

Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 3** — Executive Committee—10:30 am at the Chamber
- 11** — Chamber Board Meeting—11:30 am at the Chamber
- 12** — Marketing Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 16** — Chamber office CLOSED—President's Day
- 18** — Sports & Rec. Committee—Noon at Pizza Ranch
- 19** — Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 19** — **Chamber Mixer**—5:00—6:30 pm at Grage Financial Group & Alternative Health & Wellness—910 E. Redwood Blvd., Suite #1
- 21** — **Legislative Coffee** — 9:30-11:00 am at Tailgator's
- 25** — Tourism Committee—9:00 am at the Chamber

March 2009

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- 11**—Chamber Board Meeting—11:30 am at the Chamber
- 12**—Marketing Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 17**—**Chamber Mixer**—5:00—6:30 pm at Sanford Health Clinic— 1200 E. Holly Blvd.
- 18**—Sports & Rec. Committee—Noon at Pizza Ranch
- 19**—Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 25**—Tourism Committee—9:00 am at the Chamber

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



January 2009

2009 Membership Includes 255 Members!

The New Year has only just begun but the Brandon Chamber has already had a very successful 2009 with the addition of over 40 new members in the past year with a record number currently at 255 members! Growth is always at the forefront of our goals as your membership becomes more valuable with the more members we can attract.

39 Members decided to go above and beyond in their commitment to the chamber this year with the investment of becoming a platinum, gold, or silver member. These organizations are recognized below:

Platinum Members:

- Alliance Communications
- Lee Schelling, Town & Country Realtors
- Midwest Railcar Repair
- Oakridge Nursery & Landscaping
- Sanford Health Clinic
- Sioux Valley Energy
- Sunshine Foods Store
- Todd Headrick, HJN Team Real Estate

Gold Members:

- Bethany Meadows
- Brandon True Value
- Brandon Valley Challenger & The Resident

- Crimson Fire
- Diane Anderson, Brandon/Town & Country Realty
- First National Bank
- Harry Buck, Town & Country Realtors
- Holiday Inn Express & Convention Center
- Home Federal Bank
- Jay Egge Automatic Service, Inc.
- Kimberly Kremlacek, Town & Country Realtors
- Lewis Drug
- Linda Vis, Town & Country Realtors
- McDonald's
- PACE Manufacturing
- Pat Buysse, Town & Country Realtors
- Sanders Printing, Co.
- Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.
- Tailgator's
- Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork
- Wehrkamp Dental
- Wells Fargo Bank

Silver Members:

- A & A Express, Inc.
- Brandon Materials
- DeJager Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
- Luverne Truck Equipment Inc.
- McGreevy Clinic Avera
- McKinney Olson Insurance
- Pizza Ranch
- Subway
- Taco John's

Every member is important to the Chamber and we hope whatever your investment is for 2009 that you receive the benefits you expect. If you have any questions about your membership or have a suggestion, please feel free to call us anytime at 582-7400.

Legislative Coffees

Saturday, January 24th
9:30—11:30 am
Tailgator's

Saturday, February 21st
9:30-11:30 am
Tailgator's



Find out what is happening during the 2009 Legislative Session in Pierre. Make sure our Legislators know what positions you think they should be taking. There is no charge to attend. Coffee is provided.

Nancy Cunningham, Administrative Assistant
Kim Cervick, Executive Director
BVACC Staff

Randy Zdenek, Home Federal Bank
Steve Tripp, McKinney Olson Insurance
Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy
Chad Padgett, Sunshine Foods
Marette Grage, Grage Financial Group
Fast President, Bob Bruning, Bruning Graphic Design
Secretary, Paul VanDeBerg, Alliance Communications
Vice President, Kevin Thelen, First National Bank
President, Barb Vavruska Fish, Financial Network

BVACC Board of Directors

Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
www.brandonvalleychamber.com
(605)582-7400 ~ brancofc@alliancecom.net

Current Resident

What's Inside....

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Chamber Committees' Monthly Highlights

Fundraising Committee:
Currently in recess.

Marketing Committee:

This committee is working hard on setting their plans for 2009. They will be sending out the Buy Brandon postcards and displaying the Buy Brandon yard signs again this year. They have also been working on incorporating some new Buy Brandon ideas that include life-size cut-outs of persons in Brandon with a Buy Brandon tagline and a Buy Brandon mascot named "Sunny." This group is also in charge of the annual phone book which is being compiled and set to print in the near future.

Membership Committee:

Currently in recess.

Public Relations Committee:

With the 2009 Mixer schedule complete, this committee is busy gearing up for many other events such as the Brandon Day at the Legislature, New Member

Luncheon, and Legislative Coffees. This group is also planning the Annual Banquet which will be held in April.

Sports & Recreation Committee:

As 2009 is in full swing, so is the preparation and planning of this year's 3rd Annual Dodgeball Tournament. This year's event will be scheduled for sometime in April. This group is also brainstorming other events that could benefit both the community and Chamber members alike.

Tourism Committee:

In conjunction with the Argus Leader, this committee is working on completing the 09-10 Brandon Visitor Guide. If your business is interested in advertising in this year's publication, please see the insert in this issue of the Horizon.

If you are interested in joining a committee please contact the Chamber office at 582-7400.

Welcome to our family!

Welcome to our newest members:

**Avera McKennan
Rehabilitation Services**

**Citywide Maintenance
Company**

**New Member Luncheon
Thursday, January 22nd
11:30am-1:00pm**



Did you know?

In this issue of the Horizon, we have included the list of all Mixers scheduled for 2009 for your convenience! Put them on your calendar right away so you don't miss any of these fun events. Chamber Mixers are a great way to network and get to know other Chamber Members!

Please note the mixer scheduled for November as it is something new the Chamber is providing: a Home-Based Business Product Fair. There is no booth fee for vendors and the cost will be minimal with food being split between all participating vendors. If you have a home-based business and would like to be a part of this mixer, please call the chamber at 582-7400 and we will get you included on this list.



25 Chamber members were brought up to speed on the issues our elected officials will be facing during the 2009 Legislative session in Pierre. Along with David Owen, President of the SD Chamber of Commerce, District 10 Senator Gene Abdallah, Representative Roger Hunt and Representative Shantel Krebs addressed the crowd in reference to these issues and offered their views. One of the main topics discussed was the tightening budget for 2009 including school and highway funding. Other issues talked about included property taxes, the smoking ban and energy.



For a detailed report of David Owen's presentation, please contact the Chamber office at 582-7400.

You can track what is happening at the SD State Legislature daily by visiting <http://legis.state.sd.us/> throughout the 2009 session. From this website you can also contact your District 10 legislators with any questions or comments you may have.



Legislators share views at Pre-Legislative Luncheon

Words from the President



2009 is here and the Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce is ready for it! We have been busy recruiting new members, re-vamping committees, and rewriting procedures. It is my privilege to serve as your president this year. The Board has identified several goals for 2009 including an enhanced "Buy Brandon" campaign, new welcome signs, a community assessment survey, updating the chamber office, a digital marquee, additional banners, membership recruitment and retention, welcome packets for new businesses, and taking positions on legislative issues.

Our primary focus will be on developing an enhanced "Buy Brandon" campaign. We feel we have been effective in getting the word out about how important it is to

buy local. We continue to send out informational postcards to our residents, put up awareness signs along the streets, and encourage local groups to buy their goods and services here when possible. We feel we are making progress, but want to carry it further. With the downturn in the economy, it will be even more important to keep our dollars here. Our Marketing Committee is developing some new ideas for the campaign. We hope you will appreciate their efforts, and we will keep you apprised of their work.

We are also working with the City in developing some new welcome signs and feel they will enhance the attractiveness of the entrances to Brandon. Also, it is time for another Community Assessment Survey so we will be coordinating that effort with help from the City.

As the leader of the business community, we feel that sometimes the Chamber should take positions on various legisla-

tive issues that help support a vibrant business environment. We are working to develop a process for gathering and evaluating information that can be used to represent the interests of the Brandon business community.

We also want to continue to provide resources for our current members and bring on new members. We continue to have new businesses move to town or expand. New residents come to our office for information, and we will continue to provide your names as resources for them. We welcome your input and participation in the many Chamber events. Our Chamber will only be effective if we have active members so we're counting on you to get involved and voice your opinion as this is YOUR Chamber of Commerce.

Happy New Year,
Barb Vavruska Fish

Chamber Spotlight: Alliance Communications

Superior Internet and TV make Brandon technologically elite

Alliance to upgrade ALL customers, even rural residents, with fiber-optics

Brandon businesses and residents have access to the best technology anywhere following Alliance's upgrade to fiber optics.

More than 10 million homes worldwide already have fiber-to-the-home connections because the technology far surpasses current technologies. A key benefit to fiber optics is that it provides faster connection speeds and carrying capacity than DSL or coaxial cable. For example, a single copper pair line can carry six phone calls. A single fiber line can carry more than 2.5 million phone calls simultaneously, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Alliance Communications developed an aggressive plan to upgrade all customers, town and rural, to fiber-optics. After the upgrade, customers receive the fastest Internet, the sharpest cable TV and digital telephone from Alliance Communications.

Here are tentative dates for when Alliance plans on completing communities in the area:

Brandon town 2008; Brandon rural 2009
Baltic town 2009; Baltic rural 2010
Crooks town 2009; Crooks rural 2010
Garretson town 2009; Garretson rural 2010
Valley Springs town and rural 2009

Experts say fiber is the only technology with enough bandwidth to handle projected consumer demands. Fiber has a virtually unlimited bandwidth, making it "future safe," so it will be in place for a long time to come.

Deploying fiber optics costs about the same as current technologies. According to the Fiber-to-the-Home Council, cable companies spent about \$84 billion to wire households a decade ago, but it costs even less in today's dollars to wire those houses with fiber-optic technology.



Article Courtesy of Amy Ahlers, Alliance Communications