June 16, 2025



# What is the Value of the Chamber of Commerce in Your Community?

by Jake Amen

I have been involved with the Chamber of Commerce in Ashton and St. Anthony since early in my career, managing websites and providing design services. Over the past year I have been working closely with the Island Park Chamber to remodel their website. Shortly after joining, I was voted in as treasurer because of my familiarity with QuickBooks Online. Now, I am co-managing many aspects of Chamber business with Executive Director, Stephanie Almond, including membership, accounting, and the ATV Trail/Community Maps.

Managing the trail

reach out to the community, where I see firsthand the generosity and giving nature of Fremont County. I have also heard some constructive feedback from members asking questions like "What do I get out of the chamber?"

The greatest benefit for chamber members is the website bio page. In my opinion, it's worth the annual membership dues alone. I encourage all my website clients to join their local chamber(s) to take advantage of the web presence boost they provide.

The chambers network with the Yellowstone-Teton Territory (YTT), a non-







## 7–9AM: ROTARY BREAKFAST

Rotary Pavilion in the City Park \$8/person or \$30/family of 5

**10AM: PARADE** "SYMBOLS OF FREEDOM" Theme by Mrs. Goebel's kindergarten class

GRAND MARSHALL: Line up at 8:30am - Floats, Classic Cars, Bicycles– all are welcomed! AFTER PARADE–2PM: CITY PARK GREEN FAMILY R

Flag Ceremony, Car Show, Booths, Entertainment

#### 10PM: FIREWORKS! North Fremont High School

If you would like to sign up for a booth in the park call Andrea 208-534-1165. To enter your float, volunteer with crowd control, or have any other parade questions, please contact Dallas Hill at 208-710-9128.



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profit that grants money for projects that promote East Idaho travel and events. They fund website remodels, print maps and brochures, and sponsor community events like the Ashton American Dog Derby. Recently, I have been voted in as Vice-President of the YTT so I can ensure that Fremont County's chambers will have inperson representation at each monthly meeting.

Another YTT funded project includes the Ashton and Island Park Community Tear Maps that are available in stores for visitors to take. We just restocked the Island Park tear pads over Memorial Day Weekend. Each chamber plans a number of events throughout the year, including Ashton's 4th of July Parade, St. Anthony's Fisherman's Breakfast & Summer Fest, and Island Park's I Love IP Festival & Wild West Winter Fest.

The chambers all have great boards with many sharp individuals meeting faithfully each month, making plans and decisions that shape the organizations they represent.

So, why join the chamber in your community? My involvement has been good for my business, but also has allowed me to connect with my community in rewarding ways. Perhaps it could do the same for you?.



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