 Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories concerning organizations that benefit the Imperial area. Volunteering in a community, through organizations, is a way to pay back for the benefits that the community offers an individual.

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

With 90 members, the Imperial Chamber of Commerce is a vital force in Imperial. The Chamber supports the economic growth of the town, the businesses and the community spirit.

President Jana Pribbeno said the Chamber would like to provide one family fun event every year.

The Chamber has sponsored the Harlem Ambassadors' basketball games, a bull riding contest, monthly promotions, Popcorn Days, the Ag Tech Fair and researched new housing opportunities in Imperial.

It also sponsors two scholarships each year for Chase County Schools graduating seniors.

Upcoming events include a Thanksgiving dinner basket drawing on Nov. 16, the Shop at Home campaign, which runs through Dec. 21, and a Christmas Festival Dec. 6.

Committees include Christmas Lighting, Promotions, Welcome Sign Project, Scholarship, Fair Parade, Housing, Economic Development, Membership, Ag Tech Fair and Chamber Calling.

It isn't known what year the Chamber of Commerce was begun. However, former grocery store owner Dwight Hoff remembers that he became president the year he moved to Imperial, about 32 years ago.

2012 officers include, besides Pribbeno: Merrilyn Leibbrandt, 2nd vice president; Sue Moore, treasurer; Teresa Groff, secretary; board members Jane Moreland, Robin Hopp and Rickie Prather, and Kris Musick, past president.

Elections for new officers will be held Nov. 21.

Dues are on a schedule, depending on the number of employees in a business, and what type of membership a business wishes.

Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at noon at the Imperial Community Center.