

Amarillo Chamber eNews

1000 SOUTH POLK - AMARILLO, TEXAS

OCT 2009

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

HONORING AMARILLO'S BEST

Young Professionals & Small Businesses

By: Kim Woolsey, Project Coordinator kim@amarillo-chamber.org

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor and recognize the true heart of the Amarillo economy, small businesses, with the 2009 Top Small Business Awards.

Please join us as we congratulate these successful businesses who have demonstrated excellent business practices, fair employee relations, and a strong commitment to our community at large. Award winners employ no more than 100 full-time employees and have been established in our business community for five or more years.



2009 Top Small Business Award Winners

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant

All About Music

Big State Remodeling, Ltd.

Catmandu

Lyons Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.

Pro Chem Sales

Kelley Roofing, LLC

Tascosa Hot Sauce, LLC

The Chamber would also like to recognize the semi finalists for the Top 20 Under 40 Award. This first time award will honor local professionals under the age of forty who are pursuing excellence in their careers, while making a valuable contribution to the Amarillo business community and our community at large. The award selection committee is truly fortunate to have such outstanding young professionals committed to Amarillo, from which to choose the twenty 2009 winners.

Winners will be announced Tuesday, October 13th.

Top Twenty AMARILLO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Under 40



2009 Top 20 Under 40 Semi Finalists:

Listed by Employer

Lyndy Forrester - Amarillo Economic Development Corporation
John Salazar - Amarillo Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Jan Beard - Amarillo ISD
Jermaine Cantu - Amarillo ISD
Amy Henderson - Amarillo National Bank
Cory Ramsey - Amarillo National Bank
Chip Chandler - Amarillo Symphony, Inc.
Allison Roberts - B&W Pantex
Sonja Lynn Bennett - Bell Helicopter
Brock Thompson - Brock Thompson Trading
Robert Vartabedian - Brown & Fortunato P C
Kraig Stockstill - Cal Farley's
Christy Bertolino - Canyon ISD
Clint Norton - Casey Carpet One
Ray Wilson - Catmandu
Lane Gilbert - Chase Investments
Jerry McMillon - Connor-McMillon, Mitchell & Shennum
Michelle Burton - Consumer Credit Counseling Service
Hollye Hawkins - Country Estates Retirement Community
Christy Taylor - Craig Methodist Retirement Community
Mason Rogers - Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
Dusty Barrick - Diversified Interiors of Amarillo, Ltd.
Mark Bridges - Edmond Deaton & Stephens
Ashton Allison - Entrepreneur Alliance
Annie Richmond - Glazer's Wholesale Distributors
Carrie Jacobs - Goodcare Health Services
Scott Martin - Happy State Bank
Sylvia Everitt - Hastings Entertainment, Inc.
Chris Stewart - Law Office of Chris Stewart, P.C.
Chris Lyons - Lyons Realty
Jill Goodrich - McCormick Company
Minka Williams - Minka's Garden Skincare & Boutique
Warren McCarty - My Passion is Football/ESPN Radio 1440
Jason Herrick - Pantera Energy
Brad McCall - Physicians Surgical Hospitals
Pedro Limas - Sound by Design Inc.
Daren Brown - Sprouse Shrader Smith, P.C.
Brian Moore - State Farm
Carrie Irwin - SuddenLink
Bill Jenkins - SWS Group - SWS Financial Services
David Prescott - Talon/LPE
Benjamin Weinheimer - Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Rodney Young - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Andrea Gulley - Underwood Law
Michael Meil - Wells Fargo Bank of Amarillo
Wendy Green - Western National Life
David Terry - WTAMU Enterprise Network

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 7	Press Conference
Oct 8	Business Excellence Reception
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

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.

2009-10 Board of Directors Executive Committee

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Business Council	Bill Jenkins
Governmental Affairs Council	Bill Harris
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Ag Council	Dr. James Clark
Convention & Visitor Council	Guy C. Vanderpool
City of Amarillo	Mayor Debra McCartt
	Commissioner Madison Scott

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Visit our website at:

Amarillo-Chamber.org

Penni Bentley, Editor
News@Amarillo-Chamber.org



Welcome New Members

An Affair to Remember

Becky Horton
2121 S. Hayden Street
Amarillo, TX 79109
(806)236-4514
Fax: 806-367-7890
weddingaffairsbybecky.com

An Affair to Remember is a wedding and event planning business. Becky will provide a wide range of planning services which can save the bride time, money and stress.

(806) 468-9034
Fax: (806) 468-9062
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Shawnda Morrison
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www.dvinewineusa.com
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El Patron Mexican Restaurant

Ruben Gonzalez
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Amarillo, TX 79109
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Fax: (806) 373-9912
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EZ Money Loan Services offers short term payday and auto title loans as a quick and easy alternative when you need money NOW.

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Body Elegance Salon & Day Spa, Inc.

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Fax: (806) 467-0048
www.body-elegance.net
Full service Day Spa & Salon, 15 years in service. Warm, relaxing atmosphere with professional & friendly service. Voted Amarillo's A-list of 2009.

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Gary & Kim Hutchens
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Clear Channel Interspace Airports

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Fax: (610) 395-4450
www.iaateam.com
Clear Channel Interspace specializes in creating imaging community showcase programs in airports, including the Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport.

Dianne Wall Insurance Agency

Dianne Wall
4160 Business Park Dr.
Amarillo, TX 79110



806-371-7611
miles@harrisfg.com
zanec@harrisfg.com

In today's financially complex world, you need complete advice and guidance that helps you focus on what is most important. Harris Financial Group is committed to providing customized solutions to grow and protect your assets – business and personal. We stand ready to work closely together to address the challenges facing you, your family, and your business. Call Miles or Zane for your confidential financial evaluation.



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Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Women's Council Meeting

"Life Lessons For Lunch"

Pamela Sirmon, Potter County Judge

DATE: Monday, Oct. 19, 2009
TIME: 11:45 a.m.
PLACE: Fifth Season Inn, 6801 Interstate 40 West
CATERER: Joe's Catering
COST: \$12.00 per person

RSVP BY: **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY THUR.**
OCT. 16th 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 **OCTOBER** 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

facebook

search Amarillo Chamber



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flickr

photos/amarillochamber

Watch Chamber Videos on



You Tube

AmarilloChamber

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DEADLINE: OCT. 30TH

Call Deborah Hornsby at 806-358-9993 or email: dhornsby@firstam.com



Welcome New Members

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DID YOU KNOW... If you receive an invoice from the Chamber via email, you can click on the link and pay it directly online with your credit card through our secure site. **Save a stamp... use the web.**

We're UPping your benefits by seven!



Join us Wednesday Oct 7th - 10 am

on the Chamber grounds (10th & Polk) for an important announcement

affecting all Chamber members and future members.

Look for details in the [Newsroom](#) section of our website.



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*Fall ~Football~Taxes
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Fax: (806) 677-0205
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**Convention & Visitor Council
2008-09 Year-To-Date Statistics**

Tourism	
Occupancy Rate	57.41
Room Nights	1,033,875
Overnight Visitors	1,633,841
Visitor Center Guests	8,945
Group Tours	380
Inquiries for Amarillo Information	69,177
Overnight Travel Impact (\$)	\$298,789,960
Film Office	
Information requests	14
Conventions	
# of Conventions/Groups in Amarillo	58
Delegates	30,489
Room Nights	21,954
Delegate Spending (\$)	\$13,518,442
Delegates Booked-Future Conventions	30,659
Delegate Room Nights Booked	22,919

WELCOME THESE CONVENTION GROUPS

OCTOBER 2009

7-9	Amarillo College Criminal Justice Department Women in Criminal Justice Program Conference	125
9-10	Texas State Federation of Square & Round Dancers President's and State Callers Meeting	200
14-15	Texas Society of Infection Control Practitioners Regional Training Conference	50
16-18	Toastmasters District 44 Conference	100
21-25	Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) World Championships	500
28-30	Texas Cattle Feeders Association Annual Convention	600
29-6	United States Team Penning Association National Finals and World Championship	800
29-31	Amarillo Balloon Association Amarillo Invitational Balloon Rally	150
29-1	Panhandle Kennel Club American Kennel Club/Panhandle Kennel Club Cluster	750
30-31	World of Wrestling Cliff Keen Amarillo Nationals	2,000

NOVEMBER 2009

12-15	Working Ranch Cowboy Association (WRCA) Ranch Rodeo World Championship	1,500
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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



Member Advertising Opportunity

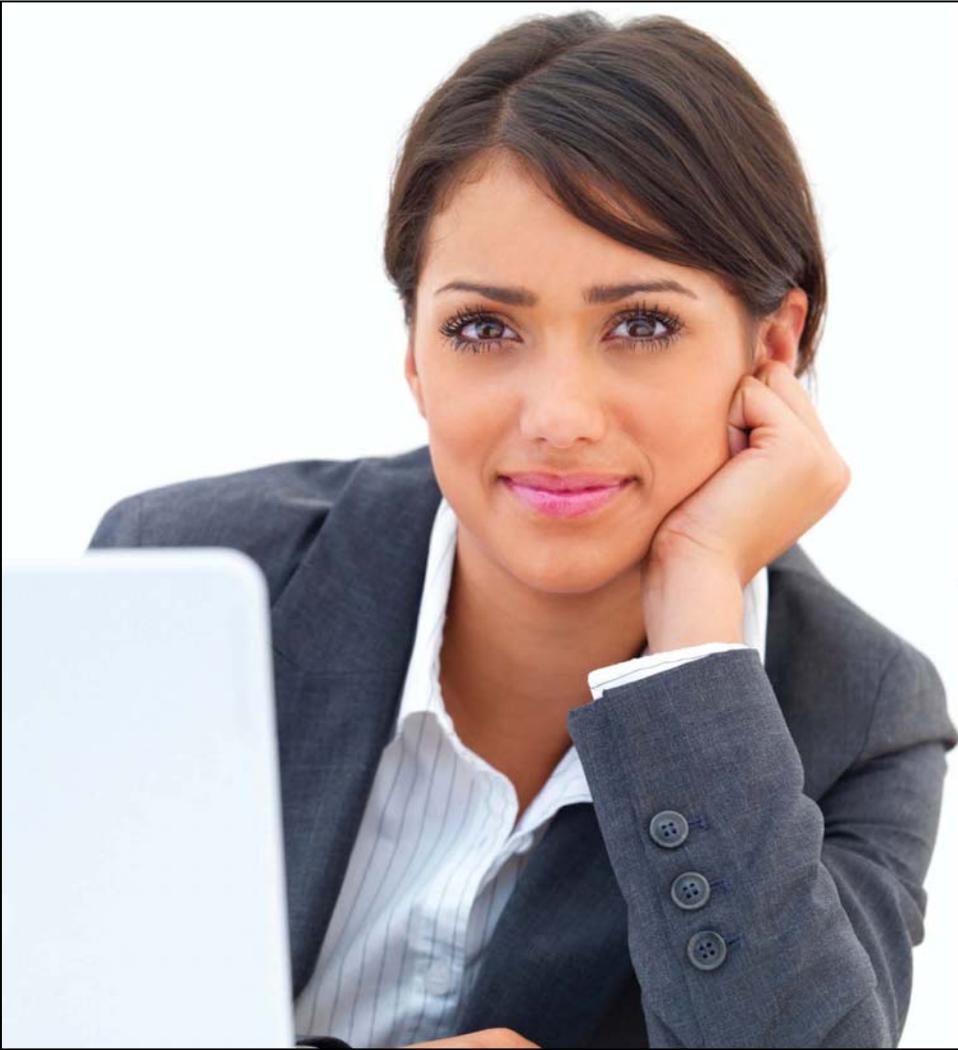
Did you know the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce has launched a Chamber Member advertising opportunity?

Big Banner Ads

This opportunity is creating extremely high levels of exposure and return for participating members. In this economy, The Chamber has made a commitment to our Membership to provide cost-effective, affordable and on-target advertising venues. This advertising program is another way in which we are fulfilling that promise.

Visit www.amarillo-chamber.org and notice the large marketing messages at the top of our page. These rotating advertisements are only a portion of a larger package of branding messages that appear throughout the website. All major industry pages and category pages offer a multitude of advertising packages which are tracked with detailed statistics. These advertisements provide targeted opportunities for you to not only get your name and message to customers, but take them from our website to yours.

Due to the limited number of positions available advertising positions are sold on a first-come first-served basis. Just call **Penni Bentley** at 342-2005 to schedule a guided tour of the Chamber's Website marketing program or email penni@amarillo-chamber.org for more information.



DIVERSE BY NATURE

Partnership can be powerful.

At Xcel Energy, we believe in teaming up with minority, women, veteran and small business enterprises when we need products and services. Our Supplier Diversity program enhances the success of our partners and the growth of our communities.

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T EACHERS & Students TOURING Business Day

Tuesday

October 27th

8am—1pm

Info: 342-2010

The annual Teachers and Students Touring Businesses Day will take place on Tuesday, October 27, 2009. This event informs teachers and students of current business practices and gives them a firsthand view of the use of skills and technology in business and industry. It also opens lines of communications between teachers and students and business persons. The 26 middle and high school students and 2 teachers will tour 21 businesses representing industry, hotel industry, restaurant, law, architectural, banking industry, and others.

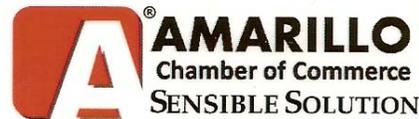
The sponsors of this event are the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, Amarillo Independent School District and funded by a grant from Xcel Energy. For more information, contact Becky Zenor at 342-2010 or becky@amarillo-chamber.org or Denise Blanchard at 326-1013 or denise.blanchard@amaisd.org.

Sensible Solution...an Alternative Coverage to Workers' Comp

For more info: Dianne@amarillo-chamber.org

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.edsinsurance.com
Fuqua-Bryson Benefits Group	350-6660	www.myfbenefits.com
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 September

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



Are you a new Chamber Member?

Opening a new location?

Celebrating an anniversary year in your business?

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

Remodeling or expanding?

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amarillochamber/sets/72157622405569409/>

THANK YOU

RENEWING MEMBERS

A D C Rx Inc.
A Team Rentals
A-1 Electric
Alternatives for Healthy Living
Amarillo Plastic Fabricators
Amarillo Ranch RV Park
Amarillo Residence Inn by Marriott
Amarillo Senior Care Clinic
Autco Tire & Service Center
Best Western Inn Santa Fe
B & B Septic Systems
Barbara Parker Arbonne International
Belflower Insurance Agency
Bell Trailerplex
Black Tie Casino
BNSF Railway
Brown Automotive-Group LP
Catmandu
Cattle Call Too
Crush Wine Bar & Deli
Curtis and Dianna Young
David V Eck & Associates P C
Decor & More
Dekker/Perich/Sabatini
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority - Amarillo
Alumnae
Doshier Pickens & Francis, LLC

Duke Electric Company Inc
East, William
Encompass Chiropractic
Endurance Auto Parts
ERA Jane Elliott Realtors, Inc.
Eye Care Plus, L. L. P.
Friona Industries L P
Greater Southwest Music Festival
Guy's Plumbing Heating & Air, Ltd.
Home Plate Diner Inc.
Household Care Services
IDEACOM of Amarillo
International Paper
John & Sally Skaggs
Keys & Shehan Surveying/Engineering
Landsharks
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LX Cattle Co.
Marcella Furs & Leather
Miller Radiator Service Inc
Possibilities
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Randy Miller Insurance Agency, Ltd.
Ray Electric Company

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Realty Central of Amarillo
Red Lobster
Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
Republic National Distributing Company
Rick Lovelady Carpets
Rod Fielding Custom Builders, LLC
Saladmaster
Shirley Thomas AISD/Lawndale Elementary
Smith Chiropractic and Wellness
SOS Staffing Services
Sound Systems Limited
SpinalAid Centers of America
SportClips
Starbucks Coffee Company
State Farm/Shannon Brooks
Taco Villa #5
Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Cntr
The Salvation Army of Amarillo High Plains
The Sleep Number Store by Select Comfort
Wal-Mart Supercenter Georgia
Western National Life Insurance Company
Wildcat Bluff Nature Center
Witt Flooring Center
Zip Print

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



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Ag, News & Sports Coverage

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Editor's Corner

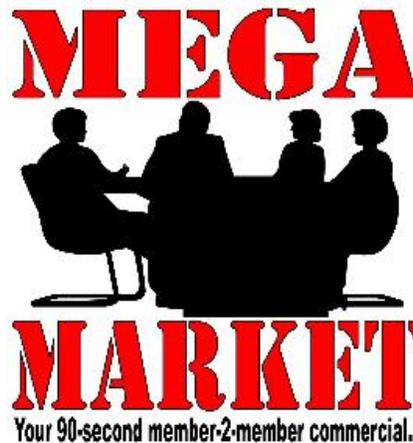
By: Penni Bentley, Membership Communications Manager
penni@amarillo-chamber.org

September is always such a whirlwind month for the Chamber. We wrap up the end of our fiscal year with our biggest event: the Good Times Celebration Barbecue Cook-Off. This year we had record breaking numbers despite there being a "recession" in most economies. I think that says a lot about the Amarillo community and how we continually work to grow our businesses, events, contacts and support one another. Thanks supporters...we couldn't do it without you.

We are less than a week into our new fiscal year, and already have big things on the horizon. You will be hearing in the coming days and weeks how the Chamber has been working on a project for 2 1/2 years we are proud to finally unveil. We know that so many in our community have the potential to benefit from this great opportunity. Stay tuned!

Be sure to check out our new Chamber Board of Directors list on page 2. We are excited to have them.

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



**Hurry...Register by
Oct. 12th**

Thursday, Oct. 22nd
11:30 am—5:00 pm
at the Ambassador Hotel
\$45 / member

Like "Speed Dating" for your Business!

Contact:

Kim@amarillo-chamber.org

373-7800

Innovate the Pixar Way:

Business Lessons from the World's Most Creative Corporate Playground

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND BILL CAPODAGLI'S EXCLUSIVE NEW ONLINE PRESENTATION

You and your valued employees are invited to participate in an exclusive online workshop led by Bill Capodagli, international management expert and highly-acclaimed author and presenter: www.capojac.com.

On October 8, 2009 at 11:30-12:30 Central Daylight Time, Bill will kick-off his soon-to-be-released book, *Innovate the Pixar Way: Business Lessons from the World's Most Creative Corporate Playground*, with an online presentation on establishing an innovative and creative workplace.

A true Disney insider, Bill will share never-before-heard secrets about Pixar's unique culture and success and teach how to unleash Pixar-style innovation within an organization. Learn how Disney's four-pillared philosophy will help you turn visions into clear directives, hire creative people and always challenge the status quo.

JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO REAWAKEN OUR CHILDLIKE MAGIC AND ENERGY!

By invitation only, RSVP required by October 6th.

Send your reply via phone or email by contacting **Cheryl Roberts** at **806.359.1539** or dept300@sosstaffing.com.

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