

OUR THREE CHAMBER BILLBOARDS ARE UP!
Promoting Local Businesses & Community Events

We're excited to announce that new Chamber billboards are now up along highways 14 & 81, showcasing our area businesses and encouraging travelers and locals alike to "Discover • Shop • Dine" in our Arlington Area!!!



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Dear Chamber Supporters and Members,

September completed strong, and there's a lot happening across Arlington as we head into fall! Here's a quick look at the latest Chamber momentum:

- **Christmas in Arlington Planning Is Underway!** The Christmas in Arlington committee is hard at work, and a rough event timeline is already taking shape. Mark your calendars—most festivities are set for Saturday, December 13. If you'd like to help shape this year's celebration, our next planning meeting is October 12 at 2PM at Cardinal Tap. New faces and creative ideas are always welcome!
- **Beautification Grant Awarded.** We're thrilled to announce the Chamber received a beautification grant from Sioux Valley Energy. Planning is underway to make the most of these funds, with improvements aimed at keeping our area inviting and vibrant for residents and visitors alike.
- **Billboards Installed—Promoting our Region.** Have you seen them? The new Chamber billboards are now up on the north and west approaches to Arlington! These signs are an invitation for travelers and locals to discover our businesses, check out upcoming events, and connect with all that Arlington has to offer. Thank you to our members and sponsors for making this project possible!
- **Community Survey Coming Soon.** We've partnered with the Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC) to launch a new community survey in October. This is a great opportunity for both business owners and landlords to see feedback on what Arlington needs most. Be sure to follow our social media channels for the survey link as soon as it's live—your input will help guide the Chamber's advocacy and support for local businesses.

As always, your enthusiasm and engagement fuel everything we do. Reach out anytime if you want to join the Christmas in Arlington team, get details about Chamber activities, or talk about how we can help your business grow.

Chris Hussak
President, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce

OUR PLATINUM MEMBERS

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Event Date: 10/4 & 5/2025 | @ Arlington Baptist Church
Harvest Fest, Teen Night, & 5th Anniversary Community Dinner
- Event Date: 10/16 & 17/2025 | @ Arlington Maynards
Grand Opening (Expansion), Ribbon Cutting, Specials, Prizes, Lunch
- Event Date: 10/20/2025 | 5:30-6:30 PM @ City Hall
Monthly Chamber of Commerce Meeting
- Event Date: 10/25/2025 | 6PM - 8PM @ Good Vibe Tribe Creators Shop
Cacklin' Carvin' Contest, Family Pumpkin Carving Event

MORE DETAILS AT: ArlingtonChamberSD.com → Calendar
Members, don't forget to add your upcoming community events!

» **JOIN THE CHAMBER**
ArlingtonChamberSD.com/join





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Chamber Chatter

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CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT HIGHLIGHT



BACK ALLEY MEATS

After 27 years in the fire service, Dan Kriese and his wife, Kellee, decided it was time to act on an idea they'd "always toyed with"—opening a meat shop. With Kellee's "vast amount of knowledge in the meat industry," the couple saw a need for an outlet offering quality meats in the Volga area. Back Alley Meats opened its doors on May 24, 2024, with a vision to bring "quality meat products" and exceptional service to the community.

Their first year has already seen remarkable growth. "We started out with limited products that we offered with limited cooler space," Dan shares. Now, just a year later, customers can choose from "several coolers and freezers" packed with fresh and frozen meats, smoked items, and a growing selection of "heat & eat products to help make having our products easier to prepare and enjoy."

The menu at Back Alley Meats covers a lot of ground—hand-cut steaks, deli meats, meat and cheese trays, baked goods, wild game processing, and meat bundles. There's even "frozen pizza, kuchen, salads," and plenty of options for gatherings of any size. Dan notes, "We want to offer enough variety of products to allow customers to choose something new each time they come into the shop." Above all, Back Alley Meats is committed to quality and consistency. "People notice the difference in our fresh, hand-cut, cut to order steaks versus steaks that have been in a display case or packaged up for an unknown amount of time," Dan explains. Each product is "checked for quality and consistency when we are making them," and if it doesn't meet Dan's standards, "it simply doesn't make it to the shelves."

Every customer is greeted "politely with a smile" and promptly waited on, because the goal is for "everyone to walk in as a customer and leave as a friend." That approach has earned Back Alley Meats strong support from the area community. "We truly believe we are making a difference in the local communities for quality products at reasonable prices, something that has been needed for many years."

Giving back is another priority. While monetary donations aren't always possible, the Krieses "usually find a creative way to help out". For anyone just starting out in business, he advises: "Be patient. We have to remember that Rome was not built in a day. Anything worth doing right, usually takes a bit of time to perfect."

Find Back Alley Meats at 111 Astrachan Ave. in Volga and follow along on Facebook at Back Alley Meats.

Want the full story? This is just the highlight—read the complete Chamber Spotlight at: ArlingtonChamberSD.com/spotlight

TO PROMOTE, SUPPORT, CONNECT, AND ENRICH THE ARLINGTON AREA BUSINESS COMMUNITY