

AMBASSADOR'S CORNER  
By Mary Beth Cicala-Jacobs

Time keeps ticking by. Did you know that as of September 1<sup>st</sup> there were only 115 days until Christmas, 87 days to Thanksgiving, 71 days to Veteran's Day, 61 days to Halloween, 0 days to Labor Day? And, just 10-15 minutes away from the Cottonwood Festival. By this reading, I hope everyone took time to attend the annual, Chamber sponsored, Cottonwood Festival, one of the larger events in our community. It is always filled with entertainment, crafts, and yummy foods, all in a family setting locked together by the spirit of community. "Community," now that's a good word. Webster defines it as ***a group of people who live in the same area*** and ***a group of people who have the same interests***. The Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce and the Ambassador eat, breathe and live community. Local businesses should thrive on community as without it their business is likely to struggle. Today, take a minute to look at your personal or professional community involvement. If you need hints on where to go, what to do, call the Alamogordo Chamber of Commerce; they can help. If your business is not a member of the Chamber of Commerce, then join! That would be a good place to start. Community, like family, puts a smile in our hearts and on our faces. I see that smile on oh so many faces!

Over the last 30-45 days the Ambassadors engaged in community. We saw you there too!  
Events included:

Ribbon Cuttings: Skate Park (Washington Ave & 1<sup>st</sup> St.), Prime Cut Steak & Saloon (7401 US Hwy 54/70); Creative Designs Custom Framing & Gallery (917 New York Ave); Big Brothers Big Sisters (906 Virginia Ave.). A ribbon cutting is provided to new Chamber of Commerce members for their grand opening, or to any Chamber business member presenting a new location.

Meet & Greets: Congratulations to Vision Ford Lincoln – on July 15<sup>th</sup> they celebrated their 25 Year Anniversary; Alamogordo High School Assembly – welcoming and supporting teachers as they begin the 2014-2015 school year; State of New Mexico Lt. Governor John Sanchez attending the OCEDC Annual Meeting. FAN Club (always held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at Margo's at 8 am) sponsored by Otero County Youth Football League; Business After Hour (held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm) sponsored by United Way of Otero County; Cottonwood Festival with the New Mexico State Governor, Susana Martinez who spoke during the opening ceremonies.

I've highlighted our past community events, but more importantly this Chamber Chat highlights our community FUTURE events. Peruse it and calendar those "don't miss" community events. In it you will also see 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014 Business and Associate winners! It truly is an honor just to be nominated . . . but to win . . . wowser!

Community – be a part of it if you are not already. There are oh so many customers, oh so many networking opportunities, oh so many friends in that community. This last month the Ambassador's lost one of those dear friends and wish to extend condolences for the loss Ron Jeter -- an Ambassador, a community minded professional, and our friend!