

Calendar of Events

December 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
- 3—Chamber Holiday Party—6:30-8:30pm at Tailgator's 1013 N. Splitrock Blvd.
- 5—10— Santa Stops!
- 8—Chamber Board Meeting—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 15—Membership Committee—7:30 am at the Chamber
- 16—Fundraising Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 17—Issues Management Council—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 23—Tourism Committee—4:00 pm at the Chamber
- 24—Chamber Office CLOSED
- 25—Chamber Office CLOSED—Merry Christmas!
- 31—Chamber Office CLOSED

January 2010

- 1—Chamber Office CLOSED—Happy New Year!
- 2—BV Holiday Classic Basketball Event — all day at the Brandon Valley High School
- 5—Executive Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 6—Marketing Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 7—Public Relations Committee—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 12—Chamber Board—8:00 am at the Chamber
- 19—Membership Committee—7:30 am at the Chamber
- 20—Fundraising Committee—8:30 am at the Chamber
- 20—Tourism Committee—4:00 pm at the Chamber
- 21—Chamber Mixer—5:00-6:30pm at Prairie Rehabilitation Services—1220 E. Holly Blvd.
- 27—Brandon Day at the Legislature—All day event in Pierre
- 28—Issues Management Council—8:00 am at the Chamber



BRANDON VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 2009

2009 Year in Review — Words from the President



Thanks to all of you, our members, for a successful 2009! Our membership drive has just concluded and we have added 29 new members with 12 members increasing their membership level investment with the Chamber. We want to thank all our committee members, Ambassadors, Board of Directors and Chamber staff for their efforts.

Our primary focus this year was enhancing the "Buy Brandon" campaign. Our Marketing Committee created life size cutouts of Brandon residents that emphasized why it is important to buy locally. They also commissioned a mascot, Sunny, for

us to use at public events. Sunny has been quite a hit with the young folks in our community! Again, his purpose is just to create awareness and ask people to support our business community. It's all about sales tax dollars – the more we spend here, the more taxes we generate and the more facilities, amenities, and services the City of Brandon can provide to our residents. In addition, if we have a successful business community, more people and businesses will move here. Our sales tax dollars have grown over the year so we hope we can take some credit for that growth.

We have a new sub-committee that is looking into issues of public importance such as taxes, roads, etc. We will provide you with more information as they do their research.

On November 15th we will be having the first ever Brandon Expo. This is an opportunity for our local businesses to show residents what they can purchase locally. Sometimes our businesses "get lost" at a big trade show in the city so this is a chance to

promote your "wares". We hope you will come out and see the booths, take in the pancake feed, and let the kids jump on the inflatables.

We are also promoting the first annual BV Holiday Classic to be held January 2, 2010. There will be an 8th grade basketball tournament in the morning, and three high school games in the afternoon and evening. It will give everyone a chance to see our new gym and experience some good basketball as the new year begins.

We feel good about the work we have gotten done this year. Our business community continues to grow because of your support. Please take an opportunity to thank our staff, Kim Cerwick and Nancy Cunningham as they make things "hum" down at the office. Best wishes for a very successful 2010!

Respectfully,
Barb Vavruska Fish
President



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

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

Horizon is an official publication of the
Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce
www.brandonvalleychamber.com
(605)582-7400 ~ brandonvalleychamber.com

What's Inside....
Chamber Committee Highlights ~ Great Christmas Gift Ideas! ~ Did you know?
Cutting, Breaking, & Mixing it up ~ Chamber Spotlight: BV Baseball Association ~ Calendar of Events

Chamber Committees' Monthly Highlights

Fundraising Committee:

This year's Santa Stop dates are set. Santa will be in Brandon to visit you and your children at your home on Saturday, December 5th or Monday through Thursday, the 7-10th. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.

Marketing Committee:

As 2010 approaches, this committee is in brainstorm mode to decide what promotions to do in the coming year. They have already committed to a year's worth of TV advertising on KSFY. If you haven't seen these commercials yet, please visit the homepage on our website at www.brandonvalleychamber.com.

Membership Committee:

It has been another successful year for this group as we have just finished up our 2nd annual membership drive. We have gained 29 new members and many

businesses have shown their support of the chamber by increasing their memberships! They are not done as this committee will be working year round to gain more members throughout 2010.

Public Relations Committee:

January 27th is "Brandon Day at the Legislature!" If you or anyone you know would be interested in attending this highly anticipated annual event, check out the flyer included in this Horizon for more information.

Tourism Committee:

With the new year just around the corner, this group is already working on next year's community guide. This group has also recently agreed to take on another project, helping with the planning of Brandon Hometown Days that occurs the first weekend of August each year.

Welcome to our family!

Welcome to our newest members:

- New Century Press/
Specialty Publications**
- City of Valley Springs**
- Heartland Funeral Home**
- Woltzman, VanKekerix & Stotz, P.C.**
- Junior Achievement
of South Dakota**
- Della Kobernusz,
Norwex Enviro Products**
- JK Xteriors**
- Tastefully Simple**
- Youth Enrichment Services**
- Jay Tripp, Schmitt Music**
- RSVP Advertising**

Great Christmas Gift Ideas!

Did you know?



BRANDON MAGNETS

Are Great
Stocking Stuffers!

And

BRANDON BUCKS

Are Great
Gifts for Employees!



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

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, \$10, or \$25 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 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 BV Area 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 business hours.

Cutting, Breaking & Mixing it up!



**Ribbon Cutting
Brandon Valley High School
New Addition**
October 16th



Mixer—Tailgator's
October 15th

**Know What's In Your Backyard
Wausau Supply Company**
November 4th

**Ground Breaking
Heartland Funeral Home**
November 3rd

Chamber Spotlight: Brandon Valley Baseball Association

Baseball Association Serves Area Kids

By Trevor Guthmiller

This past year was another year of growth for the Brandon Valley Baseball Association (BVBA). Over the past five years, the baseball program in Brandon and Valley Springs has grown by an average of 10% a year. This past year 441 area youth played baseball through the BVBA which administers the baseball program from the rookies league (6 year-olds) all the way through the high school and Legion baseball programs (17 & 18 year-olds).

The BVBA has continued to grow due to the commitment by the organization to offer playing opportunities for more youth every year. In the past two years the organization has added recreation league opportunities for 13 and 14 year-old players, which wasn't offered before, as well as adding new travel teams for the bantam levels (9,10,11 & 12 year-olds). In addition, the BVBA worked hard to bring official Little League baseball to our community in 2009.

This year, the BVBA plans to grow even more by offering two teams at the Varsity VFW (15 and 16 year-old) level instead of the one team that has been standard over the past few years. All these initiatives have been aimed at giving more youth the opportunity to play and develop as baseball players.

In addition to providing the community with a great baseball program for its youth, the BVBA also has a significant impact on the economy by hosting three of the largest baseball tournaments in the state. The BVBA's tournament lineup starts with the annual Pizza Ranch Tournament on Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30, 2010) and is followed by the Dakota

Sports Tournament (June 19-20, 2010) and the Huset's Speedway Tournament (July 23-25, 2010). The Pizza Ranch Tournament is the largest baseball tournament in the state, bringing, on average, over 90 baseball teams to Brandon every year. During the spring and summer there is baseball practice and games going on at Aspen Park virtually every night, bringing people to town to buy groceries, gas and food, while their kids play and practice.

Part of the BVBA's success is due to the support from the City of Brandon for the baseball/softball complex at Aspen Park. In the past two years, the City has added lights to many fields enabling more games to be played on each field, and redone fences and dugouts to improve safety. We are hopeful the City will look at adding additional fields in the future to enable us to continue to grow and add teams. We also appreciate the City of Valley Springs for their commitment to the fields in Valley Springs.

Additionally, the BVBA appreciates the support of all the local businesses that help sponsor the program every year. We could not offer an affordable baseball program for the kids in our community without their help. Together we are helping give our youth a great opportunity to play baseball, have fun and learn about sportsmanship. For more information about the youth baseball program in our community, visit the BVBA's website: www.brandonvalleybaseball.com.

CHAMBER HOLIDAY PARTY
Thursday, December 3rd
6:30-8:30pm
at Tailgator's