



CHAMBER NEWS

JUNE 2020

4th of July Celebration

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

Hair Biz –Jeanne Hershey, Owner
Established June 1st, 1989

Fronk Oil Co, Inc
Established June 12, 1947

First National Bank of Hooker
Established June 22, 1914

Colby Martin at Edward Jones
Since June 19, 2017

Congratulations to each of these businesses and members. We appreciate your membership and your contribution to our community.

Thank you to Sheila Blankenship for handling the distribution of the Hank the Cowdog books the Chamber presented to school kids. We appreciate all you do for the Chamber.

Plans have been made for our annual 4th of July Celebration. Members who attended the June Membership meeting voted to go forward with the celebration, noting that Covid-19 restrictions have expired. A county-wide burn ban in place and no significant rain is forecast for the next few weeks, therefore the Chamber will not have a fireworks display this year. Other activities are planned in place of the annual display. Planned activities include:

Saturday, July 4th:

Celebration in the Park 10 am – 1 pm

- Commerce Cash Drawings every 30 minutes
- Chalk Art Contest
- Corn Hole Competition
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Vendor Booths
- Music throughout the event
- 11:30 am Flag Ceremony and National Anthem
- Free hotdogs, chips, watermelon prepared by the Hooker Firefighters



Free Swimming 1 pm to 6 pm

- LuAnn Fischer Memorial Swimming Pool

Tacos & a Movie – on Glaydas St 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm provided by the Hooker Economic Development Board

- Free Tacos
- Music throughout the evening
- Free movie at the Pavilion

All chamber members are encouraged to get involved in our annual celebration. If you have ideas, want to help, or would like to set up a booth, be sure to contact us so we can include you in our promotions.

Chamber Scholarship Program

The former Miss Hooker Pageant program ended with almost \$7,500 remaining in the program account. Last fall chamber members voted to create a new chamber scholarship program using the remaining funds. Some of the changes discussed were to make a scholarship for seniors only, available to both boys and girls, and include a requirement for applicants to perform some type of chamber or community service as part of the program.

After checking with school staff, it appears allowing applicants out of school for a day during school isn't possible. We would like to know if you would be willing to sponsor an applicant at your business, for a total of 4-8 hours, after school or on a weekend to give them a chance to learn more about your business. They would make a presentation about what they learned at a chamber dinner. Also, if you have any other ideas for the program, call Mary Beth at (580) 522-1655 or email mail@hookerokcofc.net. The scholarship program will be discussed in the July membership meeting.

Ribbon Cuttings

All chamber members are encouraged to attend chamber ribbon cuttings. It is important that we welcome and support new businesses coming into our community. In June there are three opportunities to attend (see box above). If you or a member of your staff are able, please make plans to come and be a part of these events. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies only take a small amount of time, and we all know it means a lot when people attend the events we have for our businesses.

July Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend our Membership Meeting on Thursday, July 2nd at noon. We will be discussing final 4th of July preparations, the scholarship program and the upcoming golf tournament. Your input and ideas are needed.

2020 Chamber Officers:

Mary Beth Puyear, President
Brenda Romero, Vice President
Craig Adams, Treasurer
Sheila Blankenship, Secretary

Hooker Chamber of Commerce

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2020 Chamber Events

Events are subject to change and updates will be made as needed.

- July 4th --Community Hotdog Feed
- September 19th --Chamber Golf Tournament
- October 31st -- Halloween Parade
- December 5th -- Christmas Parade
- December 10th -- Christmas Cookie Crawl

CHAMBER COMMERCE CASH IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR GIFTS, PRIZES AND AWARDS. GIVE A GIFT THAT PROMOTES SHOPPING LOCALLY! SEE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HOOKER TO PURCHASE. NO PURCHASE FEES. ALL CHAMBER MEMBERS CAN ACCEPT COMMERCE CASH.

June Chamber Member Promotion

Hooker TCEC Co-op Connections Members

Hooker Chamber of Commerce
Linda's Flowers & Gifts
First National Bank of Hooker
Rock Paper Scissors
www.tcec.coop/cc



Broadband Service, Home Theater, and a Large Supreme

When You Shop Local, Show Your Card and Receive Discounts at More Than 70 Participating Local Businesses

It's FREE. Just download the Co-op Connections App

Call 580.652.2418 or go to our website at tcec.coop



June Ribbon Cuttings

- ❖ J&M Cleaning Service, LLC
Thursday, June 18th at 12 pm
Hooker Community Center
- ❖ Jordan Air Inc.
Thursday, June 25th at 9 am
Hooker Municipal Airport
- ❖ Hooker Insurance Agency
Friday, June 26th at 12 pm
302 E Glaydas St

Minutes from June Chamber Member Meeting

Hooker Chamber of Commerce Thursday, June 4, 2020

The Hooker Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 12 noon at the Hooker Community Center to better allow for social distancing. Present were Bidy Holbert, Rowdy McBee, Mary Beth Puyear, Laneta Adams, Sheila Blankenship, Linda Brown, Brenda Romero, David Mingus, Craig Adams and Linda Ricks.

Oklahoma Smoke provided the meals and Rowdy McBee of Thurman-Wilson Insurance covered the cost so the meal was free to those attending. Mary Beth called the meeting to order and it was noted that the Guymon Walmart had donated some 6000 plastic Easter eggs to the Chamber. Buddy made the motion to accept the minutes from March as presented, Craig seconded and the motion carried.

Craig and Mary Beth gave the treasurer's report, noting a balance of \$12,329.87 including some \$10,000 in membership dues for 2020. Craig said that four bills had been paid. Mary Beth added that 13 members from 2019 have not renewed for this year. According to our by-laws, members are given 90 days into the new year to join and then are dropped but she didn't know what we wanted to do this year with the COVID-19 complications. Brenda made the motion to drop unpaid members from the directory and membership list, David seconded and the motion carried. The Chamber has 64 members for 2020.

"The old business is pretty old," Mary Beth said as she discussed Chamber activity during the past few months. She said that people and members responded positively to the business list showing changes in hours or service due to the pandemic. She also asked for ideas about the two newsletters she had sent out to members and everyone agreed that they are useful and so she will plan to send one following each monthly meeting to keep everyone in the loop.

Sheila explained how the Chamber spent the Easter egg hunt budget on Hank the Cowdog books to be given out to families whose children pick up a free lunch at the school. The Chamber bought 100 books at \$2 a book but John Erickson and partner donated another 100 to support our project. The first books were distributed by cafeteria staff soon after Easter and more were given out May 8. There are enough books for at least one more distribution with lunches and any left over books can be used as Chamber prizes on July 4 or whenever. Each book included a bookmark to show that it was a gift from the Hooker Chamber of Commerce.

Buddy reviewed the OU Institute for Quality Communities final report on improving bike and walkability in Hooker. He noted that the City of Hooker has adopted the concept but that does not mean that every suggestion will be implemented. He also distributed a design for adding color downtown with a Bulldog "H" to be painted in the intersection of Broadway and Glaydas plus crosswalks and painted corner extensions and is working on wayfinding signs to help pedestrians and drivers locate key destinations such as the swimming pool city park, sports fields and business district. The placement of the signs will closely follow the suggestions left by the OU group. The City has \$4,000 in a TSET grant for the signs and the city will add funding as needed.

Under new business, Mary Beth asked for suggestions for the Fourth of July because COVID-19 and the possibility of a burn ban complicate plans. She reported that fireworks have been ordered but are on hold until closer to the holiday and that the Osborn families have volunteered to discharge the city display if we have one. They would like to have an old trailer, if one can be obtained. She also said that local firefighters are willing to cook hot dogs and cover the display.

After much discussion, it was agreed the Chamber will begin the day at 10 a.m. in the Hooker City Park with Commerce Cash prize drawings held every 30 minutes for those who are present, sidewalk chalk art contests, any

public booths that people what to set up and opportunities for people to play cornhole, basketball, tennis and volleyball while enjoying either live or recorded music. At 11:30 a.m., the flag salute and National Anthem will be performed followed by hot dogs, chips and watermelon at 12 noon. At 1 p.m., the pool will be open for free swimming courtesy of the Chamber. That night, either fireworks at the golf course or an outdoor movie downtown will also be sponsored. The Hooker Economic Development committee plans to offer a taco supper in conjunction with the evening festivities. Mary Beth will contact Joe Simpson or another to provide the sound system and music and she will check with the American Legion to see if they will present the colors for the 11:30 a.m. ceremony.

Upcoming ribbon cuttings were discussed including the J&M Cleaning Service event on June 18 at 12 noon at the Hooker Community Center and Jordan Air, Inc. on June 25 at 9 a.m. at the Hooker Municipal Airport. Several other ribbon cuttings are coming up this summer so all members are urged to try to attend ribbon cuttings so the Chamber can show their personal support for new and growing businesses.

Marketing the Chamber and publicizing the Chamber membership list were briefly discussed with ideas such as getting card lists out to every business to have and distribute and possibly advertising the local members in the paper and on social media. Commerce Cash use is down right now but plans are to promote that way to support members this fall. The Red Carpet Country membership and advertising was discussed. The Chamber has been paying \$300 for a Level III membership but the perks above Level I really don't benefit us. Sheila made the motion to change our membership to Level I with \$125 membership dues, Brenda seconded and the motion carried. The Chamber plans to continue buying a 1/4 page ad in the Red Carpet Country Visitors' Guide.

Mary Beth reported that the Chamber golf tournament in September will be planned at the July meeting. Hole sponsors and prize donors will be needed to help make the event successful. She noted that last year, proceeds went to the golf club but that we could choose another beneficiary or keep the profit for Chamber activities.

She added that next month we will also discuss possibilities for a new HHS scholarship program to replace the Miss Hooker Sweetheart pageant. To be determined are the requirements to qualify with community service and Chamber member job shadowing suggested.

Buddy made the motion to adjourn, Brenda seconded and the motion carried. The next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be Thursday, July 2 at 12 noon.