

Come to Grant for "A Ride Down Memory Lane" during the annual open house event to kick off the holiday season. Enjoy an evening of bargain shopping, food, fun, giveaways and photos with Santa.

By Jan Rahn

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Yes, it's barely November, but Christmas spirit is building fast with plans well underway for Perkins County Chamber's annual open house event scheduled this month.

On the evening of Thursday, Nov. 17, from 5-8 p.m., Grant's downtown streets will come alive with shoppers who like to get a jump on holiday shopping.

The theme of this year's Christmas open house event is "A Ride Down Memory Lane."

Many retailers, eateries, organizations and individuals will be participating with bargains, food, giveaways and crafts available for shoppers.

Santa's presence will draw children to The Barber Pole for a visit upon his knee and the opportunity to purchase a professional photo for a small fee from Alee Photography who will print the photos on the premises.

During the night, each shopper has the option to fill out an entry form for the annual Chamber Greenbacks drawings held each Saturday in December prior to Christmas.

The drawings will be held at Hatch's Super Foods at 10 a.m. on Dec. 3, 10 and 17, with names of several lucky winners called. See the adjacent rules for the Chamber Greenbacks giveaway.

Here's What's Happening

Some of the events in place so far all along the street for shoppers enjoy include:

• **Specials/Drawings:**

- The Grant Tribune: Subscription giveaway, Christmas stationery for sale, refreshments.
- Grant Auto Parts: Drawings.
- Deaver Computer: Prize drawing, discounts storewide.
- Grant Floral: Food, 25 percent off regular and 30 percent off Christmas items.
- Poppe's Posies: Drawings, tastings, 20 percent off all day (excludes fresh arrangements and website purchases).
- Grant Pharmacy: Holiday bargains.
- Image Total Fitness: Drawings, specials, gift ideas, sample healthy holiday foods.
- Toy Trade: Regier Equipment will host a toy exchange in the lobby of Pinnacle Bank. Bring in a used farm toy and "trade up!"

• **Food:**

- Samples of chicken: From new rotisserie at Hatch's Super Foods.
- Baked potato bar: 420 Central at senior center. Thrift Shoppe open.
- Snack/drink: The Grant Tribune Sentinel.
- Specials on food/drink: In & Out.
- Hot chocolate/hot apple cider: United Methodist Church.
- Caramel corn: Mother of Sorrows Church.
- Healthy holiday samples: Image Total Fitness.
- Soup, chili, cookies: at Grant Auto Parts by Norma Jean and Janet Kuskie.

—Food: Grant Floral.

—Tastings: Poppe's Posies.

• **Vendors**

The banks will host vendors in their lobbies and there will be vendors along the street.

—Pinnacle Bank Lobby: A Tupperware representative will have items available. South Fork Vineyard will provide winery samples and have grape juice and wine for sale. Toy exchange hosted by Regier Equipment—bring in a used toy and trade up.

—125th Anniversary: Of special interest this year will be the availability of the newly published 125th Anniversary cookbooks and calendars. The cookbooks feature recipes from many cooks in and beyond Perkins County. The calendar features photos of the county. Several other items commemorating the 125th will also be sold at Dr. Swan's dental office at 242 Central.

—Valley Bank Lobby: Refreshments; vendors include Pampered Chef, Watkins products, and Cookie Creations.

—Adams Bank & Trust: Gift wrapping in the conference room—proceeds go toward a coffee bar for the senior center. Various vendors will show their wares, including Thirty-One gifts.

• **Special Events**

—Grant Volunteer Fire Department: Open house with a special Fire Prevention Safety Trailer brought in for educating the public. Tours of fire trucks, equipment; refreshments.

—Perkins County Museum: Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas featuring decorations and three decorated trees at 6th and Central.

—Perkins County Health Services: A snow boot collection will take place at Adams Bank. See details below.

—Six Aces Roller Rink: Skating 6-8 p.m. Free with two non-perishable items for food pantry.

—Meadowlark Gallery: Silent auction for painted chairs, quilts on display, refreshments.

Rules for Chamber Greenbacks giveaway

- Registration for the drawings begins the evening of the Chamber Open House on Thursday Nov. 17.

- Shoppers must make a purchase to receive an entry ticket.

- Shoppers must be 18 years old to register and there will be allowed only one winner per family per week.

- All tickets will be saved each week so customers will remain eligible through the three drawings.

- Winners do not need to be present to win—however, those present will have their Chamber Greenbacks doubled.

- Each business is responsible for taking entries to Hatch's prior to the Saturday drawings.

- Businesses may pick up entry tickets at The Grant Tribune-Sentinel.

Dates of December Drawings

10 a.m. sharp in parking lot at Hatch's Super Foods

- Dec. 3: Five \$50 winners. One \$250 winner.
- Dec. 10: Five \$50 winners. One \$250 winner.
- Dec. 17: Five \$50 winners. One \$500 winner.