

Chamber Year in Review - 2017

Hello Everyone! I hope that 2017 has treated you and your family well! Let's take a look at the year in review from the perspective of the Chamber.

We kicked off the year with the Annual Community Awards Breakfast where local business, people and organizations were recognized by the Chamber of Commerce. This event will be coming again in February and remember, it's up to YOU, the public, to vote for the deserving winners. Be on the look of for the online voting information to be posted on the Facebook page and website in January. I will also have paper ballots printed at the Chamber office if you would prefer to come in and fill one out in person.

April brought the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt as well as another year of the town-wide garage sales. The Shattuck Farmers Market did not see its best season with the weather being somewhat uncooperative for a very lucrative growing season. Many thanks go to the SNB Bank for again allowing usage of their covered parking area. We are looking forward to hosting this again in 2018 in hopes of results similar to those we experienced in 2016.

July always proves to start off with a bang, literally! The Annual Firemen's Fourth of July Celebration brought out several families to enjoy events all day long including contests, games and, back by popular demand, an awesome singing duo named "Cody & Jess" entertained us for a 2nd year in a row. They did such a great job and I heard many positive remarks about their style and presentation. This year I added a giant Slip n Slide. It was a HUGE hit and needless to say, left a HUGE mess, but the kids sure loved it – even some "big" kids were caught sliding down the hill! We also held the Flip n Dive contests and of course the traditional kids' contests of Little Miss Firecracker and Mr. Muscles! Our amazing Fire Department provided a delicious meal that evening and of course the Shattuck Fireworks show is always very impressive! It was a great day in the park!

In October the Chamber sponsored a Craft Show for the third time at the Red Barn. The use of this facility is very generously donated to the Chamber each year and is very appreciated. We again had a great turnout again this year and I am tossing around the idea of possibly hosting this event twice a year in 2018. This year's admission was free if you were able to bring a canned good to donate to the Ellis County Food Bank. The Chamber was so proud to have contributed the donations from the community to the Food Bank in the way of a cash donation of \$265.00 and over 125 cans of food! We appreciate the community coming out to the event and making the donations possible. A Fall Town Wide Garage Sale Weekend was organized during this same time to entice out of towners to drive into Shattuck for the event.

As always, Halloween provided an opportunity for businesses to open their doors for the little ghosts, goblins, princesses and other characters to trick or treat. Almost 40 businesses participated in the event and it was so much fun to see all of the kids and their parents out and about! The Newman Memorial Hospital again hosted a costume contest via their Facebook page that was highly participated in! Go scroll through the photos on their page – there were some really great costumes!

November is filled with planning and preparation for the Annual Christmas Parade and Children's Shopping Mall both of which were highly participated in again this year! This year's parade theme was "Let's Go Caroling" which encouraged participants to decorate their float to represent their favorite Christmas jingle, song, tune or hymn. This year's weather was much more comfortable compared to last year's very chilly evening parade. We had many special guests in the parade this year! Mrs. Harriet Wray and Mr. Bob Burgtorf accepted the honor of Grand Marshals of the parade this year. Bob drove himself and Harriet through the parade route in his shiny 1982 Mercedes 380 SL Convertible! Harriet Wray has worked at the Shattuck Senior Citizen's Center for over 10 years. She works tirelessly to keep the doors open so the community can have great quality of life here in Shattuck. The Senior Center provides nutritious meals and social activities for our community and is very important to Shattuck. Bob Burgtorf is a long-time resident of Shattuck and worked over 25 years serving our area in law enforcement. He has volunteered his time to many community projects and efforts and enjoys doing so. He is now a rancher and farmer and enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. We thoroughly enjoy acknowledging those that have invested so much in the Shattuck Community! Thank you Harriet and Bob, we appreciate you!

Another special guest of the evening that certainly deserves notable recognition is Mrs. Jennica Kenny of Mooreland. Jim Schoenhals drove the float on which she sang from throughout the parade route, representing the Shattuck Windmill Museum and Park. Jennica loves Christmas and singing Christmas songs so she was so excited to accept my invitation to visit Shattuck for the parade! She has been crooning Christmas Carols since the age of 5. Jennica believes just as Buddy the Elf believes, "The Best Way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" Jennica performed a very interactive Christmas Sing-a-long at the High School Cafeteria after the parade while children waited in line to see Santa. Many children, and adults were singing and dancing along with her and it was such a joy to have her! Thank you Jennica!

It is very appreciated every year that our local Shattuck Police Department, Ellis County Sheriff's Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and all of our emergency vehicles and firetrucks assist in making the parade a hit! From blocking off traffic to blaring sirens to indicate the start of the parade, and of course toting Santa Claus through the parade, it is so great to see all of the children excited to see these prominent figures in our community trek down Main Street. We respect and appreciate all of these officials and can't say "Thank You" enough to all they contribute to our community. Thank you all for serving to keep us safe and protected!

The Herber Family Horses are traditionally included and appreciated in the parade! Kailey Sanders carried the American Flag and Keltzie Herber carried the Oklahoma Flag throughout the parade. It is an honor to see the flags carried down Main Street reminding all of us what importance they represent.

The Shattuck Junior High and High School Cheerleaders and Pep Club carried the parade banner again this year to start off the entries. The NEW Indian Mascot was also among this bunch! If you haven't yet seen the new mascot costume that Shattuck has, please come out to a basketball game this season to see him in action. This awesome costume was generously donated by SNB Bank, NA, and has really added to the school spirit so far this year making appearances at pep

rallies and football games! Thank you SO much SNB Bank for all you invest in our community and school!

There were several parade entries in addition to the Spirit Squads that represented Shattuck Schools. Miss Shattuck, Amy Lara, is a Senior at Shattuck High School, active in cheerleading, drama club, and FFA. Amy plans on pursuing a higher education majoring in Pre-Law and Agribusiness. The 2017 Class B Fast Pitch Softball AND Football State Champions rode through the parade for all to see! What great athletes and coaches we have here in Shattuck to be able to grab two state titles in the past few months! And the year isn't over yet! The Athletic program is history-making and a very impressive part of SHS. Athletics isn't the only notable and successful part of SHS, the Shattuck Robotics Team placed 4th at this year's National Competition! Their float was named "Hark the Robot Angels Sing" and was voted 1st place of school float entries. The team says they are still singing praises and thanks for all the support the community has given them over the years. Another successful school group that entered the parade with LIVE animals on their float was Shattuck FFA naming this entry after the popular song, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. It was great and was awarded 2nd place in school floats! Shattuck's Football Homecoming Queen, Jacylin Longhofer, is a Senior at SHS and is involved in softball, football cheerleading and basketball. She was escorted by Jess Wales Chevrolet in a beautiful white 2017 Corvette.

Local businesses always make a great effort when it comes to entering the parade! Hollywood Services received the judges' "WOW" Factor and Most Effort award. They want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Their parade entry was named "Blue Christmas."

Newman Healthcare Associates' float sent this message: Just hear those sleigh bells jingling as the employees of Newman Healthcare and their families take a ride in their One Horse Open Sleigh to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas from Dr. Danna Stuart, Shandy Baggs and the staff at Newman Healthcare Associates. Judges awarded this float the Best Themed title!

Receiving the Most Creative award from the judges this year was Newman Memorial Hospital. The theme song they chose was "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer!" Now this song typically has a rather sad ending, but their float depicted what would have happened if they had **only** brought Grandma to Newman Memorial Hospital! The raging lunatic of a reindeer most certainly would have been taken into custody by Shattuck's capable police department and Grandma could have had the loving, professional care of the exceptional medical staff! They warned that if one of your loved ones suffers a reindeer-related incident or other unforeseen accident this holiday season, don't forget their Urgent care offers extended hours and their Emergency department is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to take care of you and your family! Such an awesome entry with live animation and music!

The Ellis County Animal Hospital's crew sported their light up four legged friends! Large or small they'll treat them all! They were "riding" in a winter wonderland and their entry was great!

217 & Company entered a family float that was super cute! Little Brody Idom rode on his first Christmas float with his best friend inspired by his Grandpa, Rodger Wilkerson with a parade entry of the popular song, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

Launder 365 always provides great customer service to those here in Shattuck and the surrounding area! Don't be fooled, you won't find any grinchers at Launder 365 but their float was named "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and it was very cool!

One of my personal favorite floats was from the Ellis County Food Bank. Their float has Charley Brown Christmas trees adorned with food cans. The food bank was started a few years ago by the Shattuck Seventh-day Adventist church. Under the administration of Pat and Marion Stock, since then it has morphed into a community wide food depot. The Ellis County food Bank is supported by various businesses, civic groups and churches. Volunteers who work there contribute selfless service for others. The Ellis County food Bank serves over 600 people per month and more than 15,000 pounds of food monthly. That is approximately 180,000 pounds of food annually! Please be sure to support the food bank when possible as they exclusively reach so many individuals in Ellis County.

The Shattuck 4-H Club was "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" on their awesome float! Thirty-five members strong, Shattuck 4-H shows off their hard working skills with community service and charity projects, shooting sports, livestock showing, fund raising, public speaking and most importantly, HAVING FUN! Keep up the good work kids! The Shattuck 4-H members would like to give a big THANK YOU to the local community for their generous support of the annual 4-H Bake Sale as it was greatly appreciated!

Ellis County Transportation proudly provides transportation for those ages 55 and older or handicapped riders. We appreciate having this service in our area and are thankful that they came out to drive through the parade!

Shattuck Tire & Tow totes their GIANT Snowman, Frosty's Rollback, down Main! Don't forget, they have 24 hour emergency service and are there to help us out anytime we are in need!

Medic Pharmacy & Gifts' float represented the famous Christmas carol, "Walking in a Winter Wonderland." If you looked closely though, you could easily see that this float became "Walking in a Winter FUNderland!" Medic Pharmacy & Gifts is proud to serve the Shattuck Community!

Pioneer Partner of Pioneer Cellular is always a hit with the kids as they drive down Main Street. This oversized fella reminds us of all the great services provided to our area from Pioneer!

Shattuck All Stars Gymnastics, Cheer & Dance loves to teach their students how to grow and be motivated through scripture and praising Jesus! Their favorite song at Christmas time is "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Their float was a huge birthday party with a cake and presents to remind everyone to remember the reason for the season!

Not only do we have local Shattuck businesses enter the parade each year, there are also several from the surrounding area that come over to represent their companies in the parade. Arnett New Holland has been proudly serving the area for over 40 years. Their parade entry was named Winter Wonderland and they want to wish everyone Merry Christmas from their family to yours this year! KWFX 100.1 Spirit Country Radio is proud to be a part of the Shattuck Community and the Chamber loves working with our favorite radio station throughout the year!

The Northwest Phyrtrol helps to support Shriner Hospitals throughout the country. There are 18 orthopedic hospitals, 3 burn Hospitals and one hospital that can provide orthopedic, burn and spinal cord injury care. The Shriners have helped over one million children, and all care provided at Shriners Hospital is totally free to the patients and their families. We love seeing those tiny cars in the parade each year reminding us how important Shriner's is!

The Woodward Boomer Band made their 3rd appearance in the Shattuck Christmas Parade and as always was voted the crowd favorite! They also stayed after the parade concluded for a wonderful mini concert right outside of the cafeteria as folks piled in to see Santa and eat the State Championship Ring Fundraising Chili Supper! Many stopped outside to watch and listen to this great group of students. I am so thankful for Director Daci Crockett bringing over her awesome group again this year.

Northwest Domestic Crisis Services made an appearance in the parade as well. NWDCS provides a variety of free services to victims and survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The message that the Ellis County Advocate, Glenna Catoe, wanted to deliver was to "Remember this season and ALWAYS.....BE KIND! Merry Christmas from NWDCS."

I have so many people to thank for the success of the parade. I had a line up crew again this year and their work is priceless! Thank you to LeTamra Nichols of Creative Design & Photography and The Diesel Doctor, Jeni Hinkle of Gusto's Italian Grill & Pizza, and Alan Bilyeu of CGB for assisting me with the craziest part of managing a parade! It is appreciated to see when businesses are represented out and about in community events as we know how busy everyone is, especially this time of year. Thank you to Sandy & Lloyd Clark from Clark Tire for allowing me use of their golf cart to run around during the parade. Thank you to Hoss Manske for announcing again this year and also to the judges, who will remain anonymous lol! I am thankful for Mr. Tyson Bullard and Shattuck Schools for use of the cafeteria for the after parade activities, to the Shattuck Senior class for assistance with the Santa Bags, the City for making the streets so clean for the kiddos grabbing candy, Lorrie Corbin for ALL that you helped me get done in a timely manner, and of course all of the observers of the parade that came out to watch – the parade is nothing without you! There are many to thank. Please know that you are very appreciated!

The Children's Shopping Mall was a success again this year thanks to all of the local businesses that provided gifts for us to sell on their behalf. This event enables many kiddos to buy great gifts for their family members at low cost. Again, thanks to all of the participating businesses, retailers and crafters that made the selection wonderful! I would also like to thank the many student volunteers that helped with the event earning some valuable community service! I am

usually lacking assistance during this popular Saturday morning but with Mr. Kelln's help, a large group of helpers was coordinated and happily made the event effortless for me! The final tally of sales was over \$800.00 for the 4-hour event. This money goes BACK to the local businesses! The Chamber is proud to provide this little "boost" for our businesses to sell a bit more of their items for Christmas – that's what we are here for!

The 2nd Annual Shattuck Sip n Shop did not disappoint! This adult shopping experience followed the Children's Shopping Mall in the evening time. Tanya Alexander steer-heads this event with me and it so great to see such wonderful participation! I am always observant of school team colors and mascots during these events so I can see that people from other towns are frequenting! This year I just asked folks directly where they drove in from if I did not recognize their faces and we had folks from all over! Several vendors met up in the Chamber Hall and Senior Center for shoppers to visit and many businesses in town also stayed open late! We look forward to making this happen year after year because it is a great boost of commerce for our town!

So, as you can tell, the year is filled with many events and projects that the Chamber sponsors and hosts. We also host ribbon cuttings, blood drives and other charitable events. I want to encourage businesses interested to contact me to sign up to host a Community Coffee! These Friday morning sessions are a great hit. Essentially we meet for coffee and light breakfast and simply visit about our community and what's going on in town! It is very informal yet very informative! No one has to speak if they do not have anything to say or report and it's not just for businesses! This is a community event for community members! Yes, many business owners might attend to share information but that's not what it's all about. It's about coming together as a community, discussing our town and sharing an hour or less with each other. You can come and go as you please! I really do hope some of you will feel welcome to accept this invitation to join us next year! The first location of 2018 Community Coffee will be posted in next week's paper, on our Facebook page and online at shattuckchamber.com. While online, go ahead and "Like" the Facebook page "Shattuck Chamber" to see event information and all of the photos from past events and the parade.

Another regular event that is open to the public and all Chamber Members is the General Assembly Luncheons held on the first Thursday of each month at Noon, in the Newman Memorial Hospital Cafeteria, located on the basement floor. These meetings are somewhat similar to the coffee sessions but are a little more business-related. It is up to the Chamber Members how certain matters are voted on and proceeded with, so an agenda is created for each monthly meeting. I am looking forward to hosting speakers at the luncheons this year that will bring valuable information not only to the chamber members in attendance but to anyone that would like to come hear about it! I would love to know that you will be marking your calendar to attend each first Thursday of the month with us!

I would like to close in great thanks to so many people that make my job an amazing, rewarding one. My Board is so supportive of me and everyone knows that when your bosses are great, you can be great! Success follows great leadership. The businesses and individuals that support the Chamber through membership are the ones that deserve all of the credit for the events and projects that I am able to organize and put on throughout the year. Their membership funds

every dime that is used so without their financial support, the Chamber would not exist! I am thankful for every member and look forward to continuing to be the best Director that I can be in 2018!

McKenzie Pshigoda
Executive Director
Shattuck Chamber