

www.GiddingsTx.com

THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

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Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce, 171 E. Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942
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Chamber Awards Banquet Approaching

By Denice Harlan

We are excited about our upcoming Chamber of Commerce Banquet on August 29th at the Landmark Event Center. We are proud of our 2009 Award recipients. Our Hometown Heroes are the ordinary people in our community that perform extraordinary acts to make Giddings better. Each year the Chamber asks for nominations from the community in an effort to recognize the hard work and dedication of these "Hometown Heroes". These individuals and businesses contribute time, talent and treasure to make Giddings a better place to live.

Lifetime Achievement Award- James Arndt

Business of the Year- Orsag's, Inc.

Civic Organization of the Year- Lee County Seniors in Action

Youth Organization of the Year- Lee County Junior Livestock Show

Five Year Service Awards- Mike Kuhrt and Mary Ross

We have included a ballot for the 2009 Board of Directors in this newsletter. We appreciate each candidate for their commitment to serve as a volunteer board member for a term of three years. Please take time to read over the ballot, vote and return the ballot to the Chamber office by August 17th so your vote can be tabulated at the regular monthly board meeting, which will be on August 18th.

"Nurture your mind with great thoughts; to believe in the heroic makes heroes". Benjamin Disraeli

We will recognize our out-going officers and board members at the Chamber Banquet. Vern Surman, Texas Farm Bureau will step down as Chairman. He has worked hard this year in the community as a board member and committee chair. We appreciate the many hours he has spent helping to guide this board. Outgoing Board Members – Lane Jatzlau, Matt Hanson, Minnie Simmang, Normette Moore, Darlene Myers and Mary Ross. These board members have given their time, talent and treasure to help make Giddings a great place to live and raise a family. We will recognize their hard work and dedication with a plaque at the banquet. They are our "Hometown Heroes"!

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*Our Mission
"The mission of the
Giddings Area Chamber
of Commerce is to create
a progressive business
environment, take a
leadership role in the
community, be an
information resource for
members and increase
growth of tourism."*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Customs Picturing Framing & Warda Self Storage

Phone: 866-500-3430

Gordon & Ginny Gnipp, owners

5630 Hwy 77, Warda, Texas

gggnipp@fais.net

Lifetime Achievement Award-James Arndt

By *Denice Harlan*

Thanks to the many people that contributed information about James in their nominations. We know him as the former Mayor of Giddings, but he has had an illustrious career. He is a longtime Rotarian in the Giddings Rotary Club with 37 years of perfect attendance. He served on the Capital Area Council of Governments, serving on the Executive Committee from 1992-2007. He became chairman in 2002. He has served on the Texas Review and Comment Systems Committee, the Capital Area Economic Development District and was appointed by Governor Perry to the Regional Review Committee. This committee has brought millions of dollars in grants to Giddings and Lee County. He also served as representative of the 10 county region which CAPCOG represents across the state, the Texas Association of Regional Councils of Government. He attends and is active at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. He has served as a Sunday school teacher, choir member, choir director, elder, board of Trustees and every office in the church. He was one of the original adult hand bell choir members. He moved here from Wharton with his parents at age 15. He was in the Giddings High School Band and served as Drum Major. He served in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Sam Houston State University. He and his wife Joyce have one son James Jr. and two grandchildren, John and Joel. He has been a business man in Giddings as owner of Gruetzners, Inc. for over 50 years. He has served on the Chamber board and Giddings Economic Development Board as a member and as Chairman.

The greatest good you can do for another is not just share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.

Benjamin Disraeli

British politician (1804 - 1881)

August Calendar of Events

Lee County Area Farmers Market – Has been suspended until it rains.

Chamber Awards Banquet – Landmark Square Events Center, Social Hour- 6PM, Meal- 7PM, Awards Ceremony- 8PM. Tickets available at the Chamber office.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Texas Word Wrangler Festival “Meet the Author” Gala – September 10th at 6PM at the Giddings Public Library

Texas Word Wrangler Festival – September 11th at 9AM at the Giddings Public Library

21st Annual Wendish Fest – September 27th at the Serbin Picnic Grounds, the Sieker Band will be featured performers.

My Heart Will Always Be In Giddings...

The toughest thing about being relocated to the Shreveport area is that I will miss all of the wonderful people that have come to mean so much to me and my family. When we came here in 1983 we were just kids. We came here because of the oilfield and the job that Wade had as a pumper. We met a few people and I guess the rest is history. After 27 years I can say I have learned a lot. The most important lesson I have learned above all is “to grow where you are planted”. I came here with the idea that I would be a part of the community by working, getting involved and helping to make our community a better place to live. I know that this will always be home to me because of all the friends we have made and how we connected with the community. The great thing is my kids will be here so I will always have a good reason to come visit. Becoming an empty-nester was just a faint thought in the back of my mind six months ago and now it is a fact that I will not have my girls at home with me anymore. I am sad, but also excited about all the possibilities ahead for me and Wade. I know there are great things in store for the Giddings community. I hope that you will all continue to work together and grow in a positive way. DH



OFFICIAL DEDICATION - OCTOBER 17, 2009

The mission of the Rural Texas Tourism Center is to showcase the character, history and culture of Rural Texas.

- To achieve its mission the Rural Texas Tourism Center will offer no cost and minimal cost advertising for Rural Texas Tourism Partners
- The Rural Texas Tourism Center, located at Landmark Square in Giddings, Texas, will officially open to the public on October 17th, 2009.
- The restored Union Pacific Freight & Passenger Depot, circa late 1800's is home to the Union Station Transportation Museum & the Rural Texas Tourism Center
- An official dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th @ 11:00 a.m. with Texas tourism agencies & officials participating
- Rural communities from across Texas will be participants for the dedication and as ongoing partners in the Rural Texas Tourism Center that will showcase the character, history and culture of rural Texas
- Two days of festivities will compliment the official dedication: Friday will offer educational field trip opportunities for students; Friday & Saturday: senior citizens will present local & transportation history; storytellers from around Texas will participate in retelling the history of Texas & Texas transportation as Texas tourism agencies present demonstrations & displays; Rural Texas partners will offer their rural community's history & "can't miss" tourism opportunities
- The event will offer two days of festivities including food, refreshments, music & family activities to compliment tourism & historical presentations by rural communities & tourism agencies from all across Texas
- Saturday's festivities will feature a Texas beef "STEAKholders Cookoff"
- The two day event will be scheduled annually as a fundraiser for the Rural Texas Tourism Center in Landmark Square - Giddings, Texas
- Rural Texas communities and tourism agencies are invited to participate in the two days of festivities and be partners in the Rural Texas Tourism Center
- The official web site ruraltexastourism.org will showcase participating rural communities, events and venues and offer Partner web site packages and advertising opportunities
- The services of the Rural Texas Tourism Center will be offered through Giddings Economic Development Corporation however sponsorship and participation opportunities are available

Don't miss out on this "ULTIMATE RURAL TEXAS TOURISM INITIATIVE"

Sponsorship and participation for the Rural Texas Tourism Center dedication event is open to all Rural Texas Tourism Partners.

www.ruraltexastourism.org

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Chamber Member Address

Free Website Seminar - The Chamber will host a Website Seminar for Chamber Members to develop their profile on the Giddings Chamber Website. You will learn how to add pictures, video, promotions and events pages. On September 16th we will have four time slots available for your convenience. Space is limited in each class so call to reserve your spot early-979-542-3455.

Chamber Luncheon – August 21st at Los Patrones Mexican Grill

We host a once monthly Chamber Luncheon for members. These luncheons are designed to be networking opportunities for members while creating and fostering the fellowship aspect of belonging to a membership organization. Your greatest asset in business is your relationship with your customers or potential customers you may encounter at Chamber luncheons, Ribbon Cuttings, Open Houses and After Hours Mixers. Call to reserve your seat. We will meet at Los Patrones Mexican Grill from 11:30 to 1:00pm. **Contact the office to sponsor this networking opportunity at 979-542-3455.**

Thank you to our Board of Directors! They work hard behind the scenes to help promote your business. Let them know what you like and where we can improve. We are all in this together! ☺

We are now able to accept credit card payments for chamber membership dues, sponsorships, tickets and advertising. We want to help make your life easier by providing you with great service.

Check out our website at www.GiddingsTx.com to get up to the minute information and details about upcoming events and activities happening in Giddings and Lee County. We are your information resource. Email: giddingscofc@verizon.net
Office Phone: 979-542-3455 or Fax: 979-542-7060.



Billetproof Texas Car Show '09