

# www.GiddingsTx.com

## THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

JANUARY 2009

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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.”

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GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS & TROOPS!

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009 Events & Activities

## February-2009

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Super Bowl Party at Lincoln Community Hall
- 1<sup>st</sup>- Super Bowl Golf Scramble at Giddings Municipal Golf Course
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Country Music Monday at the Sons of Hermann Hall
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall. sponsored by Giddings New Horizons Lions Club
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Ribbon Cutting & Open House for Standard Home Health
- 7<sup>th</sup>- An Affair of the Heart~A Landmark Event benefiting the Friends of the Depot At the Monzi's Event Center
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Texas Wendish Heritage Society Walk-In Coffee at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church
- 21<sup>st</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Lee County Ducks Unlimited Banquet at Sons of Hermann Hall
- 27<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Casino Night sponsored by the Evening Lions Club & CCA

## March-2009

- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Country Music Monday at the Sons of Hermann Hall
- 10<sup>th</sup>- SBA Solution for Small Businesses Class “Starting a Business” at the Little Red Brick Depot
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon at Immanuel Lutheran Fellowship Hall, sponsored by Giddings Study Club
- 14<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> SPRING BREAK
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Giddings Food & Wine Fest at Sons of Hermann Hall sponsored by the Chamber
- 25<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> Lee County Junior Livestock Show
- 31<sup>st</sup>- Round Top Week through April 5<sup>th</sup>

## April-2009

- 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Round Top Weekend
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Country Music Monday at the Sons of Hermann Hall
- 11<sup>th</sup>- GHS Prom
- 18<sup>th</sup>- MS 150 Bike Race from Houston to Austin
- 24<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual API Golf Tournament

## May-2009

- 4<sup>th</sup>- Country Music Monday at the Sons of Hermann Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup>- Lee County Rodeo Week at Lee County Sheriffs Posse Arena
- 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Lee County Fair & Rodeo and Charcoal Challenge Cook-off
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Lee County Fair & Rodeo Parade

**The Calendar of Events and Activities** is provided as a service to our community. We try to keep all the information updated and correct. This also a great way to "Save the Date" for many upcoming activities and events that will be happening. Share this information with your staff and friends. Make plans to attend the community events and activities. Check out our website to find dates, times and contact information at [www.GiddingsTx](http://www.GiddingsTx).

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**Comptroller Susan Combs Delivers First Local Sales Tax Allocations of 2009**

AUSTIN — Comptroller Susan Combs announced today that the state collected \$1.86 billion in sales tax revenue in December, up 2 percent compared to December 2007.

“State sales tax collections have grown 3.9 percent for the first four months of state fiscal year 2009,” Combs said. “Growth in overall collections has slowed compared to recent years, while remittances from key sectors such as construction and retail trade have declined.”

Combs sent cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts their first sales tax allocations of 2009 — \$459.2 million, up 2.4 percent compared to January 2008.

Combs sent January sales tax allocations of \$309.9 million to Texas cities, up 2.2 percent compared to January 2008. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$29 million, up 8.2 percent compared to last January.

In addition, \$18.3 million went to 148 special purpose taxing districts around the state, up 23.5 percent compared to last January. Ten local transit systems received \$101.9 million in sales tax allocations, down 1.4 percent compared to a year ago.

December state sales tax collections and January allocations to local governments represent sales that occurred in November.

For details of January sales tax payments to individual cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts, locate the Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports on the Comptroller’s Web site at [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/allocsum/compsum.html).

**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. Call 979-542-3455 to reserve your date for a Business After Hours Mixer at your place of business.

**Just a reminder to our members-**  
Contact the Chamber office at 979-542-3455 or [giddingscofc@verizon.net](mailto:giddingscofc@verizon.net) to let us know when your business will have an Open House so we can add it to the Event Calendar and on the Website. Deadline for 8 ½ X 11 inserts into the newsletter is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The monthly newsletter is a great way to let other members know what services and products you sell.



**Workforce Issues**

**Before a claim arises:**

1. *If an employee is about to be fired, go through a termination checklist; at the very least, ensure that the employee has been given the benefit of whatever termination procedures are outlined in the company policies and in whatever warnings they may have received.*
2. *If an employee is quitting, do not have the person sign a boilerplate resignation form; have the person do their own letter, in their own handwriting if possible.*
3. *If an employee is quitting, do not let the person quit until and unless you are satisfied that the company has done everything appropriate to address any legitimate grievances they may have.*

**After a claim arises:**

1. *Respond on time to any claim notice, ruling, or appeal decision.*
2. *Be as specific as possible.*
3. *Be consistent in your responses, appeals, and testimony.*
4. *Avoid name-calling or gratuitous derogatory comments toward the claimant.*
5. *In discharge cases, avoid certain terminology such as "inability", "incompetence", "disloyal", "accumulation of things", "bad attitude", and "mutual agreement".*
6. *In discharge cases, try to show four main things:*
  - a. *a specific incident of misconduct close in time to the discharge;*
  - b. *that the claimant either knew or should have known that discharge could occur for the reason given;*
  - c. *that the employer followed whatever policies it has and whatever warnings were given; and*
  - d. *that the claimant was not singled out for discharge, but rather was treated the same as anyone else would have been under those circumstances.*
7. *In voluntary leaving cases, avoid references to how bad the ex-employee might have been, and concentrate on the fact that the claimant left while continued work was still available.*
8. *In voluntary leaving cases, avoid comments on how glad the company is that the claimant resigned. Instead, focus on how a reasonable employee*

otherwise interested in remaining employed would not have left for the reason given.

9. In all cases, have all your evidence and firsthand witnesses ready for the hearing.
10. Make your testimony brief, factual, and concise. Hearing officers like that!

Source: Texas Workforce Commission

## 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

Sponsored by Giddings Chamber of Commerce, City of Giddings, and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

### And the Winners Are!

#### Our winners in town: Giddings

1. Pete & Therese Chomout- 818 E. Hempstead
2. Geraldine Milton Albrecht- 574 N. Chambers
3. Irene & Floyd Kasper- 1603 E. Hempstead

#### Best area:

1. Willard & Margie Albrecht- 3166 CR 216, Giddings: Out in Northrup
2. Wilbert & Carol Noack- 1043 CR 211, Giddings: Behind Northrup Store
3. Carol & David Schulz- 2021 FM 2239, Giddings: Serbin

Congratulations to all the winners! We had a great time with the Contest. Our judges were very impressed with the time and effort put forth by all the contestants. Each winner received a certificate from the Chamber office. The City of Giddings winners received a certificate that could be used when paying their electric bill. Area winners received a credit toward their electric bill from Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. Winners were also rewarded a cash payment equal to the amount given by the electric company. Our office looks forward to participating again next year.

### A Message from the National Safety Council Reducing the Risk of Impaired Driving Among Employees and Their Families Policies, Programs, & Practices Handbook [support@nsc.org]

Dear Texas Employer:

Together, we have the power to reduce the number of people killed by impaired drivers on our nation's roadways. Impaired driving is the cause of nearly half of traffic crash injuries and fatalities in the United States. In Texas alone, someone is killed or hurt in a crash involving alcohol about

every 20 minutes. Alcohol contributes to nearly 4 out of 10 work-related traffic crashes.

By producing this handbook, the National Safety Council hopes to provide you with a tool to help you protect your employees, their families, and your business by promoting safe driving on and off the job. Specifically, we hope this guide enriches your knowledge about the connection between traffic deaths and popular misuse of alcohol and other drugs, as well as strategies that are proven effective at encouraging employees or their family members to seek assistance from employee outreach programs like EAPs and drug-free workforce campaigns. We also hope this handbook will spur your thinking about establishing a substance abuse prevention program in your workplace to help combat impaired driving. If you don't have one already, you may be surprised to learn that an effective program can save you \$26 for every \$1 invested in employee health care and related costs.

Please make the most of this guidebook and contact the NSTC Texas Chapter if you would like more information. Please also support the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas law enforcement's efforts to stem impaired driving by participating in their annual promotions to build public awareness of impaired driving around certain holidays, when collision rates typically increase, and crack down on impaired drivers. Learn about the next promotion on the program's Web site, [www.txdrivingconcern.org](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org). Your efforts make a difference. We thank you for joining the NSTC and its Texas Chapter to prevent impaired driving and save lives.

Sincerely,  
Janet P. Froetscher, President & Chief Executive Officer, National Safety Council

[http://www.txdrivingconcern.org/images/uploads/Reducing\\_the\\_Risk\\_of\\_Impaired\\_Driving\\_Among\\_Employees\\_Their\\_Families.pdf](http://www.txdrivingconcern.org/images/uploads/Reducing_the_Risk_of_Impaired_Driving_Among_Employees_Their_Families.pdf)

## CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Your membership in our organization is so important because you are providing our community with a Visitors and Information Center where people can call or come by for great information about your business. We distribute phone books, City & County maps, historic information about Giddings and Lee County, calendars, business cards, recreational activities and so much more.

We provide information to members needing city and county demographics. We distribute information from our member partners, such as the SBA, IRS, Social Security, Texas Workforce Commission, the Comptroller's Office, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of Transportation and many others that we are able to access.

We have provided the updated 2009 Chamber Member Benefits document for your records. Put this with your other Chamber information. We are

dedicated to helping your business thrive. We want

to put your business on the map. Call our office for details on how we can help you at 979-542-3455.

### MONTHLY COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

#### ALWAYS THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

● Country Music Monday sponsored by Rotary Club of Giddings at Sons of Hermann Hall. Doors open at 5:30pm show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets \$3.  
First & Third Mondays of each Month

- Gerline's Quilting Angels meet at Gerline's Quilt Shoppe from 9am-2pm, Public is invited to attend. Call for info at 979-542-3318

Last Monday of each Month

- Texas Word Wrangler Meeting at Giddings Public Library at Noon.
- Lee County Historical Commission meets at 2pm in the Lee County Extension Office side room.
- Lee County Heritage Society meets at the Lee County Heritage Center at 6pm.

#### TUESDAY MEETINGS

- Lee County Seniors in Action, CCA Building, 5:30 – 7:30pm

First Tuesday of each Month

- Quilt Guild meets at Martin Luther Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm

Third Tuesday of each Month

- Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting at Giddings Public Library at Noon

#### WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

- Youth Night at Concord Christian Center Church, 6 – 8pm

#### THURSDAY MEETINGS

- Rotary Club of Giddings, Monzi's Annex at noon

First Thursday of each Month

- Texas German Society Meets at First National Bank Business Center at 5pm

Most Fridays of the Month

- French Vanilla Friday-Coffee and conversation at the Chamber office from 8:30-10am.

Second Friday and Saturday of each Month

- Giddings Food Pantry at First Baptist Church Giddings, 600 Sunrise Ave. Registration starts at 8am

**\*\*Driver's License Office has moved to 170 E. Industry. The office is open every Wednesday and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each Month.**

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Check out our website at [www.GiddingsTx.com](http://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](mailto:giddingscofc@verizon.net) Office Phone: 979-542-3455 or Fax: 979-542-7060.

