



## Chamber News February 2024

### Business Spotlight: Lucille's Flowers

Diane Crane will be celebrating her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the owner of Lucille's Flowers March 1, 2024. Lucille's started in 1960 and was sold to Carl and Brenda Lauchner in 1999. Diane purchased the flower shop with the goal to provide comfort to others and to give them a reason to smile. She was offered comfort and support from other business leaders in the community at a time in her life that it was needed the most after the passing of her son, Clinton and is now continuing that same support forward to others in Vinita. Diane is married to Rick Crane, has a daughter and son-in law Kristen and Brady Tarbush, and three grandchildren: Colt Crane, Evy and Elliot Tarbush.

Lucille's ensures that the flowers they sale are top grade, high end products that will last longer than other flowers. The flowers they sale are from Ecuador. Valentine's Day is a busy holiday for the flower shop; demanding more space to safely store the flowers that are purchased. To meet the demand, Diane can support additional local business, Junior's Wrecker Service and obtain a cooling trailer. The products that you can purchase are handmade products. Lucille's has specialty products for every holiday and every event in between. They are proud to offer a one on one experience with any of their employees, Tracey, Jennie, Brenda and Ashley, personalizing your order to meet your expectation. Diane stated that "it is important to keep Vinita going by shopping local." Stop by Lucille's to purchase a special gift for those in your life!



### Meet The 2024 Vinita Chamber of Commerce Board

Chris is a native of Craig County and graduated from Welch High School in 1979. He attended NEO A&M College in Miami and received his degree from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 1987.

Chris was born in Vinita and is the son of the late Dennis "Bud" and Maxine "Shorte" Highsmith. Chris remains very close with his two brothers, Greg, and Kyle, another brother Grant passed away in 2019. Chris married his wife, Vicki (Nidiffer), in 1983 and has three children, Cameron Sneller and husband Sam, Haley Chenoweth and husband Casey, and Hunter Highsmith and wife Frances, as well as two beautiful granddaughters Walela and Indra.

Chris is an outdoorsman who enjoys activities such as hunting, fishing and hiking. He also coached football and basketball teams for over 25 years in the Vinita Little League and several baseball teams up to the high school age level. He enjoyed watching many of those young people grow up and be successful in life.



Chris and Vicki are members of the Alive Church of Vinita. He also serves on the ROCMND youth services board and numerous other community boards in the past.

Having served in the funeral business in our community for over 40 years has been a great privilege for Chris and with the opportunity to have their own funeral home, Chris hopes to continue to serve the area for many years to come. He could not think of a better place to live, work and serve others. He is humbled by God's grace and thankful for being blessed with such great family and friends

### **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 member 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,

### **Chamber Events and News**

February 23, 2024: Welch State Bank Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting

July 2, 2024: Fourth of July Celebration at the Craig County Fairgrounds

August 7, 2024 1100: Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo Parade

September 21, 2024: Vinita Calf Fry

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

Visit the Chamber webpage at [www.vinitachamber.com](http://www.vinitachamber.com)



Chamber Date Night Basket that was donated for the Home of Hope Chocolate Affair Silent Auction on February 7, 2024.

Chamber Board President Bruce Sooter, Secretary Becky Bichard, and Member Melinda Culp gave a Chamber update to the Vinita Rotary February 14, 2024.