

the Plains View

Martin Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

Lighting up the town Chamber closes the year with festivities

**By Tabatha Murphy,
Chamber Coordinator**

The Martin Area Chamber of Commerce had a busy close to the 2009 year.

In November, the Chamber sponsored the annual Chili Supper. Joyce Wilson from Martin Drug and Mercantile was in charge of this year's supper and the business also sponsored. The Festival of Trees was also on display beginning in November at the Court house.

The Chamber hosted its annual Craft Fair with visits from Santa and will host its annual holiday events this December. Chamber member and co-owner of True Value, Judy Kratovil was in charge of this year's Craft Fair at the legion.

Visits from Santa Clause were also available for the community. As many adults were shopping at the booths, children lined up to take their pictures with Santa both during the Craft Fair and after the Parade of Lights.

The Craft Fair was followed by the annual Parade of Lights. Frank Mueller from LaCreek Electric and Chamber president Shelly Otte, Martin Livestock Auction Cafe, headed up the event.



Photo by Tabatha Murphy

Waggoner's Grocery lights up the streets of Martin at the annual Parade of Lights, Saturday, December 5. The parade was just one of many events the Chamber sponsored this year.

Several businesses in town lit up the streets with their floats during the parade. Afterwards the community and judges voted for their favorite float. This year's People's Choice Award went to the Kratovil's True Value.

Mueller said the parade was a success and looks forward to working on it again next year.

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Chamber Reminders

- Don't forget to turn in your 2010 membership dues and applications if you have not already done so.
- If you have updates or changes for the Web site, please contact Tabatha Murphy at martinsd.net@gmail.com
- Next Chamber meeting is scheduled to be hosted by Classic Stitch, Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Martin Livestock Cafe.

Local Happenings:

Martin gets new businesses

*By Tabatha Murphy,
Chamber Coordinator*

The community of Martin is receiving more opportunity to flourish. Several new businesses have moved into town that may not only bring job opportunities, but consumer opportunities as well.

Family Dollar opened in Martin last month right off of Highway 18. The store features basic goods for home including clothing, food, toys, cleaning supplies and more. The store is managed by Becky Hinz.

Another business may be new to Martin, but not to the area. Missouri Breaks, a Durable medical equipment supply and medical research company, moved to the Martin area last month also. The company has offices in Rapid City and Eagle Butte and closed its office in Kyle. Manager Blaine O'Leary told the local newspaper that the Martin area was a better location for the business as they work with both the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations.

Also opening offices in Martin is BC Kuhn Evaluation, LLC. The company, headed up by Brinda Kuhn, provides grant writing, program evaluation and project specific research in the education field. Kuhn's office is located on Main Street next to the theater.

Sharing an office with BC Kuhn is the Prairie Stone Foundation. The foundation, headed up by Jason Schoch, is a (soon-to-be) non-profit organization with the goal to revitalize small town communities. Prairie Stone will work with several other organizations in town to help with fund-raisers and events, trainings, workshops and resources, as well as many other community projects.

The Martin Area Chamber of Commerce wishes to welcome the new businesses in town and has also extend the invitation.

Letter from the Coordinator: Looking for your business

Hello Martin Chamber members!

I just wanted to take the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself, my work at the Chamber and about our new newsletter.

Most of you already know me, but just in case we have not yet met (or e-mailed), my name is Tabatha Murphy and I am the Chamber Coordinator. My husband and I moved to Martin this last summer and we both work at the school. I have a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts and am working on my Master's in Journalism. I love to write but I also have a great passion for graphic design and public relations.

I work on the Web site for the Chamber, take care of e-mails, help with Chamber events by making flyers and finding advertising and the general promotion for the Chamber.

My latest project is this newsletter. The Chamber would like to find more ways to help promote the business members of the Chamber and I thought a newsletter would be a good start. This is an opportunity for businesses to advertise for free and tell the community about happenings as well as for members to know what the Chamber is doing.


But I need your input to keep it going! Please e-mail me your ideas, your photos, your stories and your content for ads. I want the newsletter to be a Chamber benefit for your business.

I also have more ideas and I would love to visit with any of you who may be interested.

Please feel free to e-mail me or call me about ideas and questions for the Web site as well as any ideas or suggestions for more ways we can help promote the Chamber and its members.

Thank you for your time and for your part in the Martin Area Chamber of Commerce. I look forward to working with all of you.

Tabatha Murphy
Chamber Coordinator
martinsd.net@gmail.com



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Chamber elects new officers

The Martin Area Chamber of Commerce elected new officers for 2010 during its meeting at the annual Christmas Social. The new officers are:

- President: Richard Bair, Bair Ford
- 1st Vice President: Dave Jones, Ace Hardware
- 2nd Vice President: Amelia McDonnell, Crossroads Inn
- Secretary: Judy Kratovil, True Value
- Treasurer: Shelly Otte, Martin Livestock Auction

The new officers have already begun their terms and duties for 2010. Come and meet with them at the next scheduled meeting.

New Chamber Members: New Members added to Martin Chamber

*By Tabatha Murphy,
Chamber Coordinator*

The Martin Area Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome its newest members: Absolute Pest Control based out of Rapid City, BC Kuhn Evaluation, LLC and Prairie Stone Foundation.

Absolute Pest Control joined the Chamber at the end of 2009 and for 2010. The company specializes in pest control and has a large service area that has extended even into the Martin area.

BC Kuhn Evaluation and Prairie Stone opened their offices on Jan. 4 and joined the Chamber shortly after, attending the first meeting of the year. BC Kuhn is a grant writing and project evaluation business and Prairie Stone is a community based non-profit organization. (For more

information see *Local Happenings: Martin gets new businesses.*)

The Chamber is excited to see new faces and new businesses in its mix. We thank them for their community support and hope all three businesses continue to work with us.

If anyone would like to welcome the new businesses, please visit the Chamber Web site for addresses and phone numbers.

Keep watching for your business ad!

**Every month we will advertise different businesses from the Chamber. So bring us your ideas and wishes for free advertisement of your business...
martinsd.net@gmail.com**

*For a full list of our members visit our Web site at www.martinsd.net

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Meeting Minutes:

Chamber elects officers, discusses welcome sign

*From Judy Kratovil,
Chamber Secretary*

The meeting was called to order January 16, 2010 by President Shelly Otte at the office's of Bair Ford.

New members were introduced, Prairie Stone Foundation and BC Kuhn Evaluation, and welcomed. Visitors from the Pine Ridge Chamber were introduced and thanked for coming.

Minutes to the December 2009 meeting were read. Shelley Otte advised the group that Louie Nollett would only accept \$50.00 in Chamber bucks for being Santa. Brian Kirk made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction, Sue Nies seconded, motion carried.

Shelley Otte presented the treasurer's report, a copy is attached to these minutes. Matt Kratovil made a motion to accept the report, second by Bonnie McDonnell, motion carried.

Shelley then turned the meeting over to incoming president Richard Bair.

He thanked all last years officers for their work and said one of his goals this year will be to get more members involved.

Matt Kratovil talked about the welcome to Martin sign that has been proposed. Jason Schoch of Prairie Stone Foundation volunteered to help Matt with the sign and they will be looking for other ideas and interest.

It was brought up that the Extension Service will be sponsoring a Healthy People 2010 Walk a Mile Event on the 28th of January and all were encouraged to attend.

Jason Schoch of the Prairie Stone Foundation told the group that his is a non-profit, education based foundation and he is very interested in being involved with the community events and will try to work around existing events to add to them.

Brinda Kuhn and Melita York of the BC Kuhn Evaluation group told the group they have offices set up on Main Street and will be having an open house on February 26th. This is a for-profit grant writing business.

Ivan Sorbel spoke for the Pine Ridge Chamber and told about their new offices in Kyle and some of the things their chamber has been working on in their 10 years of organization.

Rolfe Kraft, Bennett County commissioner chairman updated the group on the county activities. Dale McDonnell talked about the hospital and the need to support the facility that presently employees over 100 people.

Tabatha, Chamber coordinator, advised she has a newsletter ready and it will be on the web site. Any member without an e-mail address will be on the list for a postcard or call to advise about the meeting schedule.

Danielle McDonnell offered to host the next meeting at the Martin Livestock Café at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Dale McDonnell made a motion to adjourn, second by Tim Heuther, meeting adjourned.

You're Invited!

Open House

BC Kuhn Evaluation and Prairie Stone Foundation

February 26, 2010

3:00 -7:00 p.m.

310 Main St. Martin

A potluck supper will be served. All are welcome. For more information please contact Melita York at 605-685-6208.

We want your input!

If you have a suggestion or idea you would like to see on the agenda at our next meeting, let us know. Contact President Richard Bair or Coordinator Tabatha Murphy at martinsd.net@gmail.com or at 685-1330