



CHAMBER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

BUSINESS

Sweet Things

Established November 1, 2003

Linda's Flowers & Gifts

Established November 21, 2002

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

Chamber Holiday Events

Preparations are continuing for the Chamber holiday promotion of our downtown and member businesses. Currently, scheduled holiday events are:

- Decorating Contests for Businesses and Residences:
 - Winners will be chosen by popular vote
 - Voting online or at bank
 - Residential – 3 winners of \$50 Commerce Cash
 - Business – 1 winner of \$50 Commerce Cash
- Christmas Parade:
 - Regular parade with viewing along entire route
 - Turkey/ham drawing winners announced Monday
 - Decorate pavilion, People may enter the drawing for the turkeys at chamber businesses starting November 30th. Santa will visit at pavilion. Old fashioned goody bags handed out after parade
- Commerce Cash Prizes:
 - Drawings for Commerce Cash prizes will be held on December 14th. People may enter the drawing at chamber businesses during the week of the 7th.

Thank you to the HALO organization and Ekkel Diesel Repair for making the Chamber Halloween Candy Give-Away a big success!



Let your
 Lights
 Shine!
**Chamber
 Holiday
 Decorating
 Contest**

Hooker Chamber Gift Store

It was the vision of then Chamber President Ray Deputy to make the town of Hooker known to the world. How to do that? A Chamber store on Highway 54, of course. The store opened in May, 1992. Hooker t-shirts have been seen around the country ever since. People traveling through Hooker from all parts of the United States, and even the world, have stopped at the store over the years. There, they get information about our town, do some shopping, and visit with our local volunteer characters. Consignment items from local vendors are also for sale. When they leave, visitors take a little bit of our community with them on shirts, souvenirs, magnets, and postcards, along with a story or two to tell their friends.

The Chamber Store has been run by volunteers throughout its history. More than 90 community members have given of their time to run the store. Many will remember Pearl Strauss, and avid chamber supporter, who ran the store for years. Velma Smothermon, our current store manager, has been in charge since 2005. Current volunteers include Velma Smothermon, Robin Loughridge, Marge Coates, Trish Hambright, Stephanie Higgenbotham, and Mianna Forrester.

These days not only can people shop in the store, they also can buy shirts from the local Loves or order online or by phone and have Hooker shirts mailed to them. 2020 has been one of the best years the store has ever had. Sales are up, and our volunteers have been busy getting our small town's name out into the world. Yes, the name is the biggest attraction, but people soon find out we're more than just a name. Thank you, Chamber Store volunteers, for helping put Hooker on the map!



December Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend our Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 3rd at noon. We will be finalizing our upcoming holiday event plans and voting for 2021 officers. 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.

--December 5th -- Christmas Parade

--December 7th -- Christmas Turkey Drawings

--December 14th -- Christmas Cash Drawing

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.

Member Business Promotion

Gold and Silver Chamber members are eligible for 2 promotions per year on our website and member communications. To request a promotion, contact Mary Beth Puyear at (580) 522-1655 or email

mail@hookerokcofc.net

Hooker Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, November 5, 2020

The Hooker Chamber of Commerce membership luncheon was held on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 12 noon at the Hooker Community Center to better allow for social distancing. Lunch was available from Love's Subway. Present were Mary Beth Puyear, Leneta Adams, Brenda Romero, Buddy Holbert, Linda Brown and Sheila Blankenship.

Mary Beth called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes. Brenda made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Buddy seconded and the motion passed. Mary Beth reviewed the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$10,993.10. She added that we spent about \$200 on Halloween. Buddy made the motion to approve the report, Brenda seconded and the motion passed.

Mary Beth said that the Commerce Cash report is that some \$2,500 in certificates have been sold. She then noted that Halloween downtown was better than expected and she thanked the HALO volunteers for decorations and handing out candy and the Ekkel family for bringing the train downtown. HALO wants to expand the Halloween observance next year to add more activities in conjunction with the Day of the Dead and for all ages.

Mary Beth added that there was not much participation in the decorating contest and that Facebook made it kind of difficult but the winners were Cindy Scott and Yolanda Perez. She suggested that voting for the Christmas decorating contest entries will be on the Chamber website instead of the Facebook page because it will be easier.

The Christmas parade will be much like before but people can register for the turkey give-away at Chamber members the week before the parade (Nov. 28-Dec. 5) and winners will be called on Monday, Dec. 7. The parade does need an organizer to line up entries at the football parking lot. Buddy will help start the parade and Sheila will be at Ireland and Glaydas to take photos of entries. Prizes will be awarded in three categories and the Senior Citizens will be asked to crown a Parade King and Queen. We will need to identify judges for the parade which will line up at 5 p.m. with the parade to begin at 5:30 p.m. with families encouraged to spread out along the route. Santa will be on the fire truck and then meet with kids at the pavilion, weather allowing. Mary Beth will get with Wendell about the turkeys and Buddy will call for turkey donors at \$10 each. (Theme for the parade was selected by officers and it is "Christmas Dreams".)

The Cookie Crawl will be Dec. 10 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Sheila will order cookie sacks and the library board has agreed to start the crawl there but only in the foyer. People will donate food to the Hooker Fights Hunger food pantry and receive a cookie sack and a list of participating businesses. Sheila's staff will call businesses to participate and advertise in the paper and on Facebook. Businesses may have their own prize drawings, too.

The Christmas decorating contest opens Dec. 1 with businesses and residents uploading photos with names and addresses to the Chamber of Commerce website and people will vote on the site. The winners will be announced Dec. 28 with one prize awarded in businesses and three prizes awarded for homes.

Mary Beth added that TCEC will be asked to hang the snowflake decorations the week of Thanksgiving and it is hoped HALO and FFA will help again with lights at the Homesteaders Park and downtown pavilion.

Mary Beth distributed the guidelines for the 2021 HHS Chamber Scholarship program. and announced she had eight applications so far and 10 businesses who volunteered to be interviewed by applicants before the end of the year. Interview reports are due Dec. 31.

Plan B for Christmas events will be discussed at the Dec. 3 Chamber meeting if needed and also at that meeting, we will hold election of Chamber officers for 2021.

Buddy made the motion to adjourn, Brenda seconded and the motion passed.