



Chamber News December 2024

Songs of Christmas Parade

The 2024 VACC Christmas Parade was a huge success because of the leadership of Ranelle Hannegan, VACC Board Member, participants from Vinita and surrounding communities. A huge Thank You Verdigris Wind who graciously donated the prize money for our parade entry winners.

Congratulations to the 2024 Parade Winners:

Frost Award: Judge's Overall Favorite: Reliant Gaming

Christmas Tree Award: Best Decorated Float: Helena

Dashing Through The Snow: Best Walking Entry: Saint Francis Hospital Vinita

Jingle Bell Award: Best Music: Matthews Dodge

Elf Award: Best Youth Participation: Bluejacket FFA

Rudolph Award: Best Use of Lights: Cleora Baptist Church

Sleigh Ride: Best Vehicle: Omni Water

Best Band: Vinita High School

Honorable Mention: Vinita Main Street



Ribbon Cutting

Home Instead hosted a Ribbon cutting this month. Home Instead provides in home services for those in the aging process. They develop personalized care to fit the client's needs. They are located at 414 N. Wilson, Suite 4, Vinita. 539-257-9906.

www.homeinstead.com



Business Spotlight

Burckhalter-Highsmith Funeral and Cremation Services

On December 18, 2024, Burckhalter-Highsmith Funeral and Cremation Services celebrated 100 years of service in Vinita, Oklahoma. Chris and Vicki Highsmith became the owners in December 2017, allowing the business to remain locally owned and operated. Chris has worked within the funeral home and cremation industry since 1983 and stated, "that it was never thought of as a career choice growing up." He can only explain his career as the path that God had for him and he did try to change his path, but this was what he was meant to do. Chris finds the work very challenging, but also very rewarding. Chris goes off the motto from his dad, "You can never have enough friends;" as he continues to connect and develop friendships.

Chris was asked what makes your business so unique and stated "first is a very unique business because we see people in their worst of times and try to ease that loss as much as we can, helping them through the process. They are also unique in the fact that they are still locally owned and operated and offer the most personal care possible. They work with people they see each day, they know them, they hurt with them, and they take it very personal in helping each other. They have avoided becoming absorbed by a large corporate funeral chain and are extremely proud of being a local mom and pop business, taking care of area families. They the most caring and experienced staff in the area." Danny and Chris have worked together for over 30 of the 41 plus years that Chris has been in the business.

Chris was asked, "Why should we shop local?" and responded that "we strongly believe in doing business locally and try our best to contribute back to our community as diligently as we can. Being the only locally owned funeral service in Vinita, we feel we are very blessed and privileged to serve our local community and we should support other local businesses as well. In a small city like Vinita, it is essential we support small locally owned businesses and family's that put their heart and should into doing their best for the community. We love this community; we are all natives of Craig County and want to be something the community is proud of." The community can find Chris and his staff being active in local events, serving the community and taking care of our families.



Submit Your Nomination

The VACC is now accepting nominations for the three categories below. If you would like to nominate a business or individual, please submit your nomination via email by December 22, 2024.

1. The "Civic Contribution Award" is an honor given to an individual or group that has made a significant positive impact on their community through active participation, volunteering, or initiatives that benefit the public good, essentially recognizing their dedication to civic engagement and responsible citizenship.
2. The "Business of the Year" award is an honor given to a company that demonstrates exceptional performance across various areas including financial stability, innovative practices, community involvement, strong leadership, employee satisfaction, market growth, customer service excellence, and overall positive impact on the industry or local economy.
3. The "Citizen of the Year" award is reserved for recipients whose volunteerism and outstanding service and dedication have made a significant contribution to the Vinita area community. A person who continually volunteers their time, dedication and talents to the town and citizens to make the Vinita area a great place to live. A person who has made a positive difference to the lives of fellow citizens. A person who has shown a willingness to work with other Vinita residents, who are enthusiastic about Vinita and its citizens, and who works continually towards the betterment of the community.

How You Can Become Involved In The Chamber

The Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Board is made of all local businessmen and women who are volunteering their time to the Chamber. The Board is currently looking for members to volunteer for the following committees:

Membership Committee: Promoting Chamber functions and activities, promoting membership to the Chamber

Events: Promotion of civic and community organization events, recruit and coordinate resources to help with event projects

Please contact the Chamber if you would like to be on the planning committee for the 2024 Calf Fry

Advertising Through the Chamber

Business advertising is available through the VACC website: Members of the Chamber are \$50.00 per month and Non-Members are \$75.00 per month.



Chamber Events, Community Events and News

January 30, 2025: Chamber Annual Banquet at the Craig County Fairground



VINITA AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
PRESENTS OUR

ANNUAL BANQUET

Thursday, January 30, 2025
Craig County Fairgrounds
6:00 PM

Tickets: \$35.00 for individual or \$250 for a table of 8

To purchase tickets:

BancFirst Vinita or

Website: www.vinitachamber.com

Do not have to be a current member of the Chamber to purchase tickets/attend

Dinner provided by:



Guest Speaker:

Houston Brittain
Business Owner and President of the
Pryor Area Chamber of Commerce



Contact the Chamber

Chamber mailing address: PO Box 541, Vinita, Ok 74301

You can catch the latest events and news from the Chamber through the Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

Tag the chamber on Instagram [vinitachamber](https://www.instagram.com/vinitachamber)

Visit the Chamber webpage at www.vinitachamber.com

