

October 2018

Welcome to Fall, Chamber Members!

I want to thank you all for your patience and welcome you to my first newsletter as the Executive Director at the Rugby Chamber of Commerce! My name is Darylanna Durkee and I'll summarize myself a bit for you; I was



born and raised in Denver, CO, majoring in Theatre while attending the Denver School of the Arts – an arts magnet school. After deciding to take a gap year, (or new direction as it turned out) I moved to North Dakota in 2012. You'll recall the headlines concerning North Dakota in 2012 – it was the place to be and the place to be

employed! I quickly found this to be true, spending four years at an accounting firm before deciding that I wanted to be out from behind the desk and working with the kind of people that helped me make this state my home.

Today starts my fifth month at the Chamber office and if I can say – it has been a whirlwind! Some of the things



I've had a part in thus far have been: the 4th of July Parade, Chamber Softball

Tournament, Crazy Days, Ladies Night Out, Main Street Initiative with ND Moves project,

Rugby's Annual Wine Walk, and meetings galore! As busy as that sounds, I've also found time to get out into Rugby to meet business owners & community members alike. I have felt so welcomed by this vibrant community and I can hardly wait to do more!

Of course, I'm not here to talk only about myself, but also about your Chamber of Commerce! We are full steam into 4th quarter and have some exciting things coming up! We'll kick this month off with a *Farmtastic Supper Club Meet & Greet* on Wednesday the 3rd. Saturday the 6th, we'll ride off on the *Dave Wurgler Memorial Run*. On the 7th, take in the *Holy Rocka Rollaz* as part of the Heart of America Concert Series. The 11th, the Rugby JDA will host the *Tour of Possibilities*. On the 18th, the ladies will drink and shop different vendors at *Ladies Night Out*. The 20th, the Rugby Volunteer Fire Dept. will be hosting their Annual Supper, and on the 27th, the Ice Hawks will host their Pasta Buffet Supper. Ending October on Halloween with *Trunk or Treat* by the Rugby Jaycees, we'll be quickly escorted into a winter wonderland because Rugby's *Christmas in a Small Town* falls over the first weekend in November! So, get out the candy canes and decorate your business or store front – we should all be 'dressed to impress'! You can find all additional info on these events at RugbyNorthDakota.com on our community calendar.

The last thing I'd like to mention is a newly focused Chamber of Commerce objective. Heading into our new fiscal year, your Chamber would like to move away from throwing miscellaneous events and promotions that maybe don't benefit your business the way you had hoped. Our purpose as your Chamber is "promoting of economic programs designed to strengthen and expand the income potential of all classifications of business within the trade area". That hasn't changed, but the way we do that will. Instead of choosing the promotions for you, we'd like your business to let us promote what you know will work for your customers. Hopefully this way we can ensure growth and prosperity for all our Chamber Members.

Cheers to October and may you enjoy the bountiful harvest that Autumn brings!

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