

WILBUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2024 YEAR REVIEW

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At the 2024 Installation Banquet, Monica Oakes continued as President, Kim Dreger as Vice-President, Charlene Douglas as Treasurer and Jessica Haden as Secretary. We were able to honor Shelly Johnson as Person of Year, Crimson & Clover with Susan Coffman as Business of the Year, and Hesselstine Library as Community Organization of the year. Charlene moved out of town and Michol Phillips of American Family Insurance volunteered to be our new treasurer!

In May, the Chamber sponsored the 50th Anniversary of the Annual Wild Goose Bill Days. The Firemen's Auction was held Friday night. Heather Newman and helpers started off Saturday morning with the Wild Goose Chase. The Sonrise Foursquare Church held a breakfast for folks to enjoy. Courtney Ruiz and her daughter Gillian helped the parade participants get lined up and moving! Kim Dreger coordinated the 3 on 3 basketball tournament, which raised funds for the Booster Club. Margaret Ferguson set up the vendors for the Chamber. The Lion's Club held their delicious food stand and worked with the fishing derby. No one stepped up to coordinate the Coaster Cars. Billie Wheeler and Jessica Haden put together fun activities for the younger folks in the park. That night, Julie Hill and Monica Oakes opened up the Golden Garter Saloon in the Wilbur Community Center with the help of some great helpers, Kathy, Jerry, Tim, Kelly and more. Maria Escobar made tamales for all to enjoy. Desert Highway Band provided their variety of music to get people moving.

In 2025, there is a need for more coordinators to step up and more people to be involved. At this time, there are no coordinators for Wild Goose Chase, Coaster Cars, Golden Garter Saloon, Laser Tag and more. Let's see who steps up this year. The Chamber has fewer volunteers to help. Thank you to all who do help!!

The Community Yard Sale was held the 3rd Saturday of June from 8AM to 2PM. It appears we had a good turnout despite the iffy weather. Margaret Ferguson set up vendors in the park. The Wilbur Swimming Pool Foundation held a cornhole tournament fundraiser where lots of folks had fun.

In October on the first Saturday, Ag Days was held in Town Park as a fundraiser for the Wilbur/Creston High School Seniors. They put together fun activities, including a parade. Chamber no longer sponsors a beer garden, but Margaret Ferguson pulled together vendors whose booth fees went to the Senior Class fundraising project.

Business Trick or Treating was successful with over 30 businesses along Main participating. Lots of fun costumes!

The Friday after Thanksgiving in November, the Chamber sponsored the Festival of Lights in Town Park. Heather Newman with many helpers set up the lights and displays earlier in November. Margaret Ferguson set up vendors in the Community Center during the day for her Holiday Event. Santa arrived later in the day for pictures and candy canes and Santa Coupons, good for a drawing for \$25 to spend at a business in Wilbur. Over 20 children enjoyed his visit inside the Community Center before he went to be in the Park when the lights turned on at 6pm. Ethan Curtis won the Santa Coupon drawing. At 5:30pm, Tom Simurdak and helpers had hot cocoa ready and donuts, that were both donated by the Chamber, for folks to enjoy while they waited for the lights to come on. In early December, Chamber sponsored a Christmas lighting contest that was judged by Courtney Ruiz and Kathleen Shumway. There are wonderful pictures in the Register paper of the winners.

The Wilbur Chamber board appreciates all that our members do to make these activities possible! Please continue to share your ideas and concerns with us at 509-647-5551 (The Wilbur Register) or 509-647-5674 (Monica). Let's see who can be encouraged to help so the events can continue.

2025 Tentative Event Schedule

1/23/25 Chamber Installation Banquet and Wine Tasting – see Flyer

New Board: Monica Oakes – President, Debbie Latimer – Vice President

Michol Phillips – Treasurer, Jessica Haden - Secretary

Wilbur Chamber dues notice is sent out with this letter.

5/17 /25 Wild Goose Bill Days

6/21/25 Community Yard Sale

10/4/25 Ag Days – Wilbur/Creston Senior Class fundraiser

11/28/25 Festival of Lights/ Holiday Event

12/9/25 Chamber Elections/Person-Business-Community Organization of Year