

TONGANOXIE CHAMBER TIMES

Happy New Year!

2014 has been a busy year for your Chamber of Commerce. The annual chamber banquet was held on April 22nd, and featured Mayor Mark Holland of Kansas City, Kansas as our keynote speaker. At the event, we honored Free State Fitness owners, Rob and Megan Schuck, as the Business of the Year award recipient. Connie Torneden was named Citizen of the Year for her countless accomplishments in Tonganoxie over the past 40 years. Celeste Bartels was the winner of the chamber's \$1,000 scholarship based upon her GPA, leadership and community involvement.

The Chamber took-on a major project to develop a Community Profile and Membership Directory that could be used to promote our town. We partnered with Encore Publishing for this project, and the directories were completed and distributed by July. These directories have proven to be very useful in promoting Tonganoxie, and it is our hope that our members will see a lot of benefit from this project. We will consider updates to this directory in the future to give new members the opportunity to advertise, and to keep the document current.

The primary focus of your Chamber has been, and will continue to be on economic development. We have been working with a hotel developer for a potential new hotel in Tonganoxie, and the Chamber paid for a feasibility study for the hotel in an effort to attract this new business to our town. This project has the potential to have a very positive impact on future development, and in attracting other businesses to our town. Our efforts on this project will continue into 2015.

Another focus for the Chamber is on our Downtown district. The former Annie's Country Jubilee building is now occupied by The Jewel on Main, operated by Roz McCommon. It is our hope that concert events and other activities held at The Jewel will be a catalyst to increasing business for our downtown merchants and service providers, and in attracting new businesses to locate downtown.



The Chamber was also involved in many other activities to promote our town, including:

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
- Annual Chamber Luncheon
- Monthly Chamber Coffee events at member's locations
- Hosted Chamber After Hours events
- Maintained the Chamber web site
- Provide a monthly newsletter for our members
- Participated in the Leavenworth County Development Corporation board meetings
- Fielded numerous inquiries throughout the year from business prospects and potential new residents

In the coming year, we are planning a builder's forum to discuss barriers to growth by bringing together builders, City of Tonganoxie staff, and members of the planning and zoning committee. It is our hope that this will be an informative event for all involved in the building industry.

Another goal for the coming year is to establish a new Chamber Office where we can once again have a physical presence in town.

We are excited by the momentum generated by the Chamber board members this past year, and we are looking forward to a productive 2015. Your Chamber board is made-up of dedicated volunteers that are looking to have a positive impact on the economic health and prosperity of our town, and we always welcome your input. Please let us know how we can help you! We appreciate your support.

Steve Christensen, President
Tonganoxie Chamber of Commerce

7 New Years Eve Traditions Explained

1

Before the ball in Times Square, there were fireworks. The first New Years Eve Celebration in Times Square was in 1904 and included a firework show. The city banned fireworks 2 years later, so event organizers arranged for a 700lb ball to be lowered down a pole. In the years since, it has become a tradition for Americans to watch the ball start dropping at 11:59pm and count down to the New Year.



2

Maybe you'll have a New Year's Eve kiss this year, just like the one Meg Ryan and Bill Crystal shared in the 1989 movie *When Henry Met Sally*. According to tradition, not doing so will ensure a year of loneliness. The tradition. An even date back to ancient European times as a way to ward off evil spirits according to the *Montreal Gazette*.

3

In Spain and Spanish-Speaking Countries a New Year's custom is to eat 12 Grapes, one for each month of the year that you want to have good luck. The catch is that you must start eating them when the clock strikes midnight, and then take one for each toll of the clock.

4

Instead of reading tea leaves to tell the future, some people in Germany and Austria read Molten Lead. Here's how: Heat up some lead in a spoon. When it's melted, pour the molten lead into cold water. The shape of the cooled lead tells you what is ahead of you in the coming year.

5

It's a tradition to eat "Hoppin' John," a stew made out of black-eyed peas in the American South. Frederick Douglass Opie, a food historian, says that "Many Southerners believe that the black-eyed peas symbolize coins, and eating them insured economic prosperity for the coming year."

6

People in the Philippines wear polka-dots as part of their New Year's traditions. The circles represent prosperity. Coins are kept in pockets and people jingle the change to "attract wealth."

7

It's not surprising that the country who invented fireworks, China, also makes setting them off a central part of their New Year's Celebration. It is believed that the noise scares off evil and misfortune.



Membership

At the membership luncheon in December we passed out membership applications to those in attendance. If you missed out on our luncheon or have lost your application, you can find copies of this form online at:

<http://TonganoxieChamber.org/JoinTheChamber>

After filling out the form, please send your membership dues to PO Box 415, Tonganoxie, KS 66086. You may also contact a chamber board member if you would rather have a hard copy of the membership form.

- Jan. 1st - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00pm-8:30pm
- Jan. 3rd - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am
- Jan. 5th - USD 464 - Classes Resume - Grades K-12
- Jan. 5th - City Council Meeting - City Council Chambers - 7:00pm-9:30pm
- Jan. 6th - Toddler Storytime and Craft - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Jan. 8th - Chamber Coffee - Tonganoxie Public Library - 8:00am
- Jan. 8th - After School Programs for Elementary Students - Tonganoxie Public Library - After School
- Jan. 10th - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am
- Jan. 12th - Board of Education Meeting - 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Jan. 13th - LCDC Membership Committee Meeting - LCDC Office - 8:00am
- Jan. 13th - Toddler Storytime and Craft - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Jan. 14th - Adult Evening Book Club - Tonganoxie Public Library - 7:00pm
- Jan. 15th - Leavenworth County Humane Society Spay and Neuter Transport - Linwood - Contact LvnCoHS@live.com for more information
- Jan. 15th - After School Programs for Elementary Students - Tonganoxie Public Library - After School
- Jan. 16th - LCDC Annual Meeting - Riverfront Community Center - RSVP to Mary Mack @ (913) 727-6111 or mmack@lvcountyed.org
- Jan. 17th - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am
- Jan. 19th - USD 464 - Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 19th - City Council Meeting - City Council Chambers - 7:00pm-9:30pm
- Jan. 20th - Toddler Storytime and Craft - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Jan. 21st - Municipal Court - 321 S. Delaware - 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Jan. 22nd - After School Programs for Elementary Students - Tonganoxie Public Library - After School
- Jan. 23rd - LCDC Executive Committee Meeting - LCDC Office - 8:00am
- Jan. 24th - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am
- Jan. 27th - Toddler Storytime and Craft - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Jan. 27th - LCDC Infrastructure Committee Meeting - LCDC Office - 3:00pm
- Jan. 28th - LCPA Meeting - 11:30am
- Jan. 29th - After School Programs for Elementary Students - Tonganoxie Public Library - After School
- Jan. 31st - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am
- Feb. 1st - Adult Winter Reading Program (1st Meeting) - Tonganoxie Public Library - Time TBD - See TonganoxieLibrary.org for more details
- Feb. 2nd - City Council Meeting - City Council Chambers - 7:00pm-9:30pm
- Feb. 3rd - Toddler Storytime and Craft - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am & 2:00pm
- Feb. 5th - Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00pm-8:30pm
- Feb. 5th - After School Programs for Elementary Students - Tonganoxie Public Library - After School
- Feb. 5th - Inspirational Book Club (1st Meeting) - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am
- Feb. 7th - Kid's Craft Time - Tonganoxie Public Library - 10:00am-11:00am

