

January 2018

Ennis Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

Happy New Year

Happy 2018 to you all. I hope that everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year's, and are inspired to crack the whip on your 2018 resolutions! It is with great pleasure that I write my very first newsletter message as the new Chamber President. I am excited about the goals and challenges we have ahead and wanted to share a little bit about them.

Before I do, I want to take a moment to acknowledge our outgoing President, John Way, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Chamber and made great strides to ensure a very strong board be in place. On the second point, I must underscore how thankful I am to be the beneficiary of this, as the board is composed of a highly energized and caring group. Their dedication in time and energy to bolster our beloved Ennis Community is paramount and their guidance and wisdom are keys to my success. I would also like to welcome my fellow officer, Danica Lewis, who is the new Vice-President. I should note, we are now recruiting a financial savvy person to fill the role of Treasurer. (Interested persons, please contact Abi to apply.)

As I settle into my position, I realize I have many more questions than I have answers to. To help me find my way, I thought it would be important to have some core values to use as a guide to navigate Chamber activities and goals. They are:

1. To maintain Ennis' authentic Western town appeal and be a destination in a class of its own.
2. To promote and focus on the Valley's limitless year-round activities.
3. To connect and work closer together with businesses and community.

Here is some context into why I chose these. When I first drove through Ennis, I was immediately enamored with its Western Charm, raw energy, and the amazing outdoors. By heritage, I am from the far East and was born and raised on the East coast. As you can imagine, the West was foreign, exciting, and undiscovered country to me. The Ennis experience encapsulated everything that I wanted. Having become a business owner in town, added to my desire that Ennis continues to thrive and flourish but not at the expense of what makes Ennis uniquely charming and engaging.

When I moved here, I quickly learned that Fly-Fishing is the one sport - to rule them all - of the Valley but I wasn't an angler at all. (I promise, I plan to become one!) However, I was interested in many of the other outdoors activities that the Valley offered; Big Sky in the winter and hiking and paddle boarding in the warmer months to name a few. The limitless outdoor lifestyle is a feature that I would like to elevate so that destination seekers will think of Ennis as the best place to be at any time of the year. We will be making a concerted effort to increase tourism and working with local businesses and elsewhere to curate great ideas on things to do and visiting, year-round.

With Abi King taking the helm as the Executive Director, we have been making tremendous progress in promoting, producing, and expanding our events, refining and improving our outreach across the state and beyond, tapping into to the power of social media, and so on. We have also been looking at important but low-impact initiatives that support our businesses and communities, such as the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new businesses. The support and enthusiasm has been so positive, we will strive to develop more activities that are enjoyable and encourages community participation.

Back to my point of questions, here are some that I hope to answer as we go along:

1. How do we modernize, grow, and remain relevant?

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2. How do we champion and differentiate ourselves from other Destination towns and maintain our unique charm?

3. How do we stay resilient when faced with challenging circumstances? (Environmental, Financial, etc.)

4. How do we enhance trust and integrity with our Members and the Community?

5. Are we being proactive enough to increase value and provide superior service to our Members?

Honestly the only way to answer some of these questions is reaching out to you and address these questions head on. To facilitate this, we will be reintroducing the Annual Members Dinner, which will be held at Bandito's (Gravel Bar) on January 31st. The Board will be presenting a "Taco Wednesday" themed menu and we look forward to talking to you about how we can evolve to best serve you. This is a terrific opportunity to share your ideas and keep us informed about the challenges you face.

Lastly, our success is very much dependent on your on-going support and contributions above and beyond the Membership Fees. We can not be relevant working in a vacuum and want to connect with all of you. Throughout the next year, I plan on creating new committees, focused on many key topics, that will be chaired by a Board Member but driven by you. I hope that you will participate!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the community. I am grateful that I get to work with the most caring people in the finest little town with big aspirations. With your help, I hope to fulfill my bold vision to make Ennis, the most loved Montana town.

Have a healthy and prosperous 2018! ~K Mita, Chamber President



**Chamber Member Appreciation/Drive Winter Wednesday Fiesta!
January 31, 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Bandito's**

Please join us for a Mexican fiesta to help us celebrate our existing Chamber Members and to welcome new ones! Mexican fare will be provided, cash bar will be provided by the Gravel Bar, and bring a dessert and a friend!

QUICK LINKS

www.ennischamber.com

www.southwestmt.com

www.visitmt.com

www.virginiacity.com

www.ennismontana.org

www.backroadtoyellowstone.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out the Chamber's [event calendar](#) or [Norris Hot Springs, Gravel Bar](#), and [Willie's Distillery](#) websites for details on live music every week!

Madison Valley Medical Center Cancer Support Group December 12 (second Tuesday of every month), 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Cancer survivors, newly diagnosed cancer patients, and family and friends are welcome at Moonlight Basin Building. Contact: Lisa Brubaker 406-670-4546.

Ennis Town Commission Meeting December 14, 7 PM at Ennis Town Hall.

Ennis Schools Annual Science Fair January 22

Madison Valley Medical Center Board of Directors Annual Meeting January 25, 7 PM to 8 PM at the Medical Center's Lower Conference Room. Open to the public.

2018 Chamber Board

K Mita - President (Braggin' Rights Guns)

Danica Lewis - Vice President/Secretary (Black Diamond Estate Services)

Amanda Nelsen - Treasurer (Agency Insurance)

John Way (The Tackle Shop)

Bill Mercer (RE/Max Mountain Property)

Russ Whitacre (Ennis Lions Club)

Shanna Swanson (Shanna Mae Photography)



**Winter Recreation Abounds in the
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest**

When the snow flies, it's time to get out the skis or snowshoes and crank up the snowmobile, because southwestern Montana offers a paradise of breath-taking vistas, glorious solitude, and pure challenge.

For cross-country skiers, the Forest offers both untracked powder for you to pioneer and groomed trails for you to follow. ...In the Gravelly Range, 40 miles south of Ennis, cross-country skiing is available at Wade and Cliff Lakes, in association with Wade Lake Cabins.

You can also enjoy high-altitude snowmobiling in the Gravelly Range, south of Ennis, with over 50 miles of trail and views that sweep on forever. Trails include Antelope Basin Snowmobile Trail (ungroomed), Black Butte - Lobo Mesa Snowmobile Loop (partially groomed), and the Alder Gulch - Call Road trail (groomed, occasionally groomed to Clover Meadows along the Gravelly Range Road). Trail grooming is provided by the Vigilante Snowmobilers. In the Tobacco Root Mountains you can ride the North Meadow Creek (Twin Lakes) Snowmobile Trail, partially groomed by the Vigilante Snowmobilers.

As you make your plans for this winter, remember the Forest Service offers places to stay when you want to get away. You can rent backcountry cabins in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge

When you want to get away, you can rent backcountry cabins in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, some of which can be reached only by ski or snowmobile. Nine cabins are available in the nearby Madison Ranger District, including two in the Madison Range, one in the Ruby Valley, four in the Gravelly Range, and two in the Snowcrest Range. For a complete list of cabins, visit the forest's website at www.fs.usda/bdnf/recreation. All cabins have basic amenities: beds, tables, chairs, and wood stoves. You must usually bring your own drinking water, bedding, towels, and food. Plan ahead, as many cabins get booked quickly for winter weekends. Rental rates are generally between \$20 and \$40 per night. To make reservations and to find out more information, call 1-877-444-6777 or go to www.recreation.gov.

Pick up a map for the part of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest that interests you, and to find out which areas and routes are open to snowmobiles. Three maps cover the entire 3.3-million-acre National Forest and are available at local Forest Service offices and merchants, or you can order maps online at www.nationalforeststore.com. Maps can also be purchased and downloaded to your mobile device through the Avenza PDF Maps App, which is available as a free download from iTunes and the Android Play Store. The Forest Service expects to soon release new free "over snow" maps that show what areas and roads of the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest are open to winter motorized recreation.

Winters in southwest Montana can be both fun and dangerous. Before heading out to enjoy your favorite recreation activity, check both the local weather forecast and the current avalanche conditions. Be prepared for the worst and be sure both you and your equipment is in top form. Information on winter weather safety can be found at www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter. Daily updates on avalanche conditions can be found at the Gallatin National Forest (Bozeman) Avalanche Center website at www.mtavalanche.com, or the West Central Montana (Missoula) Avalanche Center website at www.missoulaavalanche.org.

For more information please visit or call the Madison Ranger District office in Ennis: 406-682-4253.

This article contains excerpts taken from a December 12, 2017 press release from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. [Find the full article here.](#)

Event Calendars

For the most up to date activities and events during the month please visit the below links. If you have events that you would like to be added to the Chamber events calendar, please send them to: info@ennischamber.com

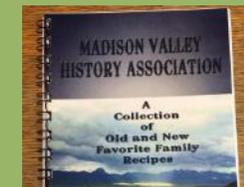
www.ennischamber.com

<http://www.southwestmt.com/calendarofevents/>

www.outpostevents.net

Merchandise Sale Items:

We have various products from our local non-profits and T shirts from previous events. Stop by the Chamber to check them out.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS January 4



MADISON VALLEY RANCLANDS GROUP



Join the Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, MVRG Weed Committee, and Ponderosa Advisors for the first Business After Hours of 2018! It will be from 5-7 PM on Thursday, January 4 in the Moonlight Building at 2 Hot Springs Loop Road, Ennis.

Madison Valley Ranchlands Group formed in 1996 by ranching families to address the questions of sustainable ranching in the Madison Valley. Over the past 20 years MVRG has taken the lead in addressing many of the issues facing ranching and the valley. Some of these issues are noxious weed control and education, wildlife impacts and conflict, water quality and management, growth, and the impacts of outside interests. We believe strength is found in finding and collaborating with diverse groups and interests to research, discuss, and

implement ideas related to healthy, vibrant, and fully functioning lands.

The MVRG Weed Committee works to provide private landowners with information and resources to address noxious weeds in the Madison Valley.

Ponderosa Advisors is a Montana-based water rights advisory firm offering a wide range of consulting services agricultural, municipal, engineering, and conservation sectors. Our hallmarks are efficiency, thoroughness, and expertise.

This is a FREE networking event open to all Chamber members and their guests (be sure to bring a friend!). Come learn more about these businesses, visit, talk shop, share news in the area, and exchange business cards and brochures!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE 2017 CHRISTMAS STROLL!

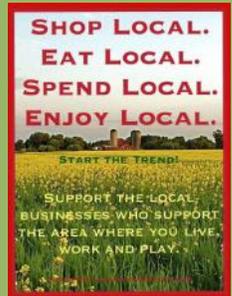
Pretty much the whole town pitched in!! Whether it was decorating, extending business hours, offering fun drinks/goodies/activities, the horse drawn hay wagon ride, the live nativity scene, hosting Santa, the ice sculpture contest, providing festive music all evening, the Christmas Stroll buttons, the tree lighting ceremony, collecting donations for food drives, having special discounts, fundraisers, singing carols, having door prizes and basket drawings....the list could go on!

Everyone had something going on and it made for a beautifully festive time in Ennis, thank you!

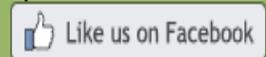


Ennis Chamber Cash

Keep it local by using the Ennis Chamber of Commerce's "Chamber Cash" which is specially designed anti-copy currency produced in \$5, \$10 and \$20 denominations and can be used at any one of the participating businesses for full face value. It's like a gift card to the town of Ennis! You may purchase and get reimbursed for Chamber Cash at the Chamber Visitor Center.



Remember to like us on Facebook and to check us out for community and event updates!





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