

Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce

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May 2017
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Schedule of Events

FAM Tour will arrive May 2

Wall Celebration Committee Meeting May 3, 6 pm, Wall Golf Course

Coffee & Calendars, May 4, Noon, Kodiak Coffee

City Council Meetings: May 4 & May 18, WCC, 6:30 pm

Chamber Mixer, May 8, 6pm Wall Golf Course

School Board, May 10, 7 pm

Wall Photo Walk, May 16, 5 pm, 4th Ave Floral

Kyle Petty Ride, May 17, 10 am arrival in Wall at the Auto Livery, 11:45 am-1 pm meet and greet

Wall Crawl Committee Meeting May 19, Noon, FIB

Wall High School graduation, May 20, 1:30 pm

Chamber Board meeting, May 23, 7 am, FIB

Last day of school, May 24

WEDC Board meeting, May 24, 6 pm, WCC

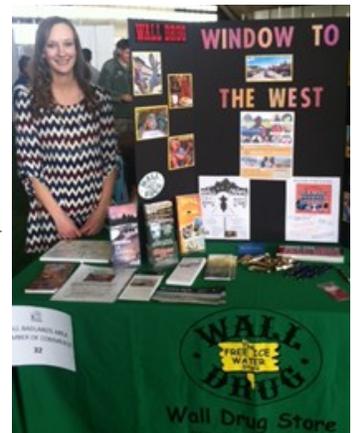
List your event here, on the website and hear it on the radio news!

Discover the Hills

On Friday, April 28, the Wall-Badlands Area Chamber attended an event at Ellsworth Air Force Base. Known as Discover the Hills, the event allows businesses of the Black Hills and surrounding area to advertise to active airmen and their families based at Ellsworth. Our goal was to encourage them to tour the area during the time they are stationed in South Dakota, and mostly, encourage them to come Visit Wall!

While at the event, Jonny Winn-Holsether and I spoke with attendees about why Wall is a great place to visit and welcomed them to step into our Window to the West. We highlighted upcoming events this summer including the Kyle Petty Ride, Wall's Annual July Celebration, Wall Crawl and upcoming rodeos. We informed them about the military discounts that are offered, and many were surprised to learn that a town of roughly 800 could offer so much!

We handed out maps of the area, brochures from local businesses, pens, stickers, Wall Drug Tote bags and candy. We were so honored to have the opportunity to speak with these brave men and women, not only promoting all Wall has to offer them, but to also thank them for their service.



Geranium Festival May 15-20



Fourth Ave. Floral will be holding a Geranium Festival May 15- 20 to help everyone get a good start on their spring planting! Throughout the week, the flower shop will be offering assistance with planting planters (for a small fee), plants that are compatible with geraniums, silk geraniums, ready-to-go hanging and potted planters, in store specials and herb gardens.

2017 Annual Meeting

Due to the remodel project of the Wall Community Center and an active fall sports schedule, Wall-Badlands Area Chamber board members decided **NOT** to hold a 2017 annual meeting. Businesses for 2016 and 2017 will be recognized at the 2018 annual meeting. The 2017 annual meeting budget will be used to hold a bigger and better annual meeting for 2018.



Thank you to all who contributed in the Annual Spring Clean-up! It is a community effort to keep our city clean and beautiful. Also, a special thank you to Wall Drug for providing a free breakfast to all who participated in picking up litter around town.

New Deadline for Membership Dues

Due to the difficulty in billing seasonal business in our organization, we are changing the deadline for membership investments. The new deadline for membership will be December 1. All investments must be made by this time if you wish to be included in advertisements. All business investments received after December 1 may still be chamber members but will not be included in advertisements for the year. Because most advertisement deadlines are near the beginning of the year, our hopes are that we will eliminate advertising businesses that do not invest in the Wall-Badlands Area Chamber.

We appreciate your participation in our organization and strive to make the most out of your investments.

Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 10, 2017 12:00 p.m. Red Rock Restaurant

Chamber Board President Jackie Kusser call the meeting to order. Jonny Winn-Holsether led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dawn Hilgenkamp moved to approve minutes from the March 13 Chamber Luncheon with a second by Jackie Heathershaw. Motion carried.

Jackie made announcements of upcoming events for the chamber and the community.

City of Wall: Mayor Marty Huether spoke about the increase of income to the city from February 2017 sales tax compared to February of 2016. March also looks to be in line compared to last year. Marty encouraged those in attendance to go look at the Wall Community Center as the new awning has been hung. Brick will be laid soon and sheet rock is being put up on the inside of the building. The remodel is right on track to be completed by June 1. Property tax reassessments have been completed and Marty was pleased with the outcome. He stated the dramatic shift in property taxes was unfair to those that were affected and that the city would plan to be proactive for reassessments in the future.

Economic Development: Cheyenne McGriff was very excited to report that the Career Roundtable event was a success. At the conclusion, of the event many high school students said they now realize they can return to the Wall community to pursue a career from many different work opportunities. Cheyenne gave a report about Marketing Hometown America; roughly 50 community members attended the action planning forum to brainstorm different ideas to bring new members to the Wall community. Cheyenne presented a handout with a list of ideas for the project. She encouraged community members to act on any strategic planning ideas. Cheyenne was happy to announce The Wall Meat Processing Plant is under new ownership and they are taking orders. A grand opening event is tentatively set for early June. The next WEDC board meeting will be held April 12, at 5:30 PM and following the meeting will be a strategic planning session. WEDC is currently conducting a 2017 Wall Community Survey and would like everyone to please take the time to fill it out.

Celebration Committee: Cheyenne McGriff thanked everyone who attended the roller skating event on April 2. She also wanted to thank Carolynn Anderson for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt held on April 9, which was sponsored by the Celebration Committee. This year's celebration theme is "Celebrate through the Decades." The committee is working to get more community participation in this year's parade by possibly offering prizes. They are looking for community members to volunteer to help work during the Celebration. The next Celebration meeting will be held May 3 at 6:30 PM at the golf course.

Wall Crawl: Cheyenne McGriff invited everyone to 'like' the Wall Crawl Facebook Event Page. The Wall Crawl team is currently seeking volunteers to help with the event.

Badlands Bad River: Cheyenne McGriff: The BBR Job Fair and Business Expo that was held in Philip on March 28 had over 30 exhibitors, which was double from the previous year. High school students from Philip and Wall attended the event. Looking forward to next year, the committee is planning a more career-oriented and student-focused event. The next Badlands Bad River meeting time is to be determined.

School Report: Superintendent Cooper Garnos informed chamber members that Smarter Balance testing, a state mandated test, is taking place for the next three weeks for 3rd- 8th and 11th grade classes. This week, students in grades 4th- 8th will be testing. Cooper said spring events are beginning to take place, including: Track meets, Golf meets, Rodeo, Spring Play (April 29th & 30th), Student Council, FFA conventions, Spring Concerts and High School Graduation. The school will be accepting nominations for Teacher of the Year and the Hall of Fame. The athletic complex is near completion and on Friday, August 25, the dedication of the new facility will be held. Currently, the school is looking to fill positions for a Kindergarten teacher and a teacher for Big White School.

Badlands National Park: Mike Pflaum informed those in attendance that Cedar Pass Lodge will be opening April 15. Visitation to the park was down in the month January but was up for the months of February and possibly March. He said the Bison Stewardship Project has been approved and will open 23,000 acres north of the current bison unit. This will allow more room for the bison to roam. The park is thankful for the partnerships they had that helped raise money for the project. Funds will be used to build roughly 40 miles of fence, automatic gates, portable corrals, and parking for tourists. An Astronomy Fest will be held June 24 & 25. The event attracts a large number of people to the area. A solar eclipse will take place August 21 although the Wall community and Badlands are not in an area of totality, a 96% eclipse will be able to be seen. The RASDAK bicycle tour will be riding through the park June 4 before arriving in Wall on June 5. The park is still being affected by the hiring freeze but are thankful that the freeze has been lifted for seasonal employees.

MMNHS: Kelsey Walter reported a few brief topics of interested for Eric Leonard. March visitation was 2,293, which is a 4% increase from March of last year. However, year-to-date attendance is still down due to severe weather in January and February. Production of the park film is still progressing, with an expected completion date in September. South Dakota Tourism travel counselors will be working at the visitor center mid-May to familiarize travelers to western South Dakota.

Golden West: Jody Bielmair stated that if community members have not yet been contacted for the “Fiber to the Home” project, they would be soon. She wanted to inform customers that Golden West has hired contractors to help with the project, but contractors will have marked vehicles and personal badges that state they are working with Golden West. Jody was happy to report that through the Golden West “Pay it Forward” campaign this year they will donate roughly \$16,000 to schools across South Dakota.

West River Electric: Dick Johnson: WREA is preparing for the start of the busy summer season. He reminded members that there will be a basic rate increase starting May 1.

Black Hills Federal Credit Union: Wendy Allison informed those in attendance that April is Credit Union Youth Month. Ages 5-18 can participate in a contest about how they are using their bank account to save money. Projects can be a story, a picture or a video. April 26 is Black Hills Federal Credit Union Youth Member Appreciation Day, members are invited to stop into BHFCU for cookies.

First Interstate Bank: Janet Lurz reminded members that scholarships are all due April 15. First Interstate Bank is holding a contest for children to bring in their home made piggy banks to be judged by the community. Entries will be divided into 3 age groups. There was no artist of the month for April.

Toastmasters: Cheyenne McGriff: Next meeting will be held April 21, at 6:30 a.m. at the WREA.

Country Cupboard: No Report

Rodeo Booster Club: Mary Williams reported that at the Rapid City Junior High Regional Rodeo, Wall had 4 participants who worked to earn points for State. An arena fence improvement project will be completed so the fence of the small arena match will match the height of the fence in the big arena. The steel has already been delivered and the project will begin soon.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church: Mary Williams wanted to invite everyone to attend the 100th Anniversary Celebration Dinner of the Catholic Church on April 23.

Black Hills & Badlands: No Report

Mailbox Project: Cheyenne McGriff: As a partnership between the City, Economic Development, and the Chamber, graduating seniors will receive a mailbox with their name and Wall, SD placed on the outside of the box. The purpose of this project is to encourage seniors to return to the Wall Community after attending secondary education, military, etc. Local businesses will be asked to donate items to be placed in the mailboxes. The city has already approved the project to be completed for the second year and mailboxes have already been ordered.

4th Ave. Floral: Cindy Hauk was excited to inform those in attendance of the Geranium Festival 4th Ave. Floral will be holding May 13-20. The festival will allow interested individuals to bring flower pots to the flower shop where they can have assistance planting the pots.

Next Meeting: Wall-Badlands Area Chamber Mixer: Monday, May 8, 2017, 6 p.m. Wall Golf Course

WALL-BADLANDS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Board of Directors:

Jackie Kusser—President
Cindy Hauk—Vice President
Jackie Heathershaw—Treasurer
Juanita Schroeder
Janet Lurz
Dawn Hilgenkamp
Jason Leonard
Terry Mohr
Jonny Winn-Holsether

Chamber Luncheon Meeting Locations:

May-Golf Course Mixer
June-Badland's Saloon & Grille
July-Wall Golf Course
August-No Meeting
Sept-to be announced
Oct & Nov-Badlands Saloon & Grille
Dec-Holiday Mixer
*Luncheons held 2nd Monday of the month
unless otherwise noted.*

**The June Meeting will
be held at the
Badlands Saloon &
Grille
Monday, June 11
at noon.**

2017 Wall-Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce Membership

4th Avenue Floral
American Legion Auxiliary
Americas Best Value Inn
Anderson Investments
Ann's Motel
Arneson Auction Service
Arrow Campground
Ascend Ag, Inc.
Badland Outpost
Badlands Automotive
Badlands Budget Host
Badlands Harley Davidson
Badlands Inn
Badlands Interior Motel & Campground
Badlands National Park
Badlands Natural History Association
Badlands Quilters
Badlands Saloon & Grille
Badlands Trading Post
Badlands/White River KOA
Best Western Plains Motel
Beverly Dartt
Bill Bielmaier
Black Hills & Badlands Tourism Assoc.
Black Hills Federal Credit Union
Broken Arrow Trading Company
Candee Kitterman
Cedar Pass Lodge
Circle View Guest Ranch
Common Cents
Corner Pantry
Cornerstone Industries
Country Cupboard Food Pantry
Crazy Horse Memorial
Crew Agency
Crown Oil
Cutting Edge Salon
Dakota Mill & Grain

Days Inn
De's Oil & Propane
East Pennington Co Transit
East Pennington County Conservation
East Pennington County Ambulance District
Econo Lodge
Evangelical Free Bible Church
Farm Bureau Financial Services
First Interstate Bank
First Lutheran Church
First Western Insurance Agency
Frontier Cabins
Gold Diggers
Helen Crawford
Hillcrest Motel
Jitterbug Daycare
JLJ Contracting, LLC
Jonny Winn-Holsether
Juanita Schroeder
Larry Eisenbraun
M & M Sales
Mary Williams
Minuteman Missile NHS
Motel 6
Pennington County Commissioners
Pennington County Courant
Pennington-Jackson County Farm Bureau
Pioneer Auto Show & Prairie Town
Prairie Homestead
Red Rock Restaurant & Lounge
Richard Wahlstrom/EDWARD JONES
Rod Renner
Ruland Arena, LLC
Rush Funeral Home
SanDee's
Shearer's Western Dakota Ranch Vac.
Singing Horse Trading Post
Sleepy Hollow Campground

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Subway
Sunshine Inn
Super 8 Motel
Triangle Ranch B & B
Two Bit Saloon & Steakhouse
USDA Forest Service
Vintage Soule Salon & Boutique
Wall Auto Livery
Wall Building Center & Construction
Wall Car Care Center
Wall Community Library
Wall Dairy Queen
Wall Drug Store
Wall Food Center
Wall Golf Association
Wall Motel
Wall Regional Medical Clinic
Wall Rodeo Booster Club
Wall School District 51-5
Wall United Methodist Church
Wasta Bar
Waste Connections
Welsh's Motel
Wildlife Museum/Kodiak Coffee Shop

**2017 Chamber Investments are
due. Please send your check to
the Chamber Office at PO Box
527 or drop it off at our tempo-
rary location at First Interstate
Bank.**

**Red denotes new businesses who have been
members for less than 12 months.**

GOLD MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENTS

***GOLDEN WEST TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

***WEST RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**