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A Brief History of the Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce

The Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce was officially organized in April of 2000, but its roots go back much farther than that. For more than 30 years previous, local business owners had met monthly as the Cutlerville Business Men's Association; later becoming the Cutlerville Business Association. The focus was on making Cutlerville a better place to live and do business. Some of the local business men banded together to help restore Cutler Park around the time of the nation's Bicentennial. Other efforts included community Christmas Decorations and help with the Cutlerville Day's celebration and activities.

In the 1980's, the business community spearheaded the effort to seeing whether Cutlerville should incorporate as a separate entity or not. In the late 1980's, the businessmen started honoring an individual who had made significant contributions to the community with an award known as the Cutlerville Business Association "Person of the Year" who also then served as the Grand Marshal for the Cutlerville Community Day's Parade.

In the late 1990's interest in the business association had started to dwindle and a few business owners knew that Cutlerville still had a lot going for it. Plans were laid to re-organize and re-energize the business community by forming a non-profit Chamber of Commerce. By-laws were drawn up by local attorney Jim Schepers, and the first Board of Directors were elected with Dave Offringa as President – a position he held for 4 years.

Before the first year was over membership had risen to over 60 business members and in addition many honorary and non-profit members. In late 2000, Brian Diemer, of Olympic fame, approached the Chamber Board about bringing a 5k race "home to Cutlerville". The Board enthusiastically agreed and the race has grown each year since.

Since its inception, the Chamber has continued to add both quantity and quality to make Cutlerville a better place to live and do business.

Submitted by:
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Cutlerville Chamber of Commerce