

www.GiddingsTx.com

THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2008

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.”

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS & TROOPS!

**WE WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Santa on the Square

**At the Gazebo in Landmark Square
December 4th at 6:30pm**

Behind Orsag's on Burleson Street

Open House at the Little Red Depot from 4-6pm

The festivities begin at 4pm with Depot Dogs compliments of "Frank-N-Stein" of Giddings. Music provided by the Singing Christmas Tree and the Giddings High School Band as we countdown until Santa makes his appearance at 6:30pm on the Fire Truck. The Little Red Depot will host an Open House to give the public a chance to come see all the work that has been completed. Families are asked to bring homemade ornaments to adorn the 14 foot Christmas Tree that is in the lobby of the Depot. The Giddings New Horizons Lions Club will serve cookies and punch and Orsag's will have hot chocolate for shoppers until 8pm. Several businesses in town will stay open late to allow shoppers a chance to browse in a relaxed atmosphere. Stop by Grapevine, Whistle Stop Antiques, Flowers by La Verne, Orsag's, Carmine Feed and Ashley's Attic until 8pm. Sign up for door prizes, enjoy refreshments and take advantage of the sales and specials during the extended shopping hours.

There will be two more opportunities to visit the Little Red Depot during the holiday season. December 11th the Little Red Depot will have an Open House all day featuring door prizes and refreshments, then on December 18th the Little Red Depot will host our Chamber Business After Hours from 5-8pm featuring tours, door prizes and hors d'oeuvres compliments of Rega's Village Deli and Monzi's Fine Cuisine.

Now that the Christmas Season is upon us there will be many opportunities to visit your local businesses. Check inside this newsletter for dates and times of the open houses and special activities that will happen throughout December.

Business After Hours Mixer

Chamber Members Only

Networking opportunity for Chamber members to meet and develop relationships with other members.

Bring 50 business cards for trading. Put your business card in the drawing for a Door Prize. One door prize per business. Door Prizes sponsored By Giddings Economic Development Corporation.

The Little Red Brick Depot

December 18th

5:00pm to 8:00pm

Beverage sponsor- Mike Hopkins Distributing.

Food sponsors- Reba's Village Deli and Monzi's Fine Cuisine.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jim Bunch-Individual

1418 CR 138

Giddings, Texas 78942

979-820-5880

Carmine Feed & Fertilizer-Business

Lane & Rebyn Jacob

P.O. Box 386

Giddings, Texas 78942

979-542-2446

Retail feed, fertilizer, farm & ranch supplies, Nutrena Feed.

Laura's Floors and More-Business

Laura Boes

599 Woodland Ave.

Giddings, Texas 78942

979-540-7060

Design, installation, and materials for all types of floor covering including tile, carpet, laminate, hardwood and vinyl. We specialize in custom design of backsplashes, countertops, shower and tub surrounds. Free design, expert installation, excellent customer care, years of experience, affordably priced. I want you to love your floors, and more!

RENEWING MEMBERS: Thank you to every renewing member. We appreciate your continued support.

- Flowers by LaVerne

- Classic Bank
- Delvin Boriak
- Giddings Noon Lions Club
- Dr. John Gres
- Jones and Cowen Physical Therapy
- Lee County Chiropractic Clinic
- Ronnie's Tire and Auto
- Standard Regional Home Health
- Zoch's Laundry

Just a reminder to our members-

Contact the Chamber office at 979-542-3455 or giddingscofc@verizon.net to let us know when your business will have their Holiday/Christmas Open House so we can add it to the Event Calendar and on the Website. Deadline for 8 1/2 X 11 inserts into the newsletter is the 25th of each month. The monthly newsletter is a great way to let other members know what services and products you sell.

2008 Christmas Merry Market Event Report

Sunday morning was drizzly and gloomy but as the day went on the weather cleared off and turned into a beautiful fall day. The 2008 Christmas Merry Marketplace was the best show we have ever had according to several vendors that have been coming since the shows started back in 1996. According to our counter we doubled our attendance this year. We had about 800 shoppers show up to get an early start on their Christmas shopping. There were 45 vendors with arts and crafts, jewelry, candles, scrapbooking supplies and so much more. About half of the vendors were new to this show. The Merry Marketplace is a great place to pick up unique handmade gifts for those hard to buy for family members. This is also a great way to bring folks into town and create that Christmas spirit. The goal is to create a reason for shoppers to get out into the businesses to check out the seasonal gift items and specials that are available before the Christmas rush. Several businesses commented that they were busy on Sunday.

The Giddings High School Leo Club was there collecting canned food items for the Giddings Food Pantry. The students collected a substantial amount of food and \$138 in monetary donations throughout the day. They also collected toys for the Blue Santa program.

Santa flew in from the North Pole to hear all the children's Christmas wishes. He was visited by many children of all ages.

Our entertainers "Kim and the Boyz" kept everyone entertained and in the Christmas spirit with Christmas music throughout the day.



The Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the many people who helped make this the best Merry Marketplace ever.

Michael Morgan, Johnathan Noack, GHS Leo Club, Deidre' Harry, Kimberlyn and Curtis Krause, and Mark Gruetzner, our wonderful vendors, and our many community supporters.

Special thanks to the volunteers that helped put this event on for our community: Jim & Robin Bunch, Darlene Myers, Gina Reat, Maurice Pitts, Vern Surman, Debbie Schkade, Jason Willborn, Carol Bennett, Thelma Davis, Carl Miller, Garrett Schimank, Brandon Faske, and Michael Dunbar.

Chamber Champions For December

Johnathan Noack & Michael Morgan

CHAMBER MEMBERS ONLY
Enter your business in the Chamber Business Decorating Contest!
Call the Chamber office to register your business address in the contest. Win bragging rights and a beautiful plaque declaring you as the business with the "Most Beautiful Christmas Decorations". Deadline is 17th. We will give out three awards for first, second & third place. Your business will be advertised in the Giddings Times and on the Digital Sign.

LCRA Calendars are in!

We have the 2009 LCRA Calendars available in our office. We also received a new shipment of phone books for those members that would like to add a few more to their office.

Christmas Lighting and Home Decorating Contests announced by the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and the Giddings Garden Club

The Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce and the Giddings Garden Club have joined forces this year for the Christmas decorating contest. There will be two opportunities for citizens to win in the decorating contests. The Christmas Lighting Contest will be judged at night by the Giddings Chamber of Commerce and the Christmas Home Decorating Contest will be judged by the Giddings Garden Club during daylight hours. The Chamber will join local energy providers to sponsor the Annual Christmas Light Decorating Contest. The Chamber is accepting nominations for the best Christmas light decorations in Giddings and in the surrounding area. The Giddings Garden Club will judge the best decorated homes during the daylight hour in the city limits. The Chamber lighting contest winners within Giddings city limits will receive a certificate of credit from the City of Giddings toward their next utility bill. First place will receive a \$50 credit, second place a \$30 credit, and third place a \$20 credit. The three winners of the lighting contest in the immediate surrounding area of Giddings will receive a certificate of credit from Bluebonnet Electric on their next utility bill. First place will receive a \$50 credit, second place a \$30 credit, and third place a \$20 credit. The Chamber will match all six monetary awards. The Giddings Garden Club will award winners of the home decorating contest with a First Prize of \$100, Second Prize of \$60, and Third Prize of \$40. The Chamber will take all entries by phone to register a home. Please specify daytime or lighting contest. Homes can be on both lists as they will be judged independently by the two organizations. Callers should leave the owner's name, address, telephone number, and daytime or nighttime contest. In order for the home to be judged, an entry must be made by telephone. The homeowner, friend, neighbor or any citizen may call to register the address to be judged. Deadline for all entries is Friday, December 12th. Judging will be published in the Giddings Times & News and on the Community Digital Sign with addresses so local residents may view the winning homes during the holiday season. Call the Chamber for more info or to register your home at 979-542-3455.

DO YOU PROVIDE EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE?

*96% of dissatisfied customers do not complain directly
90% will not return
One unhappy customer will tell nine others
13% will tell at least 20 other people*



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