamber Membership Luncheon-ICTC-Seminar Room 12:00 noon, Mr. Chad Ford, Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge, Keynote Speaker

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED