

PRESS RELEASE-October 4, 2017

RE: Lonsdale Community Days

The Lonsdale Chamber of Commerce held a meeting on Monday, September 25, in order to discuss the groups' future involvement with the Lonsdale Community Days annual summer celebration. First, the Chamber would like to thank the community members that came to participate and provide feedback during the meeting. The community members in attendance included current residents, as well as many past planners of the Community Days event.

During the time of the Chamber's involvement the Community Days Celebration has continued to successfully grow. It has however, become so large that it is becoming very difficult for the Chamber to continue to run the celebration by itself. The Chamber feels this is a community celebration, and an opportunity for other community groups to get involved.

While the Chamber absolutely wants to continue to help with the Community Days celebration, it feels that it cannot continue to operate the event on the same scale it has been doing in the past, without more support from the other community groups and members. At the same time, the Chamber does not want to completely abandon or discontinue the event. Therefore, it has been decided, that the Chamber will continue, for at least the near future, to organize the Community Days festival to some degree.

Specifically, what that means, is that the Chamber is prepared to help organize at minimum a one-day event which includes: Food Vendors, a Beer Garden & Street Dance. If the community would like to continue to have other events associated with the Community Days celebration, then it will be up to other community groups to organize them in conjunction with the Chamber. Some of these events in the past include: a parade, car cruise, drive-in movie, wrestling, bingo, kid's games & activities, tractor pull along with competitive tournaments etc.

Those groups that do come forward to organize an activity will have some guidance from the Chamber, but will be responsible for their event from beginning to end. If the group fails to accomplish their goal, the event will simply not happen.

The Chamber would like to "help" the community host this event. In order to provide assistance with the event hosting, the current planning chairs have put together outlines of the current event requirements. If anyone in the community is interested in being a part of the planning for the celebration, they will have the option of following the current outline, or bringing their own new ideas to any of the events they wish to provide. All chairs will need to be established by November 1, 2017.

The following is a list of the past events and basic duties the planning chair must provide for. In order to see a more complete outline of an event, those interested should plan on attending the next Lonsdale Community Days planning meeting scheduled for Monday, October 16 at the Whistle Stop at 7pm.

Contact Shanna at the Chamber with questions or for more information at 507-744-4962.

**Volleyball Chair**-Organizes the volleyball tournament, contacts and schedules teams, orders awards, advertising and logistics.

**Craft/Merchandise Chair**-Organizes the craft/merchandise vendors, contacts past and recruits future vendors, prepares vendor application and advertising and vendor logistics.

**Volunteer Chair**-In charge of finding volunteers for set-up/tear-down, gates, beer garden and as needed. Uses social media as well as person-to-person contact to find and schedule volunteers.

**Tractor Pull Chair**-Organizes the tractor/truck/semi pull, finds location and gets approval for track, logistics for event, handles registration forms and advertising as well as registration for event. Create registration form with classes, orders prizes, reserves sled and solicits event sponsors.

**Drive-In Movie Chair**-Sets up location, receives approval for site logistics, provides insurance, schedules movie and in charge of advertising for the event.

**Kids Activities & Games Chair**-Contacts kid's vendors for kid related activities, review contracts, send deposit, advertise, site logistics, obtain prizes and rewards for games.

**Parade Chair**-Organizes the parade chair, create parade registration by sending application to past & future participants, schedule parade entries, find extra parade cars for floats, street logistics, parking and set-up as well as advertising for the event.

**Car Cruise Chair**-Responsible for organizing the car cruise, advertising, creating flyers, mapping route, street logistics, organizing sponsors and prizes, setting up signs along route, creating registration forms and on-site registration.

**ZJ's 5K/Fun Run Chair**-Advertising event, mapping route, street logistics, organizing sponsors and prizes, creating registration forms and on-site registration.

**Kids Pedal Tractor Pull**-Advertising event, street logistics, organizing sponsors and prizes, creating registration forms, sign contract and on-site registration.

**Kiddie Parade Chair**-Advertising event, street logistics, organizing sponsors and prizes, creating registration forms and on-site registration.

**Bean Bag Chair**-Organizes bean bag tournament, contacts and schedules teams, orders awards, advertising and logistics.

**Pro-Wrestling Chair**-Set up location logistics, scheduled & signs contract for live wrestling group, advertising, reserves tent/chairs for wrestlers, responsible for gate admission, pricing and concessions.

**Bingo Chair**-Advertises event, site logistics, obtains bingo supplies, sound, shelter, receives proper permits for gambling, runs events, handles prizes and provides own volunteers.