

Calendar of Events

December 2008

- 2 — Executive Committee — 10:30 am at the Chamber
- 4 — **Chamber Holiday Party** — 6:30-8:30 pm at Tailgator's
- 9— **Know What's In Your Backyard Tour** — 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at PACE Manufacturing – at their new location on Red wood Blvd. next to the Brandon Valley school district's transportation facility
- 10 — Chamber Board Meeting — 11:30 am at the Chamber
- 11 — Marketing Committee — 8:30 am at the Chamber
- 17 — Sports & Rec. Committee — 12:00 pm at the Pizza Ranch
- 18 — Public Relations Committee — 8:00 am at the Chamber
- 19 — Tourism Committee — 9:00 am at the Chamber
- 24 — Chamber office CLOSED
- 25 — Chamber office CLOSED— Merry Christmas!
- 26 — Chamber office CLOSED

January 2009

- 1 — Chamber office CLOSED— Happy New Year!
- 6 — Executive Committee — 10:30 am at the Chamber
- 8 —Marketing Committee— 8:30 am at the Chamber
- 8 — **Pre-Legislative Luncheon** — 11:30-1:00 pm at Tailgator's
- 14 — Chamber Board Meeting — 11:30 am at the Chamber
- 15 —Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 21 — Tourism Committee — 9:00 am at the Chamber
- 21—Sports & Rec. Committee—Noon at Pizza Ranch
- 24— **Legislative Coffee** — 9:30-11:00 am at Tailgator's
- 28 — **Brandon Day at the Legislature** — All day event in Pierre

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November 2008

A Year in Review—Words from the President



added 29 new members. Our revenues have exceeded last years by more than \$10,000 from this drive alone, and we're not done yet. What a show of support from our member businesses. Your support for Brandon is constantly tested, and when you are presented with the proper vehicle to give, you continue to give back.

ner, and our Chamber is well positioned for the future.

Trust me, there is much, much more to mention. But not here. Let me finish this article by saying once again just how proud I am to be a part of this Chamber and this Community.

Respectfully,
Bob Bruning – President

On Wednesday the 12th our Chamber Board of Directors attended the 2008 annual retreat. Our current board was joined by our 3 newest members for this event. These 3 officially start in January, but by being involved with this exercise they are able to begin to steer Chamber direction now. It is at this retreat where we review the progress we've made towards our goals and priorities that we identified last November. Then we go through the process of identifying new ones for next year. Of course, all of our Board Members are volunteers who are investing their own time for the benefit of Brandon. Their dedication, leadership, and vision are reflected in the accomplishments of our Chamber. I am very pleased to report that all of our stated goals for 2008 either have been or are being met. And there were plenty! Too many to mention here, but let me highlight a few.

Besides Kim, there have been many of our members who stepped forward to help with this project. Without them, we wouldn't be in this position.

We also need to recognize the performance of our new Administrative Assistant, Nancy Cunningham. Nancy has successfully created an up to date database of our members. Complete with current contact information and even the date the business started. This was no small task. Furthermore she has done this with a smile while completing her regular duties, and supporting Kim. Even though she is part time, her contributions have been significant, and she has added a real synergy to the office operations. Performance is all about people, and this duo is proving to be stellar.

The restructuring of our Committees was perhaps the highest priority we committed to at our last retreat. Those of you who attended our Annual Meeting in April may remember our theme "Come Grow with Us". We meant it, and many talented and dedicated members responded! We now have reorganized and newly focused committees with proper staffing and committed leadership. It will be from these committees that our future board members and board leadership will come. Thank you to all of you who stepped forward. Because of your unselfish generosity, Brandon is the real win-

Board of Directors

- President**
Bob Bruning, Bruning Graphic Design
- Vice President**
Barb Fish, Financial Network
- Treasurer**
Kevin Thelen, First National Bank

- Members**
Cheryl Erickson, Home Federal Bank*
Chris Limmer, Limmer Financial Services*
Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy
Chad Padgett, Sunshine Foods
Tara Simonson, Splitrock Chiropractic *
Randy Zdenek, Home Federal Bank

- New Members for 2009**
Paul VanDeBerg, Alliance Communications
Steve Tripp, Brandon Valley Insurance
Marette Grage, Grage Financial Services

- Ex-Officio Members**
Paul Lundberg—Brandon Valley Schools
Dennis Olson—City of Brandon
Nick Lanning—City of Brandon

* denotes term ends at end of 2008

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

BVACC Board of Directors

President, Bob Bruning, Bruning Graphic Design, Inc.
Vice President, Barb Fish, Financial Network
Secretary/Treasurer, Kevin Thelen, First National Bank
Cheryl Erickson, Home Federal Bank
Chris Limmer, Limmer Financial Services
Chad Padgett, Sunshine Foods
Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy
Tara Simonson, Splitrock Chiropractic Center, LLC
Randy Zdenek, Home Federal Bank

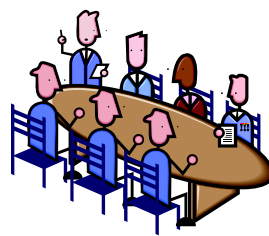
BVACC Staff

Kim Cerwick, Executive Director
Nancy Cunningham, Administrative Assistant

Current Resident

What's Inside....
~ Chamber Committee Highlights ~ Great Christmas Gift Ideas ~ Did you know? ~
~ Cutting, Breaking, & Mixing it up ~ Build our Community: Buy Local! ~ Calendar of Events ~

Chamber Committees' Monthly Highlights



Fundraising Committee:

This group is working hard to make this year's "Santa Stops" a huge success! Please

see insert in this Horizon for more details.

Marketing Committee:

New Brandon Banners for the holidays will be donning Splitrock Blvd. very soon! Along with this project the Marketing Committee is also currently working on the 2009 Phone Book.

Membership Committee:

Currently in recess, this committee recently reconvened to celebrate accomplishments and discuss changes to make before next year's membership drive.

Public Relations Committee:

This group has a lot on their plate as they plan and execute the following upcoming events: Chamber Holiday Party, Know What's in Your Backyard Tour at PACE Manufacturing, Pre-Legislative Luncheon, and the 2009 Brandon Day at the Legislature.

Sports & Recreation Committee:

With guidance from this group, we recently updated the Chamber website to include a page for Chamber member sports organizations with a link directly to their homepages.

Tourism Committee:

The Tourism group has already begun planning for the 09/10 Brandon Visitor's Guide along with completing ads for the South Dakota and Southeast South Dakota Visitor Guides for 09/10.

Welcome to our family!

Welcome to our newest members:

- Pride Neon
- Earthscapes, Inc.
- Parker Automotive
- Maximum Promotions
- Joe Oliver,
State Farm Insurance
- Brandon Food Pantry

WELCOME

Cutting, Breaking & Mixing it up!



Ribbon Cutting
Bethany Meadows Memory Garden
October 20



Mixer/ Ribbon Cutting
Town & Country Realtors
October 16



Ribbon Cutting
Pump House
October 27



Did you know?



BRANDON MAGNETS

Are Great
Stocking Stuffers!

And

BRANDON BUCKS

Are Great
Gifts for Employees!



Great Christmas Gift Ideas!

Brandon Bucks

If you are looking for gift ideas for Christmas this year, you may want to consider items that can be purchased right here are your local Chamber of Commerce!

Brandon Bucks have been around for years and have been purchased and given to employees of many businesses in town as a neat way of giving them a Christmas gift rather than just writing them a check. In \$5 increments, Brandon Bucks may be used to purchase items at all Brandon businesses. The business accepts them as any regular check, endorses and deposits them accordingly.

To avoid embarrassment of "Bucks" shoppers, Brandon businesses should alert their front line employees of the procedure.

Brandon Bucks expire one year from purchase. Date of expiration should be stamped on each Brandon Buck as it is purchased.

The Chamber provides Brandon Bucks as a service to local businesses to promote shopping in Brandon.

Brandon Magnets

Brandon Magnets are new this year and have been available for purchase since June of 2008. They are great stocking stuffers and are perfect for magnet collectors everywhere, especially if your name happens to be "Brandon!"

At \$3.00 per magnet, you are supporting the Brandon Chamber of Commerce as well as giving a one-of-a-kind gift that will last for years to come. Nowhere else will you find magnets like these!

Help us make Brandon magnets the "it" gift of the year by purchasing and sporting a Brandon magnet on your own refrigerator!

Both Brandon Bucks and Brandon Magnets may be purchased at the Chamber Office during regular businesses hours.

Build our Community: Buy Local!

Supporting independent businesses creates local jobs, preserves economic diversity, safeguards the environment and contributes to a just global economy.

When asked to name our favorite restaurant, café, or shop, it's typically a unique local business. Just look at the results in any community's "Best of" polls as proof. Those businesses define our *sense of place*, but we often forget their survival depends on our patronage.

Local owners, typically having invested much of their life savings in their businesses, have a natural interest in the community's long-term health. Community-based businesses are essential to charitable endeavors, and their owners frequently serve on local boards and support numerous causes.

Why Buy Local?

- Local businesses produce more income, jobs, and tax receipts for local communities than big box stores do.

- Local businesses are more likely to utilize local ads, banks, and other services.
- Local businesses donate more money to nonprofits and are more accountable to their local communities.
- Supporting local businesses preserves the economic diversity of our communities and the unique character of our neighborhoods.
- Supporting local businesses is good for the environment, because it cuts down on fuel consumption. Buying locally produced goods reduces the need to ship goods from thousands of miles away and also cuts down on the distances shoppers travel.



Resource: buylocalday.org/ Jeff Milchen, "The Benefits of Doing Business Locally" 1998-2005

CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 4th
6:30-8:30pm
at Tailgator's

Although this is a free event for all members we would appreciate your bringing a few non-perishable food items to help stock the new Brandon Food Pantry. Items they are most in need of are breakfast cereals and bars, snack crackers and common household toiletries such as toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

This is the time to not only celebrate the season, but to recognize your accomplishments as businesses in our great city!

