

Annual Banquet & Ball

"An Evening of Celebration"

Saturday, February 12, 2011

We listened, and have made this year's "Event of the Year" more affordable for everyone. So, join us for an evening of celebration!

We have reduced the price of tickets this year to \$40 for individuals or \$70 per couple to make it easier on the pocketbook to enjoy a fabulous evening. We have also lowered the price on Company Tables. (see flyer insert)

This year's Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet & Ball will be a very special event. It will be an early celebration of Valentine's Day, celebration of the ending of the "Recession" as well as celebrating another great year in Bonham and Fannin County. (Continued page 3)

Building A Better Bonham
Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce
 Economic Development
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2nd Place
 TCCCE Newsletters

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Newsletter
 Happy New Year

Volume 13 ♦ Edition 1 ♦ January 2011

2010

The Chamber Year In Review

The Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce began 2010 wondering if there would even still be a Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce in 2010. 2009 had ended with the City withdrawing \$130,000 of support to the Chamber, and the Chamber being \$25,000 in debt. The Chamber Board had also failed to negotiate an agreeable lease on the Visitor Center with the City.

So 2010 started as a question mark. Would we exist, where would we be located, and could we even survive?

Thanks to a dedicated Board, and some great Members, The Chamber did survive. With a slimmed down Budget, fewer staff, and a determination to not let the Chamber fail, *The Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce had a very productive 2010.*

A reduced, dedicated staff began the year answering inquiries, planning events, working with Economic Development prospects, and striving to make Bonham and Fannin County a better place to live, work, play, and do business. We called a full Membership luncheon in January with the food provided by Brookshire's, and asked them if they wanted us to continue and gathered ideas about how we could finance a strong Chamber that they had gotten used to without the City funds. (Continued Page 8)

You're Invited!
A Kick-Off To A Very Important Event

Hosted By:

Fannin County Relay For Life

Tuesday
January 11th
Monday Afternoon

RELAY FOR LIFE
 Fannin County

At The VA Auditorium
Bld. #3 1201 E. 9th St.

Thursday, January 20, 2011
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

See Page 2

2011 Fannin County Relay For Life To Host January 20th Network Nite

Join Us Thursday, January 20th to Kick-off “Fannin County Relay for Life 2011” 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm at the VA Auditorium 1201 E, 9th Street. Help “Kick-Off” this very important event that has become one of Fannin County’s best.

Join us and hear about plans for the 2011 Relay For Life and make plans to participate. You will also have some great Networking opportunities.

For 2010, Relay for Life of Fannin County raised \$78,750 that will be used for research and the various support efforts sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The purpose of Relay for Life is to Celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, Remember loved ones lost to cancer and Fight Back in the hope that cancer will one day be eliminated.



Relay for Life is a nationwide community-based volunteer activity and 2011 marks the 27th year. In May 1985, Gordon Klatt, M.D., took the first step of his 24-hour marathon around a Tacoma, Washington, track and raised \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society.

There are numerous forms of cancer and Fannin County has a large number of victims that are diagnosed each year. The emotional and financial suffering and costs of dealing with cancer places many hardships on individuals and families. With research funded by volunteer donations, every year there are many more survivors



and the American Cancer Society can provide support to victims such as Road to Recovery which provides rides for patients to doctor and treatment appointments and Reach for Recovery which provides support to breast cancer patients.



Funds are raised by Relay Teams that sponsor various fundraising activities such as suppers, car washes, silent auctions, t-shirt sales, and other creative ideas. To date, the Bonham ISD Team has raised over \$10,000 for 2011.

Relay Teams in Fannin County consist of churches, families, banks, hospitals, nursing homes, and area businesses. The fundraising activities begin in August or September of each year and culminate with the 24-hour Relay Event which will be held Friday, May 20, 2011 7:00 p.m. until Saturday, May 21, 2011 7:00 a.m., at “Warrior Stadium” next to Bonham High School.



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James Clark, Treasurer

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Elizabeth May
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Jerry Hackney
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This Newsletter is a monthly
Publication of The Bonham Area
Chamber of Commerce
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Bonham TX 75418
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Annual Banquet & Ball

"An Evening of Celebration"

Saturday, February 12, 2011

An evening that will be the most fabulous evening you can give to your Sweetheart. You can even share the evening with friends and or customers. Nowhere can you find a package this elaborate this affordable.

The evening will begin with a Wine & Cheese Reception at 6:00 p.m. at The Complex with free wine tasting courtesy of Homestead Winery. This will also kick-off the Silent Auction. This year, Homestead Winery will have a wine tasting, and wine sales booth set-up for your enjoyment. It will also feature wine by the bottle or glass, and "winaritas".

We will then begin the Banquet at 7:00 p.m. with a special opening, and then sit down to a fabulous hand-carved Cappy's Prime Rib or Chicken dinner. We will honor The Chamber Directors, The Volunteer of the Year, The Public Servant of the Year, The Business of the Year, and The Citizen of the Year for 2010 with some special entertainment mixed in. A Silent Auction will also be held throughout the evening with some real bargains on some great items. "Sounds like The Event of Year to me"!

We have even lowered the prices so everyone can afford this fabulous evening. After Five dress is optional, but come dressed as you feel comfortable with.

Check the inserted flyer and order form to reserve your place this year at "The Event Of The Year" and come celebrate with us.

Annual Banquet & Ball
"An Evening of Celebration"
Saturday, February 12, 2011

Stand Out In The Crowd!

With These Outstanding Opportunities!

Gold Sponsorship \$1,000

2 Reserved Tables for 10 near the stage
Special Recognition at Banquet
Special Recognition in Program
Sponsor Sign in Auction Area

Purple Sponsorship \$600

1 Reserved Table for 10 near the stage
Special Recognition at Banquet
Special Recognition in Program
Sponsor Sign In Auction Area

Corporate Sponsorship \$500

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Special Recognition at Banquet



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On Chamber Members

INQUIRY REPORT

During the month of December the Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce has professionally handled 914 Inquiry Calls, 135 Administrative Calls, and 306 Walk-ins. We sent out 150 Tourism Packets, 4 Relocation Packets, and 2 Demographics. We also handled 210 calls about Special Events. The total number of referrals from the Chamber's website business directory this period was 2,531 and each day there was an average of 60 referrals from the Chamber's Website directory.

The summary of the top three categories referred most often this period from the Chamber's Website were the following: Events, Accommodations, and Restaurants.



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FDIC

Annual Banquet & Ball

2009 Award Winners

"Honoring Deserving People"



2009 Citizen of the Year
Richard Glaser



2009 Business of the Year
**Red River Regional
Hospital**



2009 Public Servant of the Year
Judge Lauri Blake



2009 Volunteers of the Year
**Dane Liggett &
Jason Castle**



2009 Chamber Chairman
Mandra Caplinger

Investiture Ceremony



Fannin County Court at Law Judge The Honorable Charles W. Butler

The second Investiture Ceremony for A Fannin County Court at Law Judge in six months was held January 4, 2011 in the new Court at Law Courtroom in the South Annex. The Ceremony for Judge Charles W. Butler was again very impressive. 336th Judicial Court Judge Laurine Blake again organized and presided over the impressive Ceremony.

Judge Blake welcomed the overflow crowd, then Chapter 129 of The Disabled American Veterans presented the colors, followed by an Invocation was given by Russel Green. Judge Blake recognized the Jurist in attendance, which again include High Court Judges from Texarkana.

Michael Evans, President of the Fannin County Bar Association gave a presentation. Criminal District Attorney Richard Glaser then presented Butler with a Texas & American Flag in a beautiful case made by Justice of the Peace Alan Hale. Judge Hale then presented Butler with a hand made gavel.

The Oath of Office was then administered to Butler by Judge Blake, and he was 'Robed by his wife, Karen Butler. New Judge Butler gave a few remarks to those in attendance.

Rev. Liz Talbert then gave the Benediction. The crowd was then invited to participate in a great Reception sponsored by the Fannin County Bar Association and prepared by Cappy's Cafe.

Shop Bonham First!

Each dollar you spend here . . .

Turns over 7 times or more . . .

& provides sales tax for more services!



The Chamber Year In Review

Continued From Page 1)

The Membership responded very positively and gave us some good ideas about funding. One was a Membership Assessment, and the Members responded with \$10,000 to help get the Chamber on their way. We also had a Member donate an office space on the North side of the Square at 119 E. 5th Street that worked out great.

The Chamber moved to their new location in February and produced a record setting Banquet that saw 360 attend. We also continued to answer inquiries and promote Bonham and Fannin County as well as our Members. We were now set to do our job of assisting existing business; creating new business, promoting our Members, and helping them survive tough times.

For the year the Chamber answered 38,649 inquiries. 7,302 inquiry calls, 1,093 administrative calls, 3,492 walk-ins, and 25,946 visitors to our Membership Directory on our Web Site. We also sent out 646 Tourism Packets, 157 Relocation Packets, 13 Demographic Packets, (inquiring business re-location packets). We also distributed 3,108 Maps of Bonham and Fannin County, and distributed 10, 467 Visitor Guides through State Visitor Centers, Events, Shows, The Chamber office, and distribution locations. In addition to all the inquiries, we handed out over 150 phone books and re-location information to newcomers in The Chamber Office.

We assisted Members with holding 13 Network Nites events, which gave Member Host a chance to promote their business and attendees a chance to network and promote their business too. An average of 75+ took advantage of those events each month, with some attendance exceeding 100.

The Chamber signed up 16 New Members during 2010. 8 of those were new businesses that the Chamber had assisted in locating or re-locating in Bonham creating almost 50 new jobs. The Chamber also held Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies for about 20 different businesses celebrating their opening or new locations etc. during the year.

The Chamber was responsible for renting facilities at the Multi-Purpose Complex 100 days during 2010 bringing approximately 80,000 folks into Bonham and the surrounding areas. Many stayed more than one day, and many of them were from out-of-town and came to Bonham for the first time. Most of them spent money in Bonham for gas, catering, food, lodging, and shopping etc. They made a huge economic impact on Bonham during 2010. We also assisted the Multi-Purpose Complex Board make numerous enhancement to the property, including asphaltting the parking lot and the entrance road from Highway 56.

On the Economic Development scene the Chamber had a good year considering the Economy. We worked with some 20 prospects throughout the year trying to get to relocate in Bonham or Fannin County or helping them relocate. We landed 10 of them so far and helped them to get their operation open.

We continued to work with L.S. Power, who is on hold awaiting an increase in electrical use. We also assisted North Texas Municipal Water District on the Lower Bois 'D Arc Creek Reservoir. They have purchased or have under contract over 70% of the property needed for the lake, and 100% of the land needed for Mitigation purposes. They are still waiting on their final permit, but expecting that to come soon.

We are working with TXDOT with road improvements in Fannin County, to include expanding Highway 121 between Highway 56 and Highway 82 to 4 lanes.

We also helped Braum's finally open their new expanded store on Highway 121, and it has exceeded all expectations.

We have worked with prospects who are looking to locate everything in Bonham/Fannin County from Retail/ Service Businesses to Manufacturing/Production Businesses. We continue to now work with two Motel Development prospect. Hopefully 2011 will see us finally locate one in Bonham.

2010 Autumn In Bonham Bike Rally and BBQ Cookoff was hit by a tremendous flooding storm around the Bonham Area, especially in the MetroPlex, and both were considerable down in attendance. Those that attended had a great time with no rain, and promised to be back in 2011 for the 25th Anniversary.

The Chamber conducted three informational Luncheons during the year that provided new information and insight needed for planning their future.

The Chamber closed out the year by expanding their Christmas Parade and adding a Country Music Show to the festivities. The Parade had the most float entries ever, and all were great quality that the entrants had spent lots of time on. The Music Show brought in the best package of entertainers in that had ever been in Fannin County.

We think we did a lot for the area and, especially, our Members during 2010, even though we did it with a reduced staff and less money! Many of the things we accomplished are not even listed, but we hope to continue working for you for the betterment of the area and your business for years to come. Your continued support is becoming even more important to our success since all outside funds have been taken away, and we look forward to updating you on our planned activities and successes in 2011.

El Dorado Jewelry & Loan

50 - 50
Winner

December 16th
7th Anniversary

Networkites



SBA Dallas/Fort Worth Experienced Record Lending

FORT WORTH, TX – The U. S. Small Business Administration, Dallas/Fort Worth District Office approved an unprecedented 666 loans for \$399.8 million in loan guarantees to small businesses during the first three months of the fiscal year. This represents an increase of 83% and 42% respectively in dollars and units over the same period last fiscal year.

During the month of December alone, SBA DFW district approved a record \$241 million in guarantees. Nationwide SBA approved 21,918 loans for a total value of \$10.4 billion.

The Jobs Act signed into law by President Obama in September 2010 included an extension of the SBA's loan enhancements provided under the Recovery Act that expired May 2010. The benefits included an extension of the SBA guarantee under the 7(a) program to 90% from the previous 75% and a waiver of the fees normally imposed. As a result of these enhanced loan provisions, all SBA offices experienced record lending under the guarantee program.

As we start the New Year, the Small Business Jobs Act appropriations are now being exhausted and SBA will no longer accept Small Business Jobs Act loan applications.

While the Dallas/Fort Area enjoys a very good and vibrant lending community, "it is thanks to the Jobs Act benefits that we were able to achieve such an unprecedented level of lending" said Herbert Austin, SBA DFW District Director. "During the past few months we have had exceptional loan numbers and, in particular, December was one of the best months for the DFW district."

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, visit the SBA's extensive new Web site at www.sba.gov.

2010 Christmas Parade Best Ever!

With over 70 entries and 46 great floats, the 2010 Chamber Christmas Parade has been deemed "Best Ever" Both number are the most we have ever had.

"The quality of the floats in the 2010 Parade was the best we have ever seen. The rivaled the big city floats," said Bill Jones Chamber Executive. "We appreciate the effort that was put into building all the entries", Jones added.

Float winners this year were: Commercial; 1st Forerunner Christian Academy, 2nd Fix & Feed Bonham Hardware, and 3rd The Dance Studio. Non-Commercial: 1st Fannin County Headstart, 2nd Esku Family, 3rd Wesley United Methodist Church (not pictured).



Calendar Of Events

Check www.bonhamchamber.com/events
For Up Coming Events. There Are Lots!

January 16, 2011

"Your Event Solutions"

Event Planners, Photographers, Caterers, Musicians,
Florists, Business Owners, and more!

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Creative Arts Center
200 W. 5th Street

For more information call (903)640-2196 or
email barbaralreeves@cablone.net.

January 22, 2011

Films & Forums

"Grow Your Own Vegetables"

7:00 pm
Elizabeth May Room
American Bank of Texas
120 W. Sam Rayburn

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903)583-4811

February 8, 2011

Top of Texas Builders

6:30 pm
Legacy Ridge Country Club

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903) 583-4811.

February 10-13, 2011

Bonham Trade Days

Thursday, February 10th - Sunday, February 13th
Fort English Park
Hwy 56 & Hwy 121

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903) 583-4811.

February 12, 2011

Annual Banquet & Ball

6:00 pm
Fannin County Multi-Purpose Complex

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903) 583-4811.

March 10-13, 2011

Bonham Trade Days

Thursday, March 10th - Sunday, March 13th
Fort English Park
Hwy 56 & Hwy 121

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903) 583-4811.

March 18-19, 2011

5th Annual Spring Break in Bonham Bluegrass Festival

Friday & Saturday, March 18th & 19th
Friday 1:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Saturday 11:30 am - 10:00 pm
Fannin County Multi-Purpose Complex
Hwy 56 & FM 87

For more information call (903)367-7229 or (903)640-6349.

March 24, 2011

Network Nights

Forerunner Christian Academy

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Kennedy Street

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903)583-4811.

March 26, 2011

Lawn & Garden Expo

Fannin County Master Gardeners

9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Bonham Civic Center

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903)583-4811.

April 7-10, 2011

Bonham Trade Days

Thursday, April 7th - Sunday, April 10th
Fort English Park
Hwy 56 & Hwy 121

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903) 583-4811.

April 21, 2011

Network Nights

Fannin County Children's Center

Thursday, April 21st
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
112 W. 5th Street

For more information contact the Bonham Chamber
at (903)583-4811.

**Let The Chamber
Help Promote Your
Next Event**

Call 903-583-4811

or

**email your information
to**

bonhamchamber@cablone.net

**Also Announced on
"Chamber Chatter" each
Wednesday Morning at 9:05 am
on KFYN 1420 AM**



Music Show Features Great Talent!

The 2010 Cowboy Christmas Music Show featured some great talent from the Western Music Association. Some of the "Top" talents from the Association gathered in Bonham, Texas to perform.

If you attended, you were treated to the fantastic yodeling of "Toy Story" star Devon Dawson, and great voice of three time Grammy nominee Allan Chapman, plus some fabulous music from the other 8 entertainers.

"We were really disappointed with the crowd, but we were very satisfied with the great show that was put on by the group," said Bill Jones. "We are grateful to Royce Smithey who arranged it all," he added.



David Stapp, President
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Chamber Board Minutes

Minutes of the Bonham Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Voting Members Present: James Clark, Doug Kopf, Melody Michaud, Jack Bonds, Jerrad Besch, Jeannie Robertson, Jon Sisk, Kevin Biggar, Jack Lispcomb, Joe Ward, Hosea Montague, Lue Norman

Voting Members Not Present: Milton Glenn, Kenny Moore

Associate Members Present: Elizabeth May, Judge Eileen Cox, Sonny Cruse,

Associate Members Not Present: Kirk McMurray, Corby Alexander, Patti Hicks

Staff: Bill Jones

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Jack Bonds. The motion was made by Joe Ward to approve the November minutes. Motion was 2nd and carried. Treasurer's report was given by Bill Jones and approved for audit.

Jack Bonds moved to approve the Program of Work. Motion was 2nd and passed. Melody Michaud moved to approve the 2011 Investment Schedule. Motion was 2nd and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Melody Michaud

Shop Chamber Members First!

Upcoming "Network Nites"

February 12, 2011

Chamber Banquet

March 24, 2011

Forerunner Christian

Academy

*1500 N. Kennedy
Bonham TX 75418
903-436-4166*

April 21, 2011

FC Children's Center

*112 W. 5th St.
Bonham TX 75418
903-583-4339*

May 19, 2011

Texcel Exploration, Inc

*108 Sam Raybourn Drive
Bonham TX 75418*

903-583-3072

June 16, 2011

Creative Arts Center

*200 W. 5th ST.
Bonham TX 75418
903-640-2196*

December 15, 2011

El Dorado Jewelry & Loan

*2005 N. Center
Bonham TX 75418
903-583-0963*

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"Network Nite"

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Advertising must be paid in advance of printing. Ad may be provided in cmyk PhotoShop, Adobe Acrobat PDF, or Illustrator EPS formats, or The Chamber will produce your ad for you. Ad contracts must be in and paid by the 10th of the month prior to production.

For information contact Bill @ 903-583-4811,



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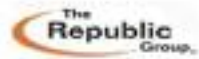
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