

Calendar of Events

January 2008

- 9**—Chamber Board Meeting: 11:30am at the Chamber
- 10**— **Brown Bag & Business**: 12noon at Sioux Valley Energy. Topic: Internet Security. Free to members
- 15**— Women in Business Roundtable: 8:30am at the Chamber. TOPIC: TBA
- 16**—Marketing Committee: 8:30am at the Chamber
- 16**— Sports & Recreation Committee: Noon at Pizza Ranch
- 17**—Membership Committee: 12noon at the Chamber
- 17**—**Mixer** at Prairie Rehabilitation: 5-6:30pm. \$2 at the door.
- 19**—**Legislative Coffee**: 9:30-11:00am at the Brandon City Council Chambers. Free and open to the public.
- 21**—**Hometown Day Meeting**: 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber
- 23**—Tourism Committee: 9:00am at the Chamber
- 23**—**New Member Luncheon**: 11:30am at Pizza Ranch
- 30**—**Brandon Day at the Legislature**: Bus leaves at 6am. \$30 per person. RSVP required.

February 2008

- 5**—Business Development Committee: 12noon at Pizza Ranch
- 7**—Legislative Committee: 9:00am at the Chamber
- 9**—**Legislative Coffee**: 9:30-11:00am at the Brandon City Council Chambers. Free and open to the public.
- 13**—Chamber Board Meeting: 11:30am at the Chamber
- 18**—**Hometown Day Meeting**: 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber
- 19**— Women in Business Roundtable: 8:30am at the Chamber. TOPIC: TBA
- 20**—Marketing Committee: 8:30am at the Chamber
- 20**— Sports & Recreation Committee: Noon at Pizza Ranch
- 21**—Membership Committee: 12noon at the Chamber
- 27**—Tourism Committee: 9:00am at the Chamber

Don't get the weekly email updates? Sign up today or you miss out! Email brancofc@alliancecom.net

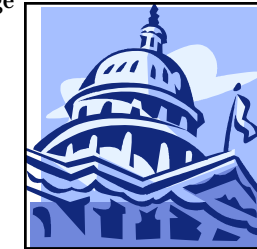
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 (605)582-7400 ~ brancofc@alliancecom.net
BVACC Board of Directors
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 Chad Padgett, Sunshine Food Store
 Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy
 Tara Simonson, Splitrock Chiropractic Center, LLC
 Kevin Thelan, First National Bank
 Randy Zdenek, Home Federal Bank
BVACC Staff
 Deanna White, Chamber Coordinator
 Susan Carpenter, Assistant Coordinator

January 2008

Legislative Session Underway!

Are you comfortable with your knowledge of the coming year's Legislative Issues? Issues that potentially affect your business, your schools, and your personal lives?

There will be several opportunities for you to learn more, ask questions, and let your voice be heard as the 2008 Legislative Session kicks off.



Find out what is happening in Pierre. Make sure our Legislators hear from you what positions they should take.

No charge to attend. Coffee provided.

Legislators from across the state.

\$30 fee includes transportation, lunch, Brandon shirt. Pre-registration required.



Saturday, February 9, 2008: Legislative Coffee, 9:30-11:00am at the Brandon City Council Chambers

(308 Main Ave., Brandon)



Saturday, January 19, 2008: Legislative Coffee, 9:30-11:00am at the Brandon City Council Chambers (308 Main Ave., Brandon)



Wednesday, January 30, 2008: Brandon Day at the Legislature, Pierre, SD. The bus leaves Brandon early in the morning, returning that evening. Help us make a name for Brandon with

Session will be coming to an end, don't let them go back to Pierre without hearing from you.

The Legislature makes decisions that will affect your business — pay attention and make sure they hear from you!

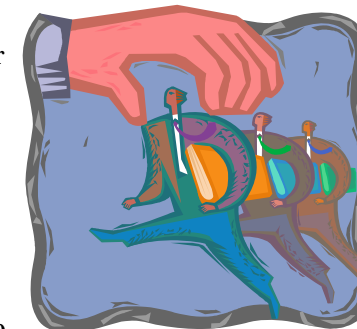
The Search for the New ED

Interviews are underway for the new Executive Director for the Chamber. The new Executive Director will replace the current Coordinator Deanna White who leaves the Chamber after nearly two years to become the State Program Director for Clean Water Action of Minnesota.

Nearly two dozen resumes were received as of the January 1 deadline. Resumes were reviewed and initial appointments for the first round of interviews were made.

The hiring committee is made up of retiring President Amy Ahlers, Bob Bruning, Barb Fish and Kevin Thelen of the Board of Directors.

The Board hopes to have the new Executive Director on Board by late February.



During the transition, Assistant Coordinator Susan Carpenter will continue to staff the office, answering inquiries, making referrals, and keeping the doors open. The Chamber office will be closing at 2:30pm each day.

If you have questions about the hiring process or about the transition, please feel free to contact Bob Bruning.

Chamber Award Nominations Due March 1

The Chamber is seeking nominations for 2 annual awards:

Chamber Member of the Year is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution in 2007 to the growth and betterment of the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber Business of the Year is awarded to a member business who is an example of what a successful business should be. A business that made significant strides in 2007 to improve the quality and success of their business.

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2008. The nomination form is included in this newsletter. The winners will be selected by the Board of Directors and announced at the Annual Banquet.

What's Inside....

~ Board Election Results ~ New Members ~ Santa Stops ~ Farewell Deanna ~
 ~ Holiday Party ~ Visitor & Resident Guide ~ Good for You! ~ Calendar of Events ~



Good For You!

Congratulations to Devin & Maria Coughlin, proud parents of Parker Devin born on November 13. Parker is the grandson of Robyn & Mike Coughlin of **Oakridge Nursery**.

Do you have good news you want to share?
Email items to brancofc@alliancecom.net

Santa Stops a Big Success

Several dozen families in Brandon enjoyed a special visit from Santa Claus in December courtesy of the Chamber's newest event — Santa Stops.

Jennie Patrick
Cary Schroeder
Sherry Hellum
Cara Williams
Anna Cameron
Jill Meier
Kathy Koehn
Bob Bruning
Marilyn Bruning

And thanks to our sponsors:
Alliance Communications
Performance Press
Edward Jones
Hometown Insurors



If you are interested in joining the committee to work on Santa Stops 2008, call the Chamber office.

Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make this event a big success:
John Blok
Chuck Schroder
Jason Larson
Kevin Thelan
John Small
Paul VanDeBerg
Steve Mallatt

Board Election Results

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Board election.

- Kevin Thelan of **First National Bank**

The following slate of candidates was approved for a 3 year term beginning January 1, 2008.

- Chad Padgett of **Sunshine Foods**
- Jennie Patrick of **Sioux Valley Energy**

Congratulations to our newest Board Members and a BIG thank you to Amy Ahlers of **Alliance Communications** and Dr. Ross McDaniel of the **Center for Chiropractic and Athletic Medicine** who are ending their three year term on the Board.

Welcome to the Family!

A Special Welcome and Thank you to our newest Chamber Member:

Morton Buildings
605-212-1009
Seamless Siding Solutions
605-940-9410
Brandon Valley Veterinary Clinic
605-582-8575
Town & Country Linda Vis
605-310-9699

And a BIG thank you to our newest Gold Members:

Bethany Meadows
Crimson Fire
HNJ Todd Headrick
Pace Mfg.

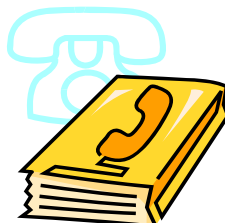
Announcing our newest (and first) Silver Members

Brandon Valley Insurance
Dakota Floors, Inc.
Luverne Truck Equipment
Tailgator's

Congratulations and welcome to the Chamber!

REMINDER:

2008 Phone Book Ads and Memberships must be paid in full by January 15, 2008 or you will NOT be listed in the 2008 Business Directory.



Deanna says Goodbye.

When I was hired by the Chamber almost two years ago, I thought I knew what I was getting into. I had a lot of experience in management and event organizing, I had political and media experience. But nothing prepared me for the incredible experience of working with the members of the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce.

We have accomplished a lot in the last 2 years. And I mean "we". I have been so gratified by the support and help offered to me by the members of this Chamber.

You will get out of the Chamber what you put into it. So please give me one last gift — get involved with something at the Chamber this year. Turn out to a legislative coffee, join a committee, volunteer for Hometown Days, sponsor a team in the Golf Tournament.

I could extend this newsletter by 20 or thirty pages with thank yous. But I hate to kill a tree, so let me just give a big

thank you to everyone who helped in any capacity during my tenure at the Chamber.

I do have to give two very special thank yous however. I have to say thank you to Susan Carpenter for all of the assistance she has given me. Our road wasn't always smooth, but I appreciate all that she does to keep the Chamber running.

I also have to say thanks to Amy Ahlers — she has been a phenomenal resource to me since my first day. She has done a tremendous job leading the Chamber through some tough but necessary changes, and she has never faltered in her dedication — even in the face of new motherhood. So thank you Amy — for everything.

I wish all of you the best of luck. I know that you will give my successor all of the support and enthusiasm that you have shown me. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Chamber Coordinator.

- Deanna White

Holiday Celebrating

Members braved the snow to attend the Chamber Holiday Party on November 30 at **Tailgator's**. Food, fun and friendship were the order of the night.



Advertising with Visitors and Residents

The Chamber is proud to announce a new partnership with the Brandon Valley Challenger and The Resident to create a brand new, professionally designed and printed, visitor and resident guide for Brandon.

The guide will be given out at visitor centers around the state, businesses around Brandon, and will be delivered to resident homes as an insert in The Resident next May. This is an amazing opportunity to advertise your business.

We strongly encourage you to place an ad in this publication — it helps you and our community.

Dustin Rhody from The Resident will be knocking on your door to offer you the opportunity to advertise in this new publication. Chamber members get a discounted rate — so sign up today! Feel free to call Dustin at (605)977-3957 to get your ad space reserved!