

CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL CHAMBER EVENTS, REMINDERS, AND MORE!

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FROM THE DIRECTOR-

As we enter into the last months of 2023, I wanted to say a few words to our members and give my sincere thanks to all who have reached out with kind words during my first full year as Chamber Director. Your words mean more than you can imagine, and I can't wait to continue getting to know the great people who make this community what it is today. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms!

The Chamber board and I are excited to gear up for Fall and Winter! Our goal is to show the surrounding areas that Rock Valley is the place to be during the holiday seasons. Be on the lookout for new and fun ideas coming to town! Our ultimate wish is that we get to connect with more of our members in the next few months. We hope to see you at one of our many upcoming member events!

SINCERELY,
Ashley Feekes

RALLY IN THE VALLEY

This year, Rock Valley celebrated its' 24th year of the community event under the name 'Rally in the Valley'. This event is ran by the Rock Valley Chamber of Commerce and is held during the second week of August every year as a way to celebrate the end of the summer. We love to see our community come together for all the fun events!

This year, the Chamber Board of Directors was determined to add even more events to the schedule. Ashley Feekes, Director, reached out to the community in hopes that community members would want to participate in the planning process. With this, Andrea Bajema (Double HH Mfg) and Shelly Hoogendoorn (RV Library) stepped up and met with Ashley to discuss new ideas!

Out of this committee meeting came new ideas like adding food stands to Cruise Night, Cardboard Boat Races at Rivers Bend Campground, and the Mud Volleyball Tournament, which Andrea and Shelly committed to working the weekend of Rally. It takes a village to run a week-long community event, and we are thankful for volunteers like Andrea and Shelly!



RAISING FUNDS AND HAVING FUN!

Every year, there are many events that are ran as fundraisers for various organizations and businesses in Rock Valley. This year was no different.

On Thursday, August 10th, Sioux County Youth Fair board members and volunteers served nearly 800 people at the Community Meal. The Chamber chooses a non-profit Chamber member to serve the meal as a way to raise funds toward a project, which is why the meal is a free-will donation for the community. Total donation this year was \$2,757!

The Sioux County Youth Fair wants Rock Valley to know that they are thankful for this opportunity, and they had a great time serving! This money will go toward their new fairgrounds.

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**TOTAL DONATION WAS
\$2,757. THANKS SO MUCH
FOR INVITING US TO SERVE.
WE HAD A GREAT TIME!
-SIOUX COUNTY YOUTH FAIR**

An event that we added this year that was ran in a similar fashion was the 'Family Fun Day' event located at St. Mary's Catholic Church and hosted by Project Youth Daycare, non-profit Chamber member. This seemed to be a favorite amongst the town, and we couldn't agree more!

“
**WE RAISED \$4,671 ON FAMILY
FUN DAY! IT WAS SO FUN TO
SEE ALL THE KIDS ENJOYING
THE GAMES AND INFLATABLES!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT
AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
-DANICA LYNN, DIRECTOR OF
PROJECT YOUTH DAYCARE**

The Rock Valley Chamber was able to provide the 'entertainment' for the day including the inflatables, petting zoo, fairytale characters, facepainting (Done by Cara and Hannah Suter), and the Dunk Tank. Project Youth put together the Kid Carnival with all the prizes and staff/parents volunteered to oversee the event that day. The community could enjoy these activities for a free-will donation, and \$4,671 was raised toward the daycare fundraising account!



RALLY IN THE VALLEY

Another event that raised money toward a good cause was the 19th Avenue Tailgate Party. This event is ran by Mike and Cara Suter every year, and is a town favorite as well! People sign up to cook an item of their choice to be judged on. The community is then allowed to purchase a wristband to enter and enjoy a box full of all the goodies that were made!

The money from the wristbands are given directly to a fundraising opportunity in the community, and this year, \$6,032.00 was raised toward the new City Park renovations!

Thank you to all who are involved in this fundraising event every year. The Chamber appreciates all the hard work behind-the-scenes, cooks, volunteers, and especially the Suter's who host such a fun event!

Other events that raise money toward the success of our community include the Rock River Run, a returning town favorite this year, Kiwanis Duck Race, and a new one this year, the Mud Volleyball Tournament! Ten teams entered this year, raising \$1,300 toward the Rock Valley Pool. This event seemed to be popular among the high school and college aged students, which was exactly our goal when planning it! We had been told by many around the community that there weren't many activities for this age group to enjoy. We knew some healthy competition would strike some interest! We can't wait to see how many teams enter next year!



SO MUCH FUN TO CHOOSE FROM!

Overall, there were over 30 events from Wednesday to Sunday, August 9th-August 13th for our community and surrounding areas to choose from! From the Chamber Golf Tournament to kick off the week to Community Worship Service on Sunday, we truly feel that there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The Chamber Golf Tournament hosted 19 teams this year! This tournament is a way for our Chamber to give back to our members and for the businesses to give back to their employees by giving them an afternoon off from

work and have some fun! This year, the Chamber decided to go bigger and better by providing prizes to ALL players in the tournament! There was a raffle at the end of the 18-hole tournament, where all players got to choose from gift cards to a variety of Chamber restaurants in town, 10 lb beef/pork tubes from Sunshine, and Golf balls donated from Premier and Peoples Banks. Top prizes included a \$500 Chamber Gift Card and a 2023 Scotty Cameron Putter. Frosted Frog also donated a cooler for the Pin Prize game and tumblers were given to every player as well!

Many town favorites were enjoyed by the community including the Little Miss Rock Valley Pageant, Car Show, Fireman's Challenge, Drive-Inn Movie Night, Crazy Days in the Valley, Ambulance Dessert Open House, and of course the Parade! We can't wait until next year!



FUN FACT: PAGE VIEWS ON THE RALLY WEBSITE PAGE BETWEEN JULY 24-AUG 13 WAS.... 4300!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RALLY IN THE VALLEY SPONSORS! NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU. YOUR GENEROSITY IS NOT OVERLOOKED, AND WE APPRECIATE EVERY CHECK WRITTEN. THANK YOU!

MEMBER EVENTS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Every month, the Chamber of Commerce hosts at least one event for our members to enjoy! In June, we held a Business After Hours event at Cedar Rock Grill. We had around 20 Chamber employees attend and enjoy delicious appetizers from Cedar Rock, beverages, and a fun trivia game along with networking! Door prizes were given to a couple lucky winners as well!

In August, Rooted hosted the next Business After Hours and provided live music for those that were in attendance! We all know how tasty Rooted's drinks are as well! All who attended were able to enjoy the nice weather on their outdoor seating area, drink some beverages, network, and listen to the fun music. We love getting together during these events, and we hope you'll join us next time at The Lunch House on October 19th!



The Lunch & Learn held at Rock Valley Golf Club on July 20th had almost 30 Chamber employees present! These individuals were able to learn about the Marketing Tips & Trends of today presented by Josie Faber. Josie runs the Rock Valley city website, Facebook page, and also partners with local businesses in running their marketing as well. We enjoyed a grilled chicken sandwich while Josie answered questions on the 'do's and don'ts' of online marketing.

Our next Lunch & Learn will be held at the Bistro 67 at Hegg Health Center on September 21st! Make sure to join us in learning more about 'How to Achieve Short and Long-Term Goals' as a business and as a community. We can't wait to see you there!

LUNCH & LEARNS



**SAVE THE DATE: BUSINESS GALA
NOVEMBER 27TH
PARKVIEW EVENT CENTER**

MEMBER EVENTS

RIBBON CUTTINGS

The Rock Valley Chamber has been honored to be a part of so many celebrations this year! Our first ribbon cutting this summer was the Rock Valley Swimming Pool. After so many hours and hard work toward the fundraising efforts in this project, this one felt extra special to all who were involved!

The Economy Shop celebrated the retirement of long-time owner, Shelly Munneke on July 8th and

welcomed new business owners, Kassidy Van Ginkel and Jessica Pollema. The Chamber came to celebrate this milestone with a ribbon cutting! Congratulations to both Shelly and our new business owners in town! We are excited for this next chapter.

On July 24th, the Grand Opening event for the brand-new Disc Golf Course was held with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Rotary Club graciously donated funds toward

this project, along with Valley Industrial Powder painting the baskets, Rocket Manufacturing creating the Rotary toppers, Van Zee Enterprises building the tee boxes, and the City Maintenance Crew installing and continuing to maintain the course. It's a beautiful 9-hole course, so make sure to check it out!

On August 15th, the Chamber had a ribbon cutting for the new nail salon in town, Rose Valley Nails. It is now fully open for all services including manicures, pedicures, waxing, and more! This will be such a great addition to our community. If you have an event coming up that you'd like to celebrate, contact Ashley today!



**SAVE THE DATE: GOLD STANDARD FITNESS
RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY & OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 16TH 8A-3P (RIBBON CUTTING AT 12:30PM)**

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

KICK-OFF EVENT WITH LT. GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG

The Rock Valley Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, and City of Rock Valley are excited to announce the official launch of the Rock Valley Leadership Institute. The Kick-Off Event and Luncheon was held on Thursday, August 31st at Parkview Event Center with special guest Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg! The Lieutenant Governor spoke about the importance of a Leadership Program in communities and how it effects

the economy, success of local businesses, and develops the skills of the upcoming generation. There were over 120 people in attendance to listen to Lt. Gov Adam Gregg speak and also welcome the 14 participants into the program. These individuals all show great potential in becoming leaders in Rock Valley, specifically in their place of work and school. We will build on these leadership skills during a 9-month program where they will learn a variety

of topics that will help expand their knowledge of our community and develop the needed skills to become an efficient leader in their workplace. They each have a passion to be more involved in our great town, and we can't wait to see all that they can accomplish through this program!



This year's participants include:

Chasen Groeneweg, Rock Valley Community Schools
 Clint Berentschot, Town and Country Implement
 Crista Koedam, Hegg Health Center
 Danica Lynn, Project Youth Daycare
 Emily Post, Rock Valley - Sunshine Foods
 Eric Johnson, Rock Valley Community Schools
 Jasmine Zitt, Wireless World
 Jason De Wit, A&K Electric
 Jay Miller, Rock Valley Community Schools
 Joey Van Der Brink, Farmers Lumber Co.
 Heidi Vander Waal, Vdubs Painting and Cabinet Finishing
 Matt Westra, Premier Bank
 Matthew Roetman, Perspective Insurance
 Todd Visser, Peoples Bank



This year's student participants from RV Community Schools pictured with Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Rock Valley Chamber of Commerce is always looking for ways to bring people to our community and ultimately support our local businesses! Community events are a great way to do this! The next Chamber BINGO Night is set for Thursday, October 5th at Parkview Event Center. In April, we gave \$1,000 worth of Chamber Gift Cards to the winners, which were spent right back into our community! We are looking forward to another fun night! Tickets are on sale now. Be sure to follow the Chamber social media pages for more information.



CHAMBER BINGO NIGHT



SHOP THE VALLEY- *Harvest in the Valley*

Our next Shop the Valley event is on September 21st. Harvest in the Valley is always a favorite in the community because everyone is ready to start celebrating all that Fall has to bring!

All participating Shop the Valley stores will hold their own specials this day, most doing the 'Pick a Pumpkin' for a discount. We are also giving students the opportunity to win prizes by decorating a pumpkin! These

pumpkins will be displayed in the Shop the Valley stores for customers to vote on. The top three winners will receive prizes from the Rock Valley Chamber!

Don't forget that we are also hosting a decorating contest between the Chamber businesses! All Chamber members are welcome to participate. Make sure to decorate your storefront/business front in the theme of 'pumpkins'. This needs to be done by September 20th and a

photo needs to be sent to Ashley by 12:00pm on September 21st. Photos will be posted to the Chamber social media pages for the community to vote on! Winner receives the first 'Traveling' trophy to display in their business!

**SAVE THE DATE:
OCTOBER 19TH**



**GLOW THE DISTANCE RUN-
PEOPLES BANK AND HEGG HEALTH
CENTER PARTNERSHIP. SCAN QR
CODE FOR MORE DETAILS!**

Rally in the VALLEY



SO MUCH FUN WAS HAD!





CHAMBER NEWSLETTER



The Chamber
Board of
Directors
THANK YOU
for your
membership!

PLATINUM



GOLD



712-476-2591 | ashley@cityofrockvalley.com

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!