

The holidays are almost here, and Arlington is prepared for festive cheer!

Enter our decorating contests, plan your holiday outings, and mark your calendars for our big Christmas weekend — December 12 & 13.



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There's so much happening all season long
Full details at ChristmasInArlington.com

Christmas in Arlington

An Olde Fashioned Christmas

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Postal Customer

Dear Chamber Supporters and Members,

This month, I want to use this space for one simple invitation: make Christmas in Arlington part of your holiday plans—and keep your shopping local while you do it.

Everything you need to know is now in one place at ChristmasInArlington.com. There you'll find details for our Main Christmas Weekend, December 12–13, including the Business Open House, Santa photos, barrel train rides, chili cook-off, cookies and crafts, caroling, and more. You'll also see information on the free indoor Festive Light Show, running every Friday–Sunday from November 30 through December 21, plus the Live Nativity on Sunday, December 21 at the Kneip Building.

Lake Arlington is also lit up for the season—the bridge, the island, and the tree are all glowing. Take an evening drive out, enjoy the lights, and make it part of your holiday tradition along with our decorated homes and businesses around town.

Our Business Passport Program is back to reward you for shopping and dining local this season. Pick up a passport at participating Chamber businesses listed on the site, make qualifying purchases around town, and turn in your completed book for a chance to win Chamber Bucks. Full rules, dates, and prize details are all on the Passport page.

You'll also find signup links for the decorated home contest, planter decorating, and more under Contests & Awards, reach out for volunteer opportunities if you'd like to support events behind the scenes.

Every visit to a local shop, every passport receipt, every light display you tour, and every event you attend helps keep our dollars here in our region and keeps our traditions growing.

Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you around town!

Chris Hussak
President, Arlington Area Chamber of Commerce

OUR PLATINUM MEMBERS

CorTrust Bank
Raise your expectations.

NorthWestern Energy
Delivering a Bright Future

1481 ROADHOUSE Grille
BIG FOOD | BIG FUN!

The Cardinal Tap

BURLAGE PETERSON
Auctioneers & Realtors, LLC.

Citizens State Bank

SPIL DE ELECTRIC

CITY OF ARLINGTON
SOUTH DAKOTA

JOHNSONVILLE SPRAY FOAM LLC

VALLEY FIBER COM

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

INTERSTATE BATTERIES
Outrageously Dependable

JAY'S AUTO BODY

BACK ALLEY MEATS
SMALL TOWN QUALITY. BIG CITY SELECTION.

HANDY MART

115 Main Street South
Bits of Yesterday
Arlington, SD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Event Date: 12/5 | 3-7PM @ American Legion
Caring Christmas - Children Can Purchase \$1 Gift for Parents
- Event Date: 12/12-12/13 | Christmas in Arlington Weekend
Business Open Houses, Santa, Train Rides, Chili Cook Off & More
- Event Date: 12/15 | 5:30-6:30PM @ Arlington City Hall
Monthly Chamber Meeting (Open to All)
- Event Date: 12/21 | Performances at 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM @ Kneip Building
Live Nativity - Experience the Christmas Story Come to Life
- Event Date: 11/30 - 12/24 @ Lake Arlington, Cardinal Tap, Maxwell Park
Christmas in Arlington Indoor Light Show, Lake Decorations, & More

YOUR VOICE MATTERS



Contribute to Survey





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Chamber Chatter

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CHAMBER MEMBER BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT HIGHLIGHT

81 AUTO CLINIC

For Tami Johnson, 81 Auto Clinic began with a simple but powerful conviction: it was time to stop "punching a time clock for someone else" and build something of their own. She and her husband, Duane, also wanted "to raise our sons around a small town," where neighbors know each other and a good mechanic is part of the fabric of the community. On November 7, 1988, they turned that vision into reality and opened 81 Auto Clinic along Highway 81 in Arlington. Thirty-seven years later, they're still there — still serving, still learning, and still showing up for their customers.

In nearly four decades, the auto world has changed dramatically. Tami points to "the ever changing technology in the automotive world. You never stop learning." From carburetors to computers, they've adapted with the times, investing in the tools and knowledge needed to keep vehicles running right. But even as the technology has evolved, their core values haven't: work hard, be honest, and treat people right.



DUANE & TAMI JOHNSON

81 Auto Clinic is far more than a basic repair shop. Duane and Tami handle automotive service and repair, but they also tackle lawn mower and small engine repair, and they keep parts on hand for those jobs that can't wait. Out front, Tami offers full-service gas — she still even comes out to the pump! Inside, you'll find the Rada knife line and Tami's own children's books on the shelves, giving the shop a warm, personal touch you don't get at a big-box chain.

What makes them different? Tami says it plainly: "Offering services few others do anymore. We often refer to our selves as the last of the dinosaurs." That "dinosaur" pride shows up in the way they greet you by name, remember your vehicle, and take the time to explain what's going on under the hood. When you walk into 81 Auto Clinic, Tami wants you to feel "that they are more than just a number" because to her and Duane, you are. Quality and satisfaction come from doing the job right, standing behind their work, and putting in the hours it takes to get someone safely back on the road - and those hours are no joke. Tami is honest that one of the biggest challenges has been "long hours, and the increasing costs" of running a small business. But ask her what's most rewarding, and the answer comes just as quickly: "The customers." The people who trust them with their vehicles, equipment, and everyday needs are the reason 81 Auto Clinic has lasted this long.

Their commitment to Arlington extends beyond the shop doors. Tami says they "give back daily with the services we offer," but she has also spent years helping with Arlington Christmas, lining up vendors and cooking for the event, and organizing spring craft fairs that brought visitors from other towns to shop in Arlington. Supporting community events and drawing people to Main Street has always mattered to her as much as fixing cars.

You'll find 81 Auto Clinic at 300 N. Highway 81 in Arlington, open six days a week. To schedule service, ask about small engine repair, pick up Rada knives, or browse Tami's children's books, stop in and see them or call (605) 983-5902.

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