

Calendar of Events

August 2009

- 4 —Executive Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 4—**Ribbon Cutting**—4:30pm at the Brandon Soccer Fields—south side of McHardy Park
- 5 —Marketing Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 6 —Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 11—**“Know What’s In Your Back Yard”** Tour Event—4:00—5:30pm at Wilde Prairie Winery—48052 259th St.
- 12—Chamber Board Meeting—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 18—Membership Committee—7:30 am at the Chamber
- 20—**Chamber Mixer**—5:00 pm-6:30 pm—Wehrkamp Dental 117 Holly Blvd.
- 25—Fundraising Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 25—Brandon Expo Sub-Committee—10:00 am at the Chamber
- 26—Tourism Committee—9:00 am at the Chamber
- 27—Issues Management Sub-Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber

September 2009

- 1 —Executive Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 2 —Marketing Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 3—Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 7—Labor Day — Chamber Office CLOSED
- 9—Chamber Board Meeting—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 9—**Marketing & Advertising Training Event**—11:30am-1:00pm at the Pizza Ranch
- 10—**Membership Drive Kick-Off Breakfast**—7:30 am in the Sioux Valley Energy Community Room
- 15—Membership Committee—7:30 am at the Chamber
- 17—**Chamber Mixer**—5:00-6:30 pm—Brandon Spirits—228 Holly Blvd.
- 22—Fundraising Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 22—Brandon Expo Sub-Committee—10:00 am at the Chamber
- 23—Tourism Committee—9:00 am at the Chamber
- 24—Issues Management Sub-Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber

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 (605)582-7400 ~ brancofc@alliancecom.net

Horizon

Building a Better Life

BRANDON VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

July 2009

Brandon Spirits

2009 Golf Outing & Wine Tasting

Rain didn't dampen the spirits of our 104 dedicated golfers!

Winners:
 1st Place Holiday Inn
 2nd Place Taco John's
 3rd Place City of Brandon Team 2

Closest to the line
 -Tony Byre

Closest to the pin
 -Bonnie Krier

Longest Putt
 -Mayor Beesley

“Best dressed” Hole
 -Barb Fish
 -Hawaiian Theme

Thank you to the many volunteers that helped make this event a great success!



Cash Bash Reminder Update

Win \$5,000, \$1,000 or \$300 in Brandon Bucks!
 Only 253 tickets left! You don't need to be present to win!
 For more information call 605-582-7400.



What's Inside....

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Chamber Committees' Monthly Highlights

Fundraising Committee:

With a successful Golf & Wine Outing under their belts, this committee is focusing all of their attention on the upcoming Hometown Cash Bash. If you haven't purchased your ticket yet, please call the chamber at 582-7400 to not only have a chance at winning \$5,000 in Brandon Bucks but also gain admittance for 2 into the party of the year!

Marketing Committee:

With the cutouts out around town and "Sunny" the mascot on his way to Brandon, the marketing committee is looking into the idea of incorporating gift cards into the Brandon Bucks mix rather than only having the offering of the paper bucks.

Membership Committee:

If you haven't been contacted to be a 2010 ambassador yet, you may soon be. This committee is working on getting their teams together to kick-off the 2010 membership drive that will be taking place over the month of September.

Public Relations Committee:

Mixers and ribbon-cuttings are the main items on this committee's plate for the summer. Upcoming events they are planning include a marketing and advertising training event for September 9th and the Milestone Luncheon scheduled for October 22nd. This committee has also branched out and has 2 sub-committees including the Issues Management and Brandon Expo sub-committees.

Tourism Committee:

Currently in recess.

Welcome to our family!

Welcome to our newest members:

Spartanwebs/PC Rescue

Brandon Area Mortgage

J & L Harley-Davidson

Ridgeview Place Apartments

Did you know?

Did you know that **New BUSINESS Welcome Packets** are *coming soon*?

As we are made aware of new businesses locating in Brandon, we will hand deliver a New Business Welcome Packet to them.

We currently hand deliver New Resident Welcome Packets around the neighborhoods of Brandon. Many of you have sent us trinkets with your logo on them to include in these packets.

The New Business Welcome Packets will be created by the Membership Committee and will include the Brandon Phone Book, Brandon Visitor Guide and a welcome from the Chamber with paper work that will help them become members. Current Chamber members will also have an opportunity to include information about their businesses in these packets.

As Brandon grows, more and more business opportunities will present themselves. The Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce will welcome new businesses and help them become a contributing part of the Brandon community.

Brandon Hometown Days!

Brandon South Dakota is a **GREAT place to call home!** We want to invite our neighbors to join us in celebrating **Brandon Hometown Days** from July 31st through August 2nd with some fun festivities!

Friday, July 31st 2009

The Brandon Valley Ministerial Association **Prayer Breakfast** starts off the weekends events at Brandon Lutheran Church. This event is open to everyone!

Friday evening is the BVACC **Hometown Cash Bash** from 6:00pm—11:00pm at the Holiday Inn Express. Your ticket gets you and a guest into the party for dinner and dancing AND it gets you a chance to win \$5000.00 in Brandon Bucks!

Saturday, August 1st 2009

"Saturday in the Park" at McHardy Park. Kids Inflatable Midway, Food & Entertainment all day long!

8am-2pm - Art & Craft Fair
2pm - Brandon Edge Duck Race
3-4pm - \$1,000 Karaoke Contest Finals

Sunday, August 2nd 2009

1:00 pm-Vintage Power Tractor Pull
At the Vintage Power Grounds just East of Brandon. For more information call Jim Caldwell at 605-582-2285.

Prairie Repertory Theater will be giving a performance each day over the weekend at the Brandon Performing Arts Center.

7/31 at 7:30pm "Foxfire"
8/1 at 7:30pm "Annie Get Your Gun"
8/2 at 2:00pm "Annie Get Your Gun"

Grants from Brandon Community Foundation and the Sioux Valley Round-Up program have made it possible to provide an inflatable midway for the children of Brandon!

Please visit the Brandon Hometown Days website for more information and a schedule of all the events planned at www.brandonhometowndays.com



Cutting, Breaking & Mixing it up!

Mixer

Great Spot Company & Small Wonders Children's Photography

June 18th



CHEESIEST

Chamber Mixer EVER!

Complete with a Nacho CHEESE Fountain!



Ribbon Cutting

Eagle Creek Apartments
June 29th



"Know What's In Your Backyard"

Brandon Materials
June 23rd



Chamber Spotlight: Midwest Railcar Repair

Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc. began in 1988 when Greg Carmon and Bob Mathiesen purchased an existing railcar repair business from their employer, General Electric. When purchased, Midwest Railcar Repair employed 15 people and grew to employ 25 while still located near the John Morrell packing plant in Sioux Falls. Space at the original site prevented additional expansion, so after a 2-year search, land was purchased near Corson in anticipation of future growth.

In 1997, due to Bob's pending retirement, Greg purchased his minority interest and began designing the new state-of-the-art repair shop now located in Corson. The new repair shop, designed with the input of the facility's employees and supervisors, opened its doors in 2000. The facility is one of a very few in the nation designed and built for the various aspects of railcar repair and maintenance.

Thanks to David Smook, Vice President, and many dedicated employees, Midwest Railcar Repair has been in a continued state of expansion with more in the planning stages. The current facility consists of three separate operations. Originally, the operation was dedicated solely to repair, modification and rebuilding of railcars with the second operation dedicated to blasting, re-painting, and re-stenciling of railcars. The latest addition, a cleaning facility, caters to the agricultural community, preparing railcars for the transport of food-grade products such as cereal grains, sugar beets from the Red River Valley refined into table sugar, winter wheat milled into flour, corn for ethanol produc-

tion and corn syrup used for soft drinks, and soybeans refined into meal products and soy diesel.

The current plant can hold 34 railroad cars under the three acres of buildings. The entire plant operates on 65 acres of property with 11 miles of track, over 45 switches, and a storage capacity for over 650 railroad cars. Approximately 200 railroad cars are cleaned, repaired and repainted at the facility each month. To accomplish this, employees do a wide range of skills, such as welding, metal fabrication, blasting, painting, stenciling, cleaning, inspections, and quality assurance.

After 10 years in Corson, Midwest Railcar Repair has grown to a peak of 117 employees earlier this year with a payroll of approximately \$100,000 per week. Midwest Railcar Repair is proud that customers reap the benefits and see first hand the Midwest work ethic. Due to the dedication of the employees, we look forward to future growth and continuing to be a part of the growing Brandon business community.



Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc.

Article courtesy of Greg Carmon