

Locust Grove OK Area Chamber of Commerce News

November 2018

Upcoming Events

Nov. 20, Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 p.m., Chamber monthly meeting, 114 E. Main

Thanks to Carl Close for coming to our Oct. Chamber meeting. We hope that at least one town council member can come to each of them.

Dec. 4, Tuesday, 5:30-8:00 p.m., Christmas Celebration

This celebration will include photos with Santa, lighting of a town tree, and raffle drawing, with a parade to follow at 7:00 p.m. The theme is O Holy Night. The Chamber and the LGAA have gone together to try and make the town look very festive for Christmas, by offering both a Decorative Light Pole decoration contest and a Business Décor/Window Painting Contest.

NOTE: It would certainly help us out if a city worker could check that all of the decorative poles are working and that electric is also working. We have already had a great deal of interest so people will be decorating these poles and probably wanting to plug lights into them.

Other News:

Cherokee National Treasure and local artist Bill Glass, Jr. is interested in constructing an outdoor public work of art for Locust Grove. The LGAA and Chamber will work jointly in an effort to receive grant funding for the project. If the fire-devastated corner of Broadway and Main comes into the possession of the town, this would be an ideal place for a green space and the artwork. We would like the town to work with us on this, although if this space does not become available, we will look for other suitable places.

Empty Commercial Buildings: The Chamber has a duty to the business people in the town to help their businesses thrive and the “broken window syndrome” is a curse, so we will continue to do what we can to encourage people to fix, rent or sell their buildings. As of 11/11/2018, there were 24 empty commercial buildings in town, and only 2 of those had posted for sale or rent signs on them. We hope the town council will make a priority of enforcing codes on the empty commercial buildings that are the most dilapidated and pose a potential safety hazard and fire threat to surrounding businesses and homes. These boarded-up buildings, some of which have been this way for many years, also create problems for our local police when they are broken into. There are people looking for commercial spaces to rent in town, and if owners of these properties did not want to sell them, they should at least consider putting them up for rent. The town has a vested interest in seeing this happen, for the sales tax revenue, but also because more businesses in empty buildings means less of the broken window syndrome and more pride in our community, plus less work for the fire and police departments.

Sidewalk Issue: A concerned citizen asked that the Chamber bring to the town council’s attention the possible need for a sidewalk between the library and the post office. He said that he saw a woman walking with a baby carriage along the road there because there was no sidewalk for her to go on.