

Amarillo Chamber eNews

1000 SOUTH POLK-AMARILLO, TEXAS

AUG 2009

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PO Box 9480
Amarillo, TX 79105
806.373.7800
806.373.3909 fax
Amarillo-Chamber.org

Get Fired Up

Good Times Celebration Barbecue Cook-Off is September 10th

By: Gary Molberg, President & Chief Executive Officer
gary@amarillo-chamber.org

I love the smell of barbecue in the morning! Especially when it means it's time for our 14th Annual Good Times Celebration Barbecue Cook-Off. It's hard to believe we are less than six weeks away from having over 100 businesses and cooking teams firing up grills for mouthwatering ribs, brisket, chicken and other one of a kind treats at this great event.

Once again we have three key sponsors to thank for helping us host this event: Tyson Foods, Inc; Great Western Distributing/Coors of Amarillo; and Arctic Glacier Premium Ice. These companies provide the majority of the meat to be cooked, the refreshments served, and the ice needed to keep it all safe, and without them an event of this magnitude couldn't be possible. In addition to the big three, we have countless others that contribute both financially and with in-kind services. There is still time to get involved and have your company name associated with our celebration. Become a sponsor by contacting Andrea McClintock, *The Barbecue Queen*, about the opportunities that work best for you. Sign up as a sponsor by August 14th and you'll be included on the event poster and in the September and October eNewsletters. We will also include our sponsors on our website and are adding more every week.

Tickets go on sale soon for \$20 each, but don't wait till the last minute to get them. They go to \$30 THE DAY OF THE EVENT. But there isn't a better deal out there for all you can eat, drink, and network. We'll even provide the entertainment with live music from Tom Velasquez and the Global Nomads Band.

Thursday, Sept. 10th

5pm - 8pm

For more information on participating or sponsoring, call Andrea at 342-2007.
andrea@amarillo-chamber.org



Thanks To These Sponsors
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Xcel Energy

Poole Building
The Global Nomads Band
United Supermarkets

Carpet Tech
First United Bank
The Education Credit Union

Mark Your Calendar

Aug 17	Women's Council Luncheon
Aug 20	Round-Up Club Luncheon
Aug 27	Head Cook's Meeting (Barbecue)
Sep 10	Good Times Celebration® Barbecue Cook-Off
Sep 21	Women's Council Luncheon
Oct 22	Mega Market (Fall)
Oct 27	Teachers & Students Touring Businesses Day
Nov 19	Top Twenty Under 40 & Top Small Business Awards Banquet
Dec 1	Ag Appreciation Lunch
Dec 4	Educator for a Day
Dec 7	Women's Council Christmas Lunch
<hr/>	
May 4	BusinessConnection
May 13	Ready for the Real World
May 18	Top Two Percent Awards
May 22	Golden Nail Awards



**AMARILLO
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

The *Chamber eNewsletter* is published by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, 1000 South Polk, Amarillo, Texas 79101. It is provided free of charge to Chamber members. Address correspondence to Chamber Communications at the address listed above, or call 806.373.7800, fax 806.373.3909.

2008-09 Board of Directors Executive Committee

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Visit our website at:

Amarillo-Chamber.org

Penni Bentley, Editor
News@Amarillo-Chamber.org

HONORING OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce would like to thank those that submitted a nomination for the Top Twenty Under 40 or Top Small Business Awards, saluting the achievements of Amarillo's young professionals and small businesses.

The Chamber received an overwhelming number of nominations, proving that Amarillo is fortunate to have many outstanding young professionals and small businesses working to make our business community flourish. Because of the overwhelming response, the award selection process will be a challenge, but a true honor to those award recipients selected. However, all award nominees should be honored by the employer, employee, co-worker, friend or professional associate who showed their appreciation for your professional excellence or success by submitting your nomination.

The Top 20 Under 40 award recipients will be selected based on their professional excellence, community service, and personal achievements only. Therefore, the name of the nominees will not be revealed to the award committee during the selection process. The Top Small Business award recipient will be selected based on their success in our business community and support of our community at large, while demonstrating a commitment to outstanding business practices. To be considered as an award recipient, nominees are required to respond to the Chamber's request for additional information by Friday, August 21st.

Award recipients selected will be notified in September and honored at the Chamber's Celebrating Business Excellence Social Event on November 19th from 6-9pm at the Sunset Center. The formal invitation will be distributed late October. Reservations will be required for all attendees.

If you have questions or would like information about sponsorship opportunities contact Kim Woolsey at 806-342-2009 or kim@amarillo-chamber.org.



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Welcome New Members—Thanks for Joining in July

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www.antiquesalleykatz.com
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Keller Williams/Laura Brooks

Laura Jean Brooks
7304 SW 35th, #1
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(806) 457-4815
x306565.yourkwagent.com
I work as a professional real estate agent for Keller Williams Realty. I enjoy working with First-Time Home Buyers, Listing properties to be sold and with people who want to "Claim Ownership" of their Ultimate Dream Home!

Lile Art Gallery

Bob Lile
3701 Plains Blvd., Gallery 82B
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www.artamarillo.com
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Amarillo Chamber of Commerce
Women's Council Meeting

"Life Lessons For Lunch"

Guest Speaker: Krista Gerlich
WTAMU Women's head Basketball Coach

Monday, August 17, 2009

11:45 a.m.

Fifth Season Inn
6801 Interstate 40 West

Joe's Catering

\$12.00 per person



RSVP BY: **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY THURSDAY, AUGUST 13th** to Lupe Fasano by phone 342-2003, fax 342-2065 or by email: lupe@amarillo-chamber.org. It is imperative to RSVP by the deadline.

Remember "a reservation made is a reservation paid."

NOTE: If your birthday is in the month of **AUGUST** please, provide a door prize by bringing a gift to this meeting.

Social Media

Keep up with the
Chamber on the web
or your smartphone.

become a FAN on

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search Amarillo Chamber



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Volunteer of the Quarter

Quality of Life Council Salutes
Paul Turner, Outback Steakhouse

It was 15 years ago last month that Amarillo had a national chain restaurant open its doors for business. And since 2001, when Paul Turner took over as the owner, he's been opening his heart and his wallet to this community ever since.

Chances are one of your school kids has had a PTA fundraiser with the help of juicy Outback burgers, or been on a Kid Tour at the restaurant. And most of the AISD elementary schools have a Quality kid program in place courtesy of Outback and Paul Turner.

Other organizations benefiting from his civic generosity include the Ambucs Southwest Chapter for the Outback Derby Days, American Breast Cancer Society Harley Bike Run, and the Vietnam Veterans Parade.

One of the Chamber's largest events, and the city's largest one-day charity golf event, has carried the Outback logo since 2003. The Chamber Open Golf Tournament has become the premier event for business networking on the golf course with 256 golfers, and Outback provides both lunch and dinner to our players and staff on the course. "Paul and his staff do an outstanding job at the golf tournament. We appreciate the support he gives to the Chamber and to the community," commented Becky Zenor, VP of the Quality of Life Council.

Paul and his wife of 11 years, Shanda, took a little time away from the 2008 golf tournament to bring their son Cole Montgomery Turner into the world. Now a year old, Cole joined Paul and Shanda and the Outback gang at our tournament last month.



As for life outside of Outback, Paul says, "I enjoy riding our Harley, spending time with family, and just working around the house. Life is awesome and everyday is a new day and a new adventure."



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Co-Chairs, Al & Brice



Golf Shirts Provided by: UniFirst



Beer Barns Provided By: State Farm



Burgers & Steaks Provided by: Outback



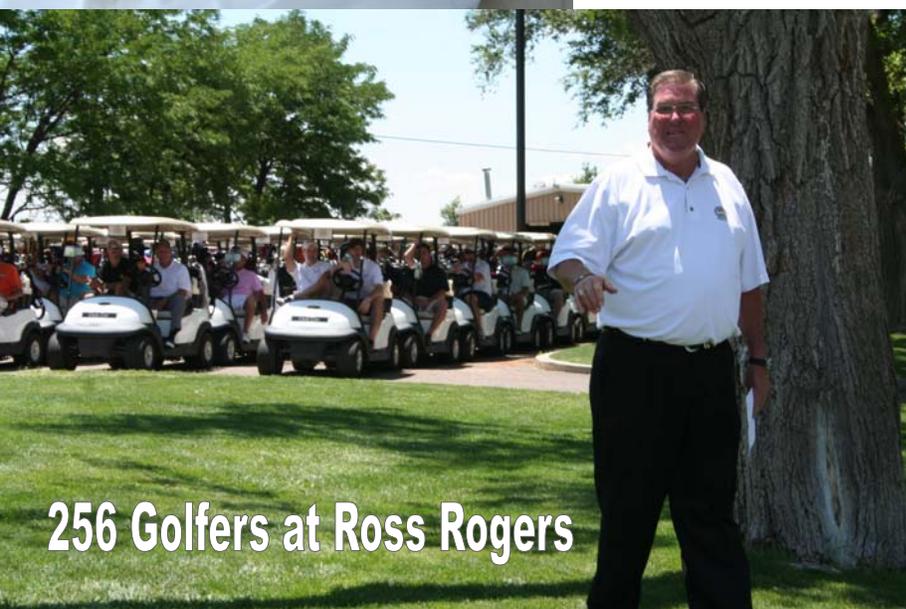
Refreshments Provided by: Budweiser

2009 Chamber Open Winners

Back 9 Division:

Front 9 Division:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budweiser
Miles Warner
Shawn Morrison
J.R. Dickerson
Dean Morrison 2. Amarillo Nat'l Bank
Mark Ewing II
Dennis Spear
Alan Bolden
Ross Macon 3. Ben E. Keith
Jeff Yarber
Josh Fuller
Larry Neal
Jim Mullane | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McCarty Hull
Jon Permenter
Mike Soria
Gerald Gaines
Ted Westlake 2. Xcel Energy
Scott Perry
Mark Barton
Mat Watson
Phillip Fetzer 3. UniFirst
Rick DeLeon
Perry Allred
Tate Allred
Aaron King |
|---|--|



256 Golfers at Ross Rogers

View more event photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarillochamber/sets/72157621734070213/>

CITY OF AMARILLO RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS BOND RATING

By: Donna Makhavane, City of Amarillo

Standard and Poor's Rating Service just elevated Amarillo's general obligation (GO) bond rating to "AAA", the highest rating a municipality can receive. This marks the first time in the City of Amarillo's history to achieve such a rating. Less than 1% of city and county governments in the nation have or will ever achieve this outstanding bond rating. The "AAA" rating allows the City of Amarillo to borrow money at the lowest interest rates available, in turn providing taxpayers significant savings on municipal capital projects.

"Despite current economic downturns, the City of Amarillo is especially honored to receive this designation. It will help us be well positioned in these changing economic times, when we need to continue improving our infrastructure and providing service to the people of Amarillo," says Mayor Debra McCartt.

The upgrade from Amarillo's previous "AA+" was based on the city's strong and stable economic base, coupled with good management policies and historically strong financial performance according to the Standard & Poor's Ratings Direct Report. Earlier this summer, City staff invited rating analysts to tour Amarillo and get a sense of the community first hand. Analysts also met with City staff to discuss organizational management policies, leadership principles, financial policies, budgeting, performance and anticipated economic outlook.

"This is GREAT news! In today's financial world, to be upgraded to the highest possible rating is unbelievably significant. A lot of communities and corporations are going the other way. This is a result of prudent, well-thought business practices by City staff. This upgrade will save us a lot of money," says Jim Simms, Commissioner Place 4.

Donna Makhavane
Community Relations Coordinator
City of Amarillo
806.378.3549 Office
806.584.5751 Cell
donna.makhavane@amarillo.gov
Visit us at www.amarillo.gov.



A new face at the front desk of the Amarillo Convention & Visitor Council is Dulcy Carden. Technically titled Administrative Assistant, she really acts as a master clearinghouse of Amarillo information for visitors and residents alike.

- When does TEXAS end for the summer? (Aug. 15)
- How many new rides are there at Wonderland this year? (Three)
- Where is Historic Route 66 located in town? (Sixth between Georgia & Western)

If she doesn't know the answer, she's on top of it quickly.

Carden graduated from Amarillo High School and both Amarillo and Hillsborough Colleges. She comes to the CVC after a career with Cooper Crouse-Hinds, a local manufacturer of electrical fixtures. She loves being with her family, all arts & crafts, gardening and, not surprisingly, traveling.

Stop by and give her your best question. Chances are she has the answer.



Check out our Chamber and Community Calendars online. You can submit events to the Community Calendar. This is a great way to show locals and visitors to the city the many things to see and do in our community. *Please keep in mind the Chamber reserves the right to include or exclude events as we deem appropriate.*

www.Amarillo-Chamber.org



Why travel when everything you need is right here at home? The benefits of meeting at home are doubled when you consider it not only saves you money-but boosts our local economy. Not to mention, saving yourself the time, money and stress that goes along with travel. So, hunker down now and meet at home, because after all, it just makes sense.

Go to www.visitamarillotx.com to see ideas of hosting a convention in your home town. There's sure to be some options that maybe you've never heard of, or simply taken for granted.



(806) 374-1497

1000 S. Polk
Amarillo, Texas 79101

www.visitamarillotx.com

WELCOME THESE CONVENTION GROUPS

AUGUST 2009

1-2	Amarillo Area Tennis Association August ZAT Tournament	150
15-23	West Texas Cutting Association Futurity	1000
31-6	AQHA Select Bayer Championship Show Select Bayer Championship Show	2500

SEPTEMBER 2009

9-4	Iglesia Apostolica Congreso Distrital	350
11-13	Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas	400
24-26	USS Passumpsic 2009 Reunion	90

Convention & Visitor Council 2008-09 Year-To-Date Statistics

Tourism	
Occupancy Rate	55.39%
Room Nights	747,840
Overnight Visitors	1,147,582
Visitor Center Guests	6,280
Group Tours	278
Inquiries for Amarillo Information	56,018
Overnight Travel Impact (\$)	\$216,125,930
Film Office	
Information requests	12
Conventions	
# of Conventions/Groups in Amarillo	51
Delegates	26,500
Room Nights	19,900
Delegate Spending (\$)	\$13,109,254.00
Delegates Booked-Future Conventions	29,174
Delegate Room Nights Booked	22,039
CVC Website	
Web Site Visits / July	28,244
Web Site Page Views / July	260,209





Block Party

August 15
4pm—Midnight

\$10 in advance
\$15 at the Gate

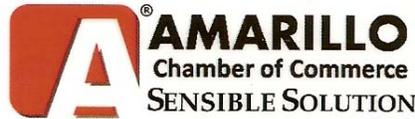
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Policy highlights are available on the chamber website www.amarillo-chamber.org under the HEALTH CARE tab and [INSURANCE COVERAGE](#) quicklink. An exclusive panel of local insurance agents will assist the Chamber membership with sales and service.

Edmond Deaton & Stephens	356-6000	www.edinsurance.com
Fuqua-Bryson Benefits Group	350-6660	
Hilb Rogal & Hobbs Co of Amarillo (HRH)	376-8275	www.hrh.com
Neely Craig & Walton	376-6301	www.neely.com
PIA Insurance	374-4621	www.piainsurance.com
Upshaw Insurance Agency	468-0400	www.upshaw-insurance.com
Williams-Boyce Agency, LLP	376-4247	www.williamsboyce.com
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Ribbon Cutting & Ground Breaking Ceremonies in July

Click on a photo or the Flickr link below to view and download photos.

Are you a new Chamber Member?

Celebrating an anniversary year in your business?

Opening a new location?

Remodeling or expanding?

Contact [Linda](#) to schedule your Ribbon Cutting or Ground Breaking event! 342-2006

Did you notice? Our Round-Up Club has a new look. They have stepped up their style with new bright red jackets instead of the dated maroon. Round-Uppers are always representing the Chamber well at our ribbon cutting and ground breaking ceremonies, but now they really look great doing it.



Boot Hill Saloon & Grill
909 Vega Blvd. - Vega



Fairfield Inn
6600 I-40 West



Get Fit
2311 S Georgia



Texas Tech Department of Family Medicine
1400 Coulter



Wal-Mart
5730 Amarillo Blvd. West

THANK YOU RENEWING MEMBERS

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Amarillo Slims Pool Palace
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Casey Carpet One
Center City of Amarillo Inc
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China Star
Choice Media
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Coyote Bluff Cafe
Custom Pools
Davis Family Investment Partnership
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Eagle Eye Enterprises, LLC
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Golden Light Equipment
Grace, Shursen, Moore & Associates
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Holiday Inn of Amarillo
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Texas Panhandle Builders Assoc
The Drawing Board
The Greenways
The People's Federal Credit Union
The UPS Store
The UPS Store #4558
Thomas L. Moore & Associates Financial Services
Top Notch Outfitters Inc
Tunes & Tint
Underwood, Wilson, Berry Stein & Johnson, PC
Upshaw & Brown, L.P.
Valmed Pharmacy Solutions
Village Bakery Cafe
Wayland Baptist University - Amarillo
Wellborn Sign, Inc.
West Texas Roofing
Williams-Boyce Agency, LLP
Wood Financial

**Thanks for renewing your membership in July
and for your continued support of the Chamber.**



The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce is a Celebrate Education partner.

Welcome New Members—Thanks for Joining in July

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Tyson Askins
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www.panhandlequartz.com
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Sabaidee Restaurant

Sammy Sayakomarn
Chanthaphone Sayakumane
2313 S. Georgia St.
Amarillo, TX 79109
(806) 331-6720
Fax: (806) 331-6753
Sabaidee, located at 2313 S. Georgia, serves Lao, Thai, Chinese, and Japanese foods. We open every day for your dining pleasures.

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Editor's Corner

By: Penni Bentley, Membership Communications Manager
penni@amarillo-chamber.org

It's always nice to read or hear something positive about Amarillo and the economy in the news. In this newsletter we printed the City's release about our recent AAA Bond rating. (*Less than 1% of city and county governments in the nation have or will ever achieve this outstanding bond rating.*) Even if you don't fully understand what all that means, the top ranking is impressive nonetheless.

Last week's Amarillo Globe-News printed that Amarillo was number one on the top 10 hottest housing markets by a Florida Housing Predictor. The article explains that the accuracy of the ranking might be questionable, but it at least means that someone is sitting up and taking notice of positive things in our community. And with the economy rollercoaster we're on right now, anything positive helps us see the light at the end of the tunnel.

There is a certain amount of pride that comes along with your hometown gaining national recognition. We have taken these newsworthy events of the last year and put them on our NEWSROOM section of our homepage at www.amarillo-chamber.org if you would like to read more. And if your local company gets national recognition, we'd like to hear about it and share it with others.

So as always, tell us how we are doing. Give us your suggestions, feedback, and input. Get involved. We are YOUR Chamber.