



No. 27: October 2016

# What's Happening in LG

A Free Local Newsletter

Sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance

*This year's Color Run will be held at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 29. Darryl Trammell is shown at last year's run.*



**PROSPECTIVE JUNIOR CHAMBER MEMBERS.** . . *Dianna Stokes, teacher, and Shaun Perkins, vice president of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, standing left to right, helped high school students learn about a junior chamber. Some of the students who indicated an interest in the Junior Chamber are shown above.*

## Junior Chamber organizes

Shaun Perkins, and Roxann Yates, board members of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, presented a program to the high school students of Dianna Stokes about becoming members of the Junior Chamber and about the requirement for completing the Vision Book Project.

Thirty-one students joined the Junior Chamber that day, and Stokes will collect and turn in any other membership forms com-

pleted at a later day.

The Vision Book Project is a program for LG students in grades 9-12 who want to work on citizenship, leadership, business, economic, communication and social skills. The program involves students in completing a vision book that details a year of activities in the community

The vision book will engage students in learning about how the town government works, how meetings are held, how deci-

sions are made at school board meetings and Chamber meetings, what it is like to run a business and much, much more. It will also include a vision of one specific improvement of the student's choice that he/she would like to see in the town.

All vision books should be completed by early May so that they will be available for exhibit during the Founder's Day celebration May 13, 2017.

*(Continues on Page 2)*

## LGFWB Church hosts craft festival

The annual Holiday Craft Festival, hosted by the Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Church, will be held Oct. 7-8. The fair will be open from 9-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the festival which Linda Claver, organizer, says just keeps "getting bigger and better."

This year local crafters will display can art, wall plaques, ceramics, quilts, baked goods, wreaths, floral turned wood, jewelry, candy, oil painting, wood art, dolls, horse art, snowmen, honey, vintage items, lotions, crochet, primitive crafts, cookbooks, and fresh homemade breads. And that's probably not the full list.

Some of the local crafters include Jess Dinsmore, Harmony Wall, Brenda Morris, Verla and Dennis Fletcher, Wanda Elsey, Winnie Childers, Janet Monk, and Katie Stokes, to name a few.

A soup and salad lunch will be served both days.

## --Junior Chamber--

(Continued from Page 1)

Vision books will be judged by Chamber officers. First, second and third place winners will be chosen. More about the Vision Book Project can be found on the Chamber website.

Each of the winners will receive a cash prize to be determined at a later date.

In addition all seniors who complete a vision book will earn a Junior Chamber of Commerce cord to wear with their graduation gown.

During the Sept. meeting, students were asked to comment on what they like about Locust Grove and what they think the town needs or needs improved.

Some of the things students like about Locust Grove were the small town atmosphere, family-oriented, DJ's, people, school, football, wide-open spaces, the Kiddie Park, creeks, magic shop, Country Cottage, people working together for a cause, coffee shop coming,

library, Sonic, Sale Barn, FFA program, and Sisters Sweets to name a few.

Some of the needs they feel the town lacks include an indoor and outdoor pool, improvements to Gorda Park (new basketball court), small theater, outdoor movies, Game Stop, clothing stores, art store, sport store, bowling alley, fishing contest, Frisbee golf, book store, arcade, DJ's 2, live music, event space, amusement park, comic book store, restaurants open late, cell tower, animal shelter, small mall, McDonalds, LG Piggins' Out, dance club, flower park, town fish fry and weekend events.

Both of these lists are incomplete. The students certainly had ideas about what they liked about Locust Grove, and what they thought it needed.

One student observed that the town had a large number of churches said, "I guess a lot of us need saving," he commented.

## LGAA meets Oct. 12 at VFW

The LGAA held its regular monthly meeting on Sept. 14 at the VFW Hall. T-shirt orders were discussed by President Jennifer Henson and an update on the LG Children's Community Theater was given by April Stone.

Teacher liaisons Tara Bennett, Pam Glass, Ann Phillips, and Brandon Hall reported on activities at their respective buildings and how they spent the stipends from the LGAA that were given at the beginning of the school year.

Phillips brought information from Rochelle Chancellor, who teaches art at the middle school. A decision to vote on giving her funds for some art supplies will be made at the October meeting when more of the officers are present.

The Wonder City Arts Festival is in the works for September 2017. A report from LaTasha Duncan, the chairwoman, will be forthcoming at the Oct. meeting. The LGAA meets next on Oct. 12, Wed., 5:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

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## About What's Happening in LG

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** While this newsletter is produced by the LGAA and will contain our organization's news, we also want to publish information about any activities in Locust Grove that our community might be interested in.

Please contact Betty Perkins at blperkins@sstelco.com or 918-479-5617 (leave a message if no answer), if you have news on LG events, places, or people for inclusion in future issues. For advertising, call Roxann Perkins Yates at 918-530-5321 or email at roxannperkins@gmail.com. As LGAA is a nonprofit organization, advertising must support the publication of this newsletter. Your support is greatly appreciated.



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# LG Chamber looks at past success, future plans

The LG OK Area Chamber of Commerce had its monthly meeting Sept. 20, at the VFW Hall. Sixteen people were in attendance and much community activity was discussed. Highlights included:

- The Fresh Paint Days work on the In-N-Out shopping center and on Hometown Shirt Shack was a success.

- Tony Ballou was in attendance and discussed the Locust Grove 5K run, Nov. 5, sponsored by the Cherokee Nation.

- On Halloween, Mon. Oct. 31, LG businesses can pass out treats

to children from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with costume judging at the library at 4:45.

- The 2017 town directory ad sales are underway and people should contact Shaun Perkins for more information. Ad deadline is Oct. 15.

- A Christmas parade committee was formed. The parade will be Dec. 3. at 2:00 p.m. Volunteers from LGHS's alternative education program will help the Chamber with the parade.

- The Sept. 15 circus was a success and brought in \$1,651.25 in profits to

help fund future Chamber programs and events.

- Tami McKeon, Grand Gateway, reported on the economic development program the Chamber has been working on. She stressed the need for a separate leadership team to be formed to meet with her in the future.

- Mark Foster with Smokey Valley Campground explained the campground's success and plans to add an RV park and disc golf course to the campground.

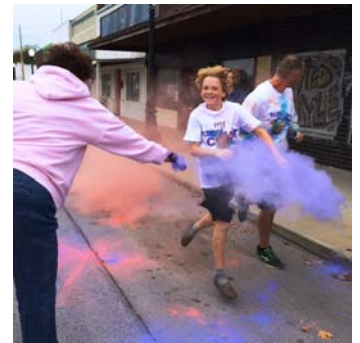
- Maggie Hunton, president of the Friends of the LG Library, explained the library's book sale, going on Oct. 6-8.

- Annissa Fleming, Hope Coalition, reported on the possibility of a Chamber-supported 5k run.

- Treasurer Jennifer Henson reported that the Chamber currently has

\$9,195.30 in its bank account.

The next Chamber general membership meeting is Oct. 18, at 6:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall. For more information about Chamber activities, visit [locustgroveoklahoma.com](http://locustgroveoklahoma.com). LIKE the Locust Grove Chamber on Facebook for weekly updates.




**COLOR RUN...** This year's Color Run will be held Oct. 29, according to Daniel Stokes. For more information contact him at [dstokes1@lg.k12.ok.us](mailto:dstokes1@lg.k12.ok.us). This picture is from last year's Color Run.

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## Creative Communities group works on vision

Members of Locust Grove's Creative Communities had their initial site meeting Aug. 29 with Suzann Wade, facilitator, at the library.

Following an introduction of those present, they talked about the history of Locust Grove, and demographics of the town. Key leaders in the community were identified, including school, municipal, civic groups, and cultural groups. Members of those groups will be asked to join the Creative Communities Committee in an effort to include everyone.

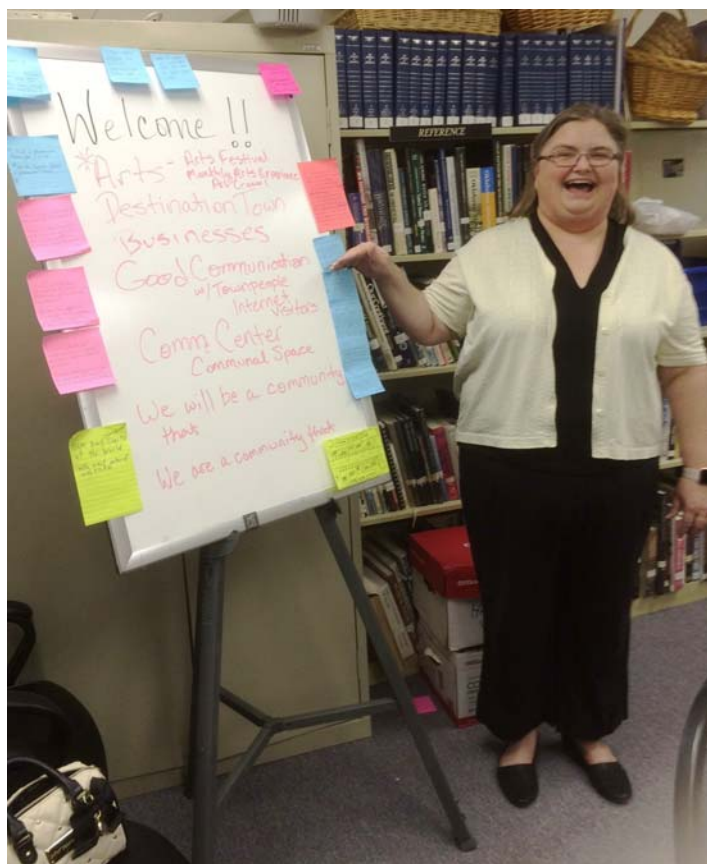
The first step in the process of identifying just what the group hopes to accomplish were discussed, and the group worked on a vision statement.

One of the many ideas that were tossed around was the creation of an arts festival that would be an ongoing event.

It would, hopefully, make Locust Grove a destination spot on an October date in 2017. The outdoor festival, perhaps at Pipe Springs Park, might include arts and crafts, food trucks, games for kids, and music.

Between now and the next meeting, the committee members were asked to complete two sentences: "We will be a community that. . ." and "We are a community that. . ." Anyone in the community who is interested in making Locust Grove a better place to live and work is invited to complete those two sentences and send them to Shaun Perkins at [okiestoryteller@google.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@google.com). Citizens are also invited to attend the next meeting of the group at 1 p.m. Oct. 17 at the library.

Those who attended the meeting were Latasha Duncan, Jennifer Henson, Ken Lusk, Shaun Perkins, Hugh Callery, Marea Breedlove, Roxann Yates and Betty Perkins.



**BRAINSTORMING . . .**Facilitator Suzann Wade adds sticky notes to the board as members of the Creative Communities group made suggestions for a vision statement.

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An advertisement for Mazzio's featuring a large pepperoni pizza in the foreground and several smaller pizzas and salads in the background. The Mazzio's logo is prominently displayed on the left side of the image.

**Mazzio's**

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An advertisement for the Bank of Locust Grove. It features a silhouette of a tree on the left and a house icon on the right. The text includes "Member FDIC", "Established 1949", and the bank's name in a large, stylized font.

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# Fresh Paint Days spruces up downtown



**FRESH PAINT DAYS.** . . Members of the Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, hold up a Fresh Paint sign as they complete work done in downtown LG. In addition to painting the outside facade of Hometown Shirt Shack, they spruced up the In-N-Out complex by painting the light fixtures, the parking barriers, and they cleaned up the lot. The group had planned to paint the stores in the In-N-Out Center, but the wrong color of paint was sent, and Sara VanHorn allowed the group to paint her business for the contest. From left are Mark Palmer, Theresa Mennecke, Jerry Yates, Joel Powel, Marsha Evans, Kate Bowerin, Roxann Yates and Jennifer Henson.



**BEFORE AND AFTER** photos of Hometown Shirt Shack show a cleaned-up front to Sarah Van Horn's business. The project is a part of the grant from the Fresh Paint Days. Elaine Clark of Elaine's Beauty Shop bought the group lunch from DJ's and Marcia Payne bought drinks.

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### History book available

Hugh J. Callery, a member of the Centennial Committee which published a history of the town, says a few books are still available, along with several copies of the DVD.

They can be purchased at the LG Library, The book is \$30 and the DVD, \$20.

## Town directory wants to include all businesses

The Locust Grove Area Chamber of Commerce is in the process of putting together a full-color print directory for 2017 that will be full of information about the town.

It will be distributed for both townspeople and tourists. To get an ad in the directory, visit the Town Directory page at the Chamber website at [locustgroveoklahoma.com](http://locustgroveoklahoma.com).

Business owners can also contact Chamber Vice-President Shaun Perkins at [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com) or 918-864-9152. DEADLINE for ad payment and copy is Oct. 15.

## Book donations needed for library fall book sale

The Friends of the Locust Grove Public Library are accepting donations of gently used books for its third annual Fall Book Sale Oct. 8-10.

Donations of used hardback and paperback books can be brought to the library at 715 East Main Street.

Donations need to be made by Oct. 1 for the Oct. 6-8 sale. Times on Thursday and Friday will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

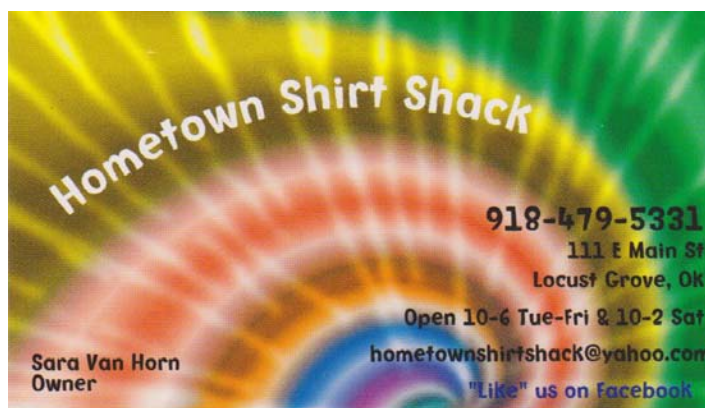
(No textbooks, encyclopedias, Harlequins, Silhouettes or romance novels.)

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*"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them." --Ray Bradbury*



**GAL ON A MISSION . . .**Fourth grader Sophie Van Horn is determined to help children at St. Francis. She has been saving her money for two years and collecting money from others through a donation box at the Hometown Shirt Shack, owned by her mother, Sara Van Horn. "When the box is full, we will give the money to St. Francis. When the box is full again, we will repeat," Sophie said.

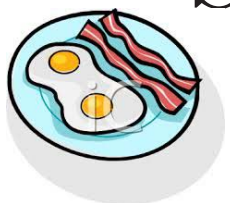


### Rowland's Quick Shop

Open: 4 a.m.-10 p.m.

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**Kitchen is now open!**



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## Sisters Sweets

Donuts

Breakfast & Lunch

Open: 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.







**CAR SHOW.** . . Wayne Cole, president of the Outlaw Cruisers Car Club stands next to "Old Yeller," his 1969 Plymouth Roadrunner. Club members brought out their cars to Locust Grove's Main Street on Sept. 24 during the Fourth Annual Honor Flight Car Show.

*"If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 MPG"* --Bill Gates

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# Students involved in chamber program

The Locust Grove Oklahoma Area Chamber of Commerce is initiating a program to honor local homeowners and businesses that make a special effort to beautify their premises.



Each month, a home or business will be awarded the LG Yard of the Month and will receive a gift certificate for further upkeep and beautification.

The Chamber is partnering with Locust Grove Middle School teacher Missy Ingram and her students for this project. The students will choose each month's winner.

The students also came up with the criteria for the contest:

- Lawn and house must be well kept and neat.
- Must be seasonal if decorated (Example: No Christmas lights up in August unless it fits a decor).
- House must be in LG or within the LG school district.
- Porch and yard must be free of debris that does not fit the decor of the home and yard.

Judging will take place by the 25th of each month for the following month's award.

Nominations for yards can be posted in the COMMENTS section on the YARD of the MONTH page on the Chamber's website: [locustgroveoklahoma.com](http://locustgroveoklahoma.com). The

pictures of the Yard of the Month will also be run in the next issue of the LGAA Newsletter "What's Happening in LG."

People can also email Ingram at [mingram@lg.k12.ok.us](mailto:mingram@lg.k12.ok.us). You can also call/text her at 918-638-2845.

Please send the address and/or a photo with your nomination. Nominations can be anonymous.

Phone: 479-5877



# DJ'S

Hours: M-F  
10:45 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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# Coffee Shop coming to Main Street

Something “wonder”ful is about to happen to Locust Grove. In a Main Street shop that was once Ford’s Variety, a new place occupies the space—Wonder City Coffee—set to open this Nov.

“It’s about creating a space that allows us to enjoy the wonderful people in our small town. It’s about seeing an empty storefront filled. It’s about giving back to a community that’s been giving to us our whole lives,” Kelly Palmer, owner, said.

Palmer hopes to create an environment of good smells,

good eats and reads.

“Because the coffee culture is so popular now, the idea came to me, but it’s really more about having a storefront, not what’s in the storefront. I’m hoping this will be like when I chose a career path. It was sheer luck that I stumbled onto the right thing,” she said.

She’s spent much time getting everything just right inside. Comfortable seating, inviting decor and a library in the back, create an atmosphere for those who want to sip, snack and size up an in-

teresting book.

Espressos drinks, including, lattes, cappuccinos, americanos and macchiatos will be served as well as high-quality teas and some baked goods. Palmer will concentrate on having a select number of menu items.

“We are not a Starbucks and will not be serving 30 drinks,” Palmer said. “I think customers will be pleasantly surprised by the rich taste of each drink.”

To prepare for this venture, Palmer and her two sisters, Shaun Perkins and

Roxann Yates, completed barista training at Texas Coffee School in Arlington.

“We had intensive training about coffee equipment, the business aspect of a coffee shop and about optimal ways to provide the best cup of coffee possible,” Palmer said.

Wander in to Wonder City Coffee in the coming weeks. The “Barista Sistas,” their mother, Betty Pekins, and aunt, Doris Rable, and other family members look forward to serving this community, one cup at a time.

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