

Chamber Works

www.denisontexas.us

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Issue 1



The Denison and Sherman Chambers of Commerce welcome you to Texoma Expo 2009. This is the 17th year the Denison and Sherman Chambers have partnered to provide an area business trade show.

Last year's show drew over 40,000 people through the course of the two days. Newscasts, live remotes and cash prize drawings will happen throughout the Expo and crowds are expected to be even higher.

The Expo Reception will be held on Thursday, February 19, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Sherman Municipal Building downtown Sherman. Exhibitors are encouraged to attend the reception as this is your opportunity to market your business/booth to other exhibitors. Marketing to fellow exhibitors during the Expo is discouraged. Door prizes will be given that evening. If you wish to contribute a door prize for the reception, please have these turned in to the Sherman Chamber no later than Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

Sign me up to
receive a printed
newsletter!

ARTSMARTS....A spotlight on Denison's Art Community

The New Year is at hand and the outlook for many is grim with our national economy in turmoil. However, one thing to remember during this time of uncertainty is the value and diversity of our local community. Downtown is full of great goods and services ripe for the picking, and art offerings are no exception.

Denison's array of galleries and art venues has a lot to offer locals. Not only are they a great resource for reasonably priced original fine art, but they also offer services such as art lessons and workshops, custom framing, professional photography services, rental space for events, and more. The possibilities are truly endless.

For those ready to invest in fine art, the local market has outstanding quality and diversity for this region, not to mention excellent pricing. December through February is a great time to purchase art due to the fact, like many other businesses, galleries are already making room for new spring inventory. Ask about special year-end promotions, layaway, incentives related to cash purchases or other perks. You might be surprised at what a few simple questions could gain you!

(continued on page 6)

Ahoy all Lake-Lovers...

Cruisin' for Kids is April 25th on beautiful Lake Texoma!

After raising almost two million dollars for Grayson County special needs children over the past two decades, *Cruisin' for Kids* (formerly known as Lakefest) is set to kick off the spring boating season in grand style on Saturday, April 25th at Highport Marina on beautiful Lake Texoma.

Presented annually by the Clara Blackford and W. Aubrey Smith Foundation, whose board advisors have long been supporters of Denison children in general and special needs kids in particular, the annual spring bash has definitely earned its reputation throughout Texas as the "best charitable event on water."

The annual VIP yacht cruises will headline the *Cruisin' for Kids'* festivities when hundreds of lake-lovers board VIP yachts at 3 p.m. on April 25th for luxury cruises across the pristine waters of Lake Texoma. After several hours of cruising on some of Texoma's biggest and most luxurious yachts, the underwriters and sponsors will gather for dinner and dancing.

(continued on page 5)

ChamberWorks is a publication of the Denison Area Chamber of Commerce.

"To promote the interest of our members by developing and implementing programs and activities which achieve and sustain a competitive economic environment."

New Members

A and M Construction
Janette Strohl
PO Box 1362
Sherman, TX 75091
903-870-2443

Helvey & Associates
Billy Helvey
220 W Main St.
Denison, TX 75020
903-463-6191
www.helveysurvey.com

RBNDJ Interprise
Rick Boone
1246 Des Voigne Rd
Denison, TX 75020
903-271-4600
www.affordableenergy.us/rbndj

Terry Jones Insurance
Terry Jones
1711 Heritage Parkway, Ste. 200
Sherman, TX 75090
903-893-7200
www.terryjonesagency.com

Advanced Medical Imaging
Cathy Daniel
2622 US Hwy 75 N
Sherman, TX 75090
903-868-8730
www.aminorthtexas.com

JM Floral Designs
Jolene Myers
302 N Pecan St.
Bells, TX 75414
903-965-4659
www.jmfloraldesigns.net

Red River Railroad Museum
Michelle Castle
101 E Main Street
Denison, TX 75020
903-463-KATY
www.redriverrailmuseum.org

Tranquility Spa & Salon
Johanna Brinker
290 Tanglewood Circle
Pottsboro, TX 75076
903-821-7504

AFLAC
Bryan New
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Denison, TX 75020
903-464-9692

KQDR 107.3 DOC FM
Brad LaRock
3401 N Heritage Parkway
Sherman, TX 75092
903-893-1136
www.1073docfm.com

Red River Tire Center
Pat Clutter
728 W Main St.
Denison, TX 75020
903-465-1081

Visionary Medical
Lisa Smith
103 Sara Swamy Drive
Sherman, TX 75090
903-870-1767
www.vmimaging.com

Alabaster Box
Ray & Marita Miller
421 W. Main St.
Denison, TX 75020
903-465-3100

Mike Srader Homes
Mike Srader
318 W Munson St.
Denison, TX 75020
903-744-3639

Redesigns by Dee
Elsie Russell
1627 S Maurice Ave
Denison TX 75020
903-815-2323
www.redesignsbydee.com

The Willows
Pamela Tedford
3410 Post Oak Crossing
Sherman, TX 75092
903-891-3737
www.thewillowsalf.com

Allston Designworks
Gayle Allston
101 E Main St., Ste 115-A
Denison, TX 75020
903-464-9663

Morris Ink
Margie Morris
420 Ridgeviews Rd.
Sherman, TX 75092
903-868-1060

Rib Barbeque
Denise and Jeff Troxtell
2576 US Highway 69
Denison, TX 75020
903-465-4431

XGI Services
Robbie Starr
2511 Lockloma
Denison, TX 75020
903-463-3195
www.xgiservices.com

Balloonatics
Sharon Sweeney
1508 W. Morton St.
Denison, TX 75020
903-464-0015

Orkin Pest Control
Gary Williams
40 Motors Drive
Sherman, TX 75092
903-893-7459
www.orkin.com

Salem Design & Construction, Inc.
Steve Salem
266 Golf Walk Circle
Denison, TX 75020
903-327-5544
www.salemdesign.us

Banman, Attorney at Law
Don Banman
519 W Main St., Ste 101
Denison, TX 75020
903-463-0008

Phullis Loe
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Pottsboro, TX 75076

Sherman Roofing
Janette Strohl
PO Box 2846
Sherman, TX 75091
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903-464-0888
www.tbones.us

Choctaw Casino
Molly Childers
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When only a touch of class will do

In This Issue

Cover

Artsmarts

Cruisin' for Kids

Texoma Expo

Words from the Chairman 1

New Members 2

Educational 3

Cruisin' for Kids 4

Artsmarts 5

Words from the President 6

The Chamber's Clay Shoot 7

Calendar of Events 8

Words from The Chairman

by Wes King

● As 2009 moves into full swing we all face challenges in the months ahead. Be assured that your Chamber is in full swing with a complete slate of work programs, events, and educational and service opportunities. Texoma Expo will be February 20 & 21. Be sure to sign up as soon as you can for a booth. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet folks face to face. So many of us have become accustomed to electronic contact...emails, Blackberries, text messages, etc. This year's Expo promises to be well attended with attendees strolling through the exhibits. This may be your best opportunity to have a personal encounter with current and potential customers. Again, I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Last year was our first Clay Shoot will again be hosting the event on April 9. Be sure to register your team and save the date. Sponsorships are available, and if you are interested please contact the Chamber office at 903-465-1551.

We are planning a fall clean-up/spruce-up campaign to enhance the presentation of our city to visitors and residents as well. In these challenging economic times, we need to be mindful that we do not get a second chance to make a first impression. "Pride in Denison" will be targeted to keeping that thought on the front burner of our minds—365 days a year.

Our Pride in Denison was given an enormous boost as Denison's own Capt. Chesley Sullenberger and crew showed not only great skill but also amazing poise as they guided their aircraft in what will probably be known as one of the most successful crash landings of a commercial aircraft in American aviation history. In the 20-plus years that I have been a resident of Denison, I cannot think of a time that I was more proud to state, "I am from Denison, Texas."

Let us take that Pride in Denison and move forward into a successful and memorable 2009.

Board of Directors

Chairman **Wes King**

Chairman Elect **Elaine Burkhalter**

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Vice President **Terry Tombaugh**

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Chamber Staff

President **Anna McKinney**

Office Manager **Crystal Betzer-McKee**

VP Memberships **Christy Raitt**

Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, April 9, 2009
Munson Family Farm
North US 69
Sign In: 12:00 Noon
Flights begin: 1:00 pm



Official Entry Form

- Individual \$125
(will be teamed with other individuals)
- Team of 4 Shooters \$500

- Send me sponsorship Information

Primary Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____


Phone Number _____

e-mail _____

Team entries please list all Members

Name	Phone Number	e-mail
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Payment Method

- Cash (deliver to Chamber)
- Check (payable to Denison Area Chamber of Commerce)
- 

Submit your registration form in person at the Denison Area Chamber at 313 W. Woodard St., Denison, TX; by fax (903-465-8443); by mail with payment to PO Box 325, Denison, TX 75021; or register online at www.denisontexas.us

For PayPal payments, an electronic invoice with a PayPal button to complete payment, will be sent to the primary contact email listed.

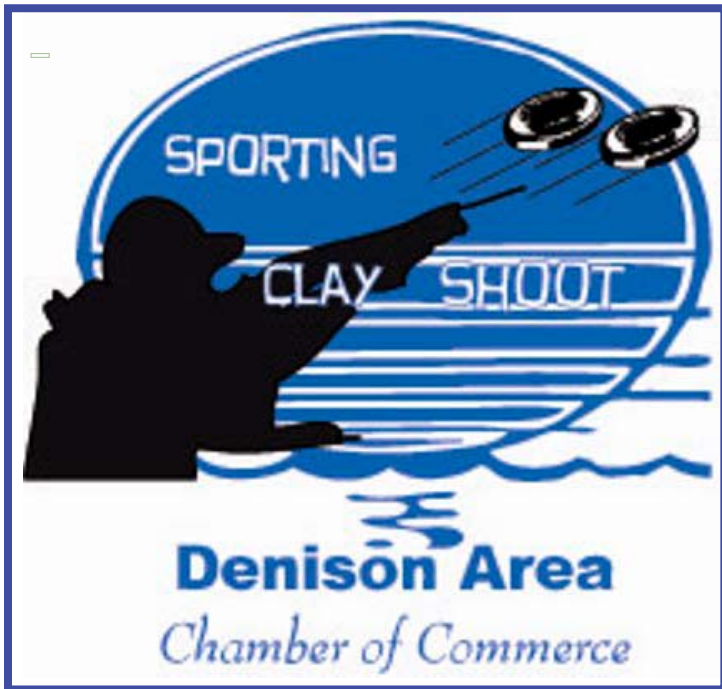
Payment must be received in the Denison Chamber office to complete entry.

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY EACH PARTICIPANT THE DAY OF THE SHOOT. _____

Shoot for the Chamber

Presenting Sponsors





Who wants to play golf with their shotgun?

Come join our second annual Denison "Shoot for the Chamber". The day will be Thursday, April 9, 2009, with a High Noon Shoot-off. This event had tremendous turn-out last year and will be held at the Munson Farm, with acres of green grass and beautiful trees, located just off Highway 69, on Spuce Avenue (across from the old truck stop).

To register for a team, please fill out the form located in this newsletter and get it to the Chamber before the end of March. Billie Bennett was the winner of last year's individual top shooter spot and was he impressive! The score to beat this year is 89. Yep, that means Mr. Bennett just missed eleven out of one-hundred clays thrown! Don't forget, the team to beat this year is Independent Bank.

So, bring your favorite shotgun and caddy and join the fun.



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Denison students back on task!

by Sherry Christie

Denison school students returned to classrooms in January, eager to work hard and reunite with friends. Those classrooms, however, appear vastly different from the ones in which their parents studied and learned.

Today's students can be found in a wide variety of study centers, including but not limited to, computer stations, reading nooks, technology and science centers, language resource labs, interactive math and engineering stations, art centers, and creative writing groups. At the students' fingertips are computers, thousands of software programs, puzzles, video conferencing, games, the Internet, audio programs, Smart Boards, flash cards, digital labs, cameras, video equipment, data centers, and more.

"There's an excitement and hunger for learning that you can see in students' eyes when they are actively involved in the learning process," said Layne Principal Ginger Brawley. "If given the opportunity, students will use all five senses when learning and experiencing the world around them. They are more apt to retain and apply knowledge when they've experienced it first-hand. We're very fortunate in Denison to have local foundations and community supporters that provide the valuable resources needed to help all of our students succeed, regardless of circumstances."



Denison Area Chamber of Commerce ~ Partners In Education Committee

The Denison Area Chamber of Commerce has many committees that work to further the mission of the Chamber. One such committee is the Partners In Education committee. The Partners In Education committee works in conjunction with the Denison ISD and Grayson County College to provide encouragement, to supplement educational tools, and to assist educators and students in any way that is needed to further the education of the Denison area's youth.

To further this goal, the Partners In Education committee coordinates several programs. One such program was just completed in January: "Supplies for the Kids" school supplies drive.

This annual supplies drive is conducted in January in order to supplement supplies for the Denison ISD for the remaining school year. As always the generosity of the Denison Chamber Members, as well as other community organizations, was overwhelming. Over 2500 pieces were donated this year. Donations were received from Albertson's, Bayless Hall Insurance, Cigna, Grayson County College faculty, Knight Family Chiropractic, Med-Choice Pharmacy, Rotary Club of Denison, Toys for Tots/Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 973, and many others. Donated supplies were divided for each of the 10 DISD campuses. Principals, councilors, and teachers alike were overcome with gratitude at the amount of supplies that was given.

Another program that the Partners In Education committee coordinates is the Star Reader program. The Star Reader program's purpose is to encourage reading for the pure joy. Volunteers are organized to go into each DISD elementary campus and read to students. This program takes place during Public Schools week, March 9-13. Volunteers will be asked to read for 15 to 20 minutes. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program can contact Christy Raitt at the Chamber office, 903-465-1551.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Partners In Education committee or any other committee of the Chamber, contact the Chamber office for details.



Bruce Maxwell
President

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Ahoy all Lake-Lovers....

Cruisin' for Kids is April 25th on beautiful Lake Texoma!

"By April, everyone is more than ready to get outside and head for the lake for some sunshine, fresh air and fun with friends," said event Co-Chair Sherry Christie. "There's no better way to usher in the season than with Cruisin' for Kids, especially in light of our local kids it benefits. It has also become a great business tool for recruiting and thanking customers for North Texas and Southern Oklahoma businesses."

Mentally and physically challenged children from all over Grayson County are the sole beneficiaries of all proceeds from the event, which last year distributed more than \$55,000 to area agencies that assist these kids and their families.

"Most of our Special Olympians receive little or no support from United Way or other fundraisers, so this event has been a Godsend for us," said Jeannie Best, who helps coach several dozen Denison ISD Special Olympians in a variety of sports and competitions. "Because of the generosity of our foundations and many other sponsors, our athletes now receive letter jackets, letter blankets, and patches, just like all other athletes in the district. Some of the funds also provide special learning programs and equipment that help our students gain knowledge and independence as well as train for jobs. Our students could never achieve all this without the valuable funding that has come from this event over the last 20-plus years. We're just so grateful."

Other major sponsors through the years have included Texas Instruments, Miller Lite, Diageo Inc., Bank of America, American Bank of Texas, Team Bonner, and Douglass Distributing. Beginning last year, the Smith Foundation pledged thousands of additional dollars to its annual support, almost doubling its financial commitment to help special needs kids. "Their goal is to inspire others to help children who are less fortunate," said Anna McKinney, President of Denison Chamber whose board co-sponsors and provides volunteers for the event. "The Smith board advisors have such big hearts and care so deeply for these kids. We simply couldn't host Cruisin' for Kids without them."

McKinney said that this year's goal

of \$65,000 can be realized if everyone figures a way to get involved. A few ideas include co-sponsorship, where two businesses split the cost of a sponsorship, or 12 individuals (six couples) spending \$100 or \$200 and enjoying a memorable afternoon on the lake. Anyone wishing to designate a sponsorship to a specific agency is welcome to do so.

Children's charities that traditionally receive funding from Cruisin' for Kids include: all Grayson County Special Olympics, The Rehabilitation Center, B. Mac Life Skills students, Child & Family Guidance Center, MHMR Services of Texoma, Wishing Well, and others.

Sponsorships are available through the Chamber and offer a great way to increase and enhance customer relations. VIP cruise sponsors pay only \$1,200 for a fully stocked (hors d'oeuvres & beverages) yacht (with its own knowledgeable captain) that will accommodate 10 passengers for the sunset cruise. Also included are 10 tickets to the Toast of Texoma party, sponsorship signage, a listing in the program, and extensive media recognition before and after the event. There's a sponsor plan for donations of \$2,500, \$5,000 and more, and for major underwriters at \$10,000 or more. Major underwriters get three yachts, 30 party tickets, and all the other perks.

For more information or to sign on as a sponsor, please call the Chamber at 903-465-1551.



Artsmarts... A Spotlight on Denison's Art Community

(continued)

If you aren't in the market for art, do not count art spaces out for other services. Many spaces downtown, including galleries, artist studios, dance studios and music venues, are willing to lease their spaces for events. Think outside the box when it comes to your next luncheon, company party, anniversary gathering, graduation, or wedding. Spaces along Main Street range from elegantly contemporary to rustically charming and accommodate a surprising number of guests.

Don't forget about the other value-added art services available right here in the area. There are several local art photographers also do portraiture and event photography by request. Their artistic perspective might be just the ticket for something memorable and unique. Additionally, custom framing is another service that might be overlooked. If you already have a great piece of art, enliven it with a new frame or matting. A few simple changes can update and uplift something you already have at a fraction of the cost of purchasing a new piece. Framing can be the solution for preserving mementos like children's artwork or Great-granny's quilt, too.

Art instruction and workshops are other great opportunities to get hands-on with some of our area's fabulous creative talent. Learning is just one advantage of art instruction. A workshop or class can be the perfect occasion to create special gifts for loved ones or new artworks for your home or office. The guidance of a professional will help you achieve results perfect for showing off!

Enjoy artistic discovery downtown! For more arts related events, remember to check the Chamber of Commerce Community Calendar and visit the Denison Arts Council's website at

www.smalltownBIGART.com



**The Spring
Fine Art
Tour**
March 28th & 29th





President, Anna McKinney

Words from the President

It's hard to believe another year has gone by and we're busy planning our 2009 programs and events. Your Board of Directors and staff each year review our program of action and make recommendations for improvements of on-going programs, set new projects, and, when deemed appropriate, may sunset an activity that is no longer pertinent to the Chamber's goals.

This year we have already been a part of the very successful Snowball Tournament which had 54 teams participating and filling our local motels for three days. We also had a very fruitful supplies drive for all of the DISD campuses and are gearing up for the Star Reading Program which will be in March. The Education Awareness Committee does a great job in planning programs that partner with our schools.

The Texoma Expo Committee, composed of members from both Denison and Sherman Chambers of Commerce, has critiqued this annual event; we think it will be the best yet, with numerous businesses already reserving their space for this two-day event, scheduled for February 20-21 at Midway Mall. If you haven't already done so, call today to reserve your spaces and take advantage of this highly cost effective marketing opportunity.

The Leadership Institute class continues their monthly sessions, Next on the agenda is a trip to Austin to visit various state offices and consult with our elected officials on issues that impact our community.

The Denison Arts Council has been busy planning cultural opportunities, not only for our citizens, but for visitors to our area. In addition to the spring art tour, they have already scheduled two dynamic shows at the Rialto featuring performers, Johnny Gimble and the Marshall Ford Swing Band, and the Texas Gypsies on March 28 and June 13 respectively.

The Conventions & Visitors Bureau has helped underwrite the Grand Re-Opening of the Red River Railroad Museum on March 28-29, when organizers hope to have a large influx of visitors and locals tour the newly renovated museum.

Two fishing tournaments have been booked which will bring a large number of anglers to our area, not only during the tournament dates also but, for pre-fishing at Lake Texoma.

The second annual Chamber Clay Shoot will be April 9th at the Munson Farm and teams are already signing up for this enjoyable event for a great cause. Check out our web-site and sign up today.

Crusin', for Kids is now soliciting sponsorships as well as boat donors for this wonderful event benefiting special kids in Grayson County. It's scheduled for April 25th. The Denison Arts & Wine Renaissance will be held May 2nd at the Katy Depot, and tickets are available at the Chamber office for this delightful evening of food, wine and art.

2009 promises to be a year of opportunities for our community and our members. We are so blessed to live in such a great city and to have such a progressive Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for your membership and involvement! Please feel free to contact me or any of our Board members with your ideas and input.

Anna



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Calendar of Events

Jan 28th - Feb 26th - The absolute Black & White VII Texas Exhibition

February 1st - A superbowl Bash at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 3rd - Texas Scholars Presentations at B. McDaniel 8th grade

Feb 4th - Denison Leadership Institute ~ State Government

Feb 5th - Advanced Medical Imaging Ribbon Cutting

Feb 5th - Fred Spears & Friends at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 6th - First Friday Power Networking Luncheon

Feb 6th - Rocky & the Bullwinkles at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 7th - Vicki La Plant's Wearable Art Showing at Old Katy Glassworks

Feb 7th - Small Bites at 6:30pm

Feb 7th - Rocky & the Bullwinkles at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 8th - First Annual Pootfest at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 12th - Power Networking Breakfast

Feb 12th - Fred Spears & Friends at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 13th - Jason Elmore at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 13th - The 3rd Incredible Edible Food Art Show

Feb 14th - Spur 503 at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 14th - Second Saturday Nature Program - Wild Turkeys

Feb 14th - Valentine's Party with Spur 503

Feb 14th - Event at CASA of Grayson County, Inc.

Feb 14th - Chocolate Indulgence

Feb 19th - Fred Spears & Friends at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 19th - Expo afterhours Reception

Feb 20th - Gravity at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 20th - CAPRICCIO, Elite Syncopation

Feb 20th - Feb 21st - Texoma Expo 2009

Feb 21st - Elite Syncopation

Feb 21st - St. Luke's School Mardi Gras Dinner and Auction

Feb 21st - Cody Jinks at Loose Wheels Texas

Feb 24th - Free Energy Seminar

Feb 26th - Power Networking

Mar 3rd - Apr 16th ~ The Lost & Found Exhibit

Mar 3rd - Ribbon Cutting/Mixer for Rock Creek Resort

Mar 6th - First Friday Power Networking at Loose Wheels Texas

Mar 7th - The Serman Symphony Orchestra Concert Series

Mar 9th - Mar 13th ~ Star Reader Program

Mar 12th - Power Networking Breakfast

Mar 15th - Texoma Area Chapter Red Cross Poker Run

Mar 15th - St. Patrick's Day Party at Loose Wheels Texas

Mar 23rd - Mirror, mirror, on the wall....III

Mar 26th - Power Networking Breakfast

Mar 26th - Ribbon Cutting for Red River Railroad Museum

Mar 28th - Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kid's Sake"

Mar 28th - Loft Tour

Mar 28th - Denison Arts Council Concert

Mar 28th - Spring Tour

Mar 28th - St. Luke's Run for the Rails

Mar 29th - First Honey Run Swap Meet at Loose Wheels Texas