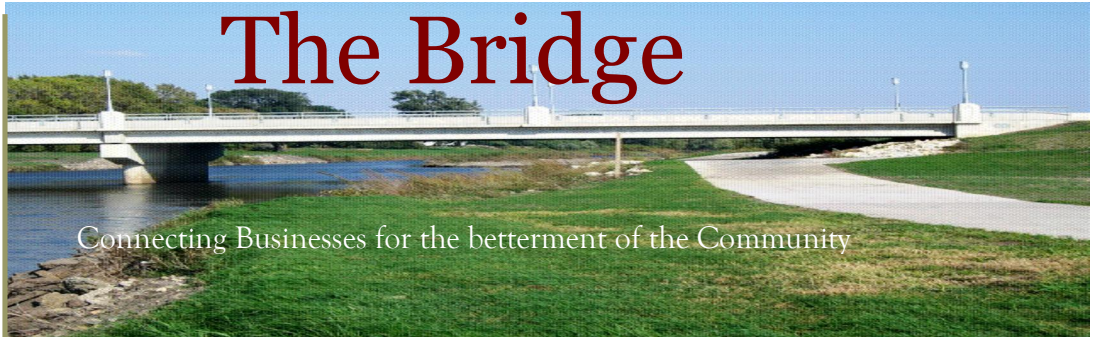


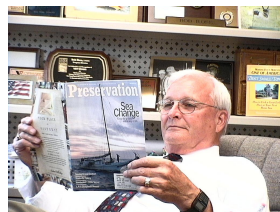
**December
2010**



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Thoughts of Executive Director Bob Rose



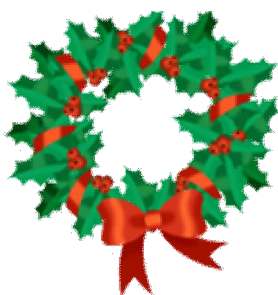
On December 1st we welcomed a new staff member, Mary Sikora. Mary will be our Financial/Communications person. Mary brings a wealth of knowledge to the job having extensive experience in financial and customer service relations. Mary will be the first person you see when you walk in our front door. Stop by and say hello and welcome to Mary.

As the holiday season approaches, remember Chamber Dollars. Chamber Dollars are a great way to solve that gift idea, especially for those difficult to buy for friends or relatives. Chamber Dollars are also a great idea for year-end bonuses. Chamber Dollars come in all denominations and any amount just bring your order to the office and gift giving worries are over. And remember, all the money will be spent with local Chamber businesses.

Monday December 6th is the unofficial opening of the Holiday Season in Spencer with the annual Grand Meander taking place from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Live store window displays, ice sculptures, a Tuba Christmas Concert and free hot chocolate all happening downtown. This is always a fun night and an opportunity to check out the latest in holiday merchandise. The weather will be cool and invigorating with lots to see and do. Don't miss it.

The Chamber Ag Committee is busy planning the 27th Annual Ag Outlook. Mark your calendar for February 15th at the Clay County Regional Event Center. This year's Ag Outlook promises to be bigger and better than ever with the latest in agricultural products, workshops in crop and livestock production techniques plus an opportunity to win fabulous prizes. The doors open at 8:00 AM and a great lunch served at noon for a very reasonable price.

As we approach the end of another year, we the staff of the Spencer Chamber wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for the support we receive from each of you throughout the year. The success of the Chamber is made possible by your continued efforts on our behalf. Your service to the Chamber and the Community of Spencer is very much appreciated. May the blessings of this season be with you all, now and throughout the coming year.



Our Members

ARE

the

Chamber!

Spencer Chamber Officers & Directors

Suzi Harper, Chair
[The Farmers Bank](#)

Eric Van Der Heide,
Vice Chair
[Northwest Bank](#)

Kurt Jacobsen, Past Chair
[SMU](#)

Rod Meendering, Treasurer-
[Winther-Stave & Co.](#)

Pat Ahlers, Secretary
[Clay County Regional Events
Center](#)

Steve Pick, [SMU](#)

Melissa Cunningham
[Spencer Hospital](#)

Tracy Small,
[Spencer Office Supplies](#)

Jarrett Smith,
[Channel Bio](#)

Brian Fassbender
[H & N Chevrolet-Buick](#)

David Putnam
[KICD AM 1240
CD107.7 / Lite 104.9](#)

Craig Wampler
[Midstates Builders](#)

Home & Holiday Show

The inaugural Spencer Chamber Home and Holiday Show was held at Southpark Mall on the weekend of November 12, 13 & 14 with 37 businesses attending.

The show was the result of requests from chamber member businesses who wanted a local home show similar to the Chamber Home and Health Show which was also held at Southpark Mall a few years ago and occurred in the month of March. That show ended as a result of a regional home show which is held annually in January at the Clay County Regional Events Center.

The chamber staff recognizes that it will take time to build our Home and Holiday Show back to the status of the former Home and Health Show and its over 100 exhibitors.

In the coming years we hope to add more holiday themed entertainment, cooking and craft demonstrations and prize drawings. With the cooperation of the Southpark Mall, we will strive to keep the cost of exhibiting at the show minimal especially for the members of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce.



**Date for the 2011
Spencer Chamber Home & Holiday Show
November 11, 12 & 13
Southpark Mall, Spencer**

Chamber Listens

My final in a series of listening sessions is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 15th at 8am** at "The Dock" located at Gateway North in north Spencer. I began this program as a way to better communicate with our members about the happenings of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce and give members a chance to relay any needs or concerns they may have. This will be the fourth such session of the year with an emphasis on those businesses located north of the downtown area as well as other businesses that weren't able to attend a prior meeting.

All we ask is that you please call the chamber and let us know you're coming so we can have plenty of donuts and coffee on hand. The office phone number is 712-262-5680 or email: campbell@smunet.net.

I look forward to seeing you on December 15th.

Eggs and Issues

From YOUR Spencer Chamber of Commerce

The 2011 Legislative Session

For over 15 years the Spencer Chamber of Commerce has hosted representative from the Iowa House and Senate to be a part of a listening session with their constituents. Eggs and Issues is scheduled four times during the Legislative session and is held in the council chambers of Spencer City Hall on Saturday mornings from 9 - 10:30am.

The dates and breakfast sponsors for the 2011 Eggs and Issues sessions are:

Saturday, January 22nd - Northwest Bank

Saturday, February 12th - KICD, CD107.7 & Lite 104.9

Saturday, February 26th - H & N Chevrolet-Buick and Midstates Builders

Saturday, March 12th - Iowa Lakes Community College and Northwest Iowa Small Business Development Center

Invited to attend are State Senators John P (Jack) Kibbie and David Johnson as well as State Representatives Jeff Smith, Royd Chambers and John Wittneben.

In addition, Senator Charles Grassley, Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Steve King have been issued an invitation to attend however due to their Washington schedules are normally not present.

The format for each session is for updates on local issues and introduction of bills and their progress from our Legislators followed by questions by those in attendance.

Business After Hours - 2011 Schedule



Thanks again to Farmers Bank, Warner Funeral Home and Bogenrief Studios for a very special Business after Hours on November 16.

Over 110 attended with great food, refreshments and door prizes.

As we enter 2011, we will set some limits on the Business after Hours events with a maximum of two per month on the second and fourth Tuesday. This is to ensure good attendance to our member sponsors as well as for our members to better be able to make plans.

The only exception will be Clay County Fair week and Holiday periods.

Dates are available to be booked now! Call Bill at the Chamber and reserve your date!



Chamber Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24 & Friday, December 31

Office Closed



Let's Celebrate the First Baby of 2011



As we approach the new year, the Spencer Chamber of Commerce will again welcome the first baby born at Spencer Hospital in 2011.

Each year, Spencer merchants donate useful items for the newborn along with his or her parents. These items can be in the form of gift certificates or actual items such as: a pair of baby booties, piggy bank, savings bond, books, picture frames and toys. Use your imagination.

If your business is able to provide a gift for the first baby, please call or email the chamber office and let us know what you will be donating. We will need to have the items at the office no later than December 20th.

Upon notification from Spencer Hospital, chamber staff will deliver the items in a useful baby basket to the newborn and parents. The child must have been born after 12am on January 1, 2011 to qualify for the gift package.

Consider Giving Spencer Chamber Dollars this Holiday

Shop locally and treat your friends, family and employees to a special gift this Holiday

Season by purchasing Spencer Chamber Dollar Certificates. You decide on the amount and what increments you want. The money may be spent at any of the 500 Spencer Chamber of Commerce member businesses.

Simply stop by the Spencer Chamber Office during regular hours and we'll assist you with your Holiday Shopping.



The perfect gift that not only supports our local businesses but also gives the recipient the freedom to choose their own gift. As we set aside time for family and friends over the holiday, let us also be thankful for this wonderful community in which we live and for the people who make Spencer a great place to live, work, and shop!

Chamber members simply endorse the back of the certificate as if it were a check. No fees are assessed to your business. The Chamber office is open Monday-Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm and 8am to 4 pm on Friday. Call ahead for your certificate to be printed and ready for pickup at your convenience at 262-5680.

Meet & Welcome Mary Sikora



The Spencer Chamber office is happy to welcome Mary Sikora as its Finance / Communications Director.

Mary joins the Spencer Chamber of Commerce, filling the position as Finance/Communications Director. She is a recent graduate of Buena Vista University with a bachelor's degree in business management and accounting. Along with her husband Jim, own Sikora Sprinkler Systems in Spencer specializing in installation of lawn irrigation systems. Their son Tyler is a junior at Iowa State University majoring in ag engineering, and their daughter Brittany is a sophomore at University of Northern Iowa majoring in communications disorders. Mary looks forward to working with the community and chamber members as she begins her career with the Spencer Chamber of Commerce.



Welcome New Members

Atlas Stamp & Seal

Mar-Lin Business Supply

Happy Holidays

Wishing you All the Best this Holiday Season!

Becky, Mary, Bill and Bob

The Spencer Chamber of Commerce



December

Calendar of Events



All Month - Arts on Grand Exhibit - Gifts from the Kiln
Each Tuesday - Storytime at Spencer Public Library 10:30am
Spencer Community Theatre-"Arsenic & Old Lace" Dec 3-5 & Dec. 9-11
Holiday Musical Entertainment - Weekends at Southpark Mall

- 3 & 4 - Maurer/DemCo PBR at Clay County Regional Events Center-7:30pm
- 4 Arts on Grand Writers Group - 10am
 Children's Frosty Olympics at Southpark Mall - 10am
 Arts on Grand Little Leos+- 10:30am
 Arts on Grand Artists Reception - 1pm
- 5 American Legion Omelet Breakfast - 8am-1pm
 Festival of Lessons and Carols at Sacred Heart Catholic Church - 3pm
- 6 Grand Meander & Tuba Christmas downtown Spencer - 6 - 8pm
- 11 Cookie Decorating and Community Bake Sale at Southpark Mall - 10am
 Arts on Grand Little Leos+- 10:30am
 Santa Storytime at Spencer Public Library - 10:30am
- 12 Alice's Tea Party at Arts on Grand - 1pm
- 15 Adult Movie Night at Spencer Public Library - 7pm
- 17 Spencer Family YMCA Middle School Dance -
- 18 Arts on Grand Writers Group - 10am
 Children's Movie Day at Spencer Public Library - 2pm
- 19 Ronnie Milsap Christmas Show at Clay County Regional Events Center - 7pm
- 20-22 Spencer Family YMCA Preschool Christmas Program
- 28 Barney LIVE+at Clay County Regional Events Center - 11am & 6:30pm
- 29 Video Game Tournaments at Spencer Public Library - 2pm