By Connie Dart
President, Imperial Chamber of Commerce

This past year has been an exciting time for the Imperial Chamber of Commerce.

Early in the year we saw a few businesses change hands, add services or relocate to fresh sites. The downtown area also received a minor facelift with new sidewalks, repavement of Main Street and storefront improvements.

The community has benefited from three new stores and nine industries with management/ownership changes. The addition of new public buildings, airport terminal and church fellowship hall will greatly enhance the attractiveness of our community to locals and guests alike.

The Chamber has initiated several new community growth activities during the past year.

Our “Design A Sign” campaign kicked off in October of 2008. Participants were asked to submit a design for the new sign at the city limits that will greet visitors to our town. Watch for the winning design coming soon to a sign near you!

The Chamber also created a “Shop At Home” campaign that encouraged local consumers to support local businesses with their commerce. Activities included a business scavenger hunt and distribution of “Chamber Bucks.” Advertisements around town as well as articles in the local paper and radio got the word out to “shop at home this holiday season!”

The new year is upon us with many exciting activities and Chamber ventures.

On Jan. 15, we will be sponsoring a Technology in Agriculture Fair. This activity will be held at the city gym and will include 12 displays ranging from GPS demonstrations to record-keeping.

The Chase County Fair parade will again be organized and launched by the Chamber parade committee.

In addition, watch for new activities during the Christmas Festival next December.

The role that the Imperial Chamber of Commerce plays in our community is a very important one. We generously support local enterprises and consistently work to help them gain more local patronage.

Community development has been a focal point for our endeavors. Many advertising dollars go toward supporting our local school system as well. We enjoy encouraging the many activities at the school from sports and music to FFA, art and industrial technology.

The Chamber would like to extend our warmest thanks to business leaders for supporting our efforts to improve the city of Imperial. We appreciate the assistance of KADL and the Imperial Republican in spreading the word to area citizens about our many activities and campaigns.

It is our wish that you will continue to enjoy the local businesses and give them your custom.

Many happy returns during this holiday season and throughout the year from the Imperial Chamber of Commerce.