

www.GiddingsTx.com

THE CHAMBER CONNECTION

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Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce, 171 E. Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942
giddingscofc@verizon.net 979-542-3455

HOME BASED BUSINESSES AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR GROWING COMMUNITY.

By Denice Harlan

Today more and more business owners are choosing to live, work and play from home. As our economy changes, our priorities change. We begin to look at ways to cut costs, downsize our overhead and still create a monetary reward for the work we do as business owners. Our community will adapt to the new way of doing business because these home based businesses provide goods and services that we need. The biggest obstacle that home based businesses face today is how to let customers know you exist. Advertising is of course the first way any business lets customers know they are out there. Joining professional organizations that provide business-to-business contact is another way to get your business out there and finally, collaborating with an organization such as the Chamber of Commerce is a great way to promote your business to other businesses and the community. Membership in the Chamber has many benefits. Recognition as a Chamber member goes a long way in the community because it gives your business credibility as an honest business.

The Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce is finding ways to help businesses that do not have traditional bricks and mortar buildings or storefronts to reach customers through advertising and promotion on our website, with creative ribbon cuttings, through mass email and many other avenues.

We are working very hard to reach out to surrounding communities to let them know about the great opportunities to live, work and play here. Giddings is a growing, vibrant community. Come grow with us.

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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

Lee County Area Team Swimmers – LCATS: Non-Profit, Volunteer run
220 Raymond, Giddings, Texas 78942
Youth swim league affiliated with NWAL.org. Summer only, April thru June.

H & R Block: Carla Dwinell, owner
172 W. Houston St., Giddings, Texas 78942, 979-542-4116
Tax Preparation and Small Business Services

LeeCountyLive.com: Dana Lehmann, owner
1210 CR 111, Giddings, Texas 78942, 979-542-4745
Local news 24/7. To report news- editor@leecountylive.com

Los Patrones Grill: Manuel Galvan, owner
2880 E. Austin, Giddings, Texas 78942, 979-542-0127
Restaurant and Catering, open 7 days a week, Breakfast-Fri., Sat., & Sun.

AmericanPortaCan of Texas: Mike Jackson
799 West Hwy 71, Bastrop, Texas 78602, 866-315-0990
Portable Toilets, Rental Services, Construction services.

2009 Giddings Food & Wine Fest Sponsors

Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce

2009 Giddings Food & Wine Fest

Thank You to our Sponsors

Messina Hof Winery~*Favorite Wine and Favorite Food & Wine Pairing*

Classic Catering by Reba's-Food Sponsor~*Favorite Dish and Favorite Food & Wine Pairing*

Buzz Bean-Food Sponsor~*Showmanship*

Three Dudes & a Dog Winery

Rosemary's Winery

Pleasant Hill Winery

Bernhardt Winery

Texas Unlimited Band

Fischer Langham Custom Homes

Vern & Dianna Surman

Jim & Nancy Gandy

BCFH&M Inc.-Corporate Table Sponsor

First National Bank-Corporate Table Sponsor

Green Country Carpet Cleaning-Corporate Table Sponsor

Lost Pines Bar-B-Que-Food Sponsor

Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant-Food Sponsor

Secret Garden-Floral Sponsor

Ramada Giddings

Saunders Distributing

Mike Hopkins Distributing

Alan & Amanda Casey-Auction Sponsor

South 40 RV Park-Glass Sponsor

Wayne Galipp-Auctioneer

Lee County Ace Hardware

Whistle Stop Antiques & Auction Depot

Citizens National Bank

First National Bank

Joe Franks

Charles Cox

Green Country Carpet Cleaning

Jatzlau Construction

Colony Creek Winery

K&K Pet Watch

Roberts Promotional Specialties

Debbie & Mike Malinak

Carmine Feed and Fertilizer

Pampered Chef

The Grapevine

Lehm Berg Winery

Carmine Feed & Fertilizer

Absolute Fitness

Dr. John Gres

Hector Forestier

Star Locksmith

City of Giddings

Bluebonnet Electric Co-op

Giddings EDC

Thelma Davis

Jim & Robin Bunch

Darlene & Ronald Myers

The Chamber would like to thank several individuals that helped to make Giddings Food & Wine Fest a huge success- Volunteers - John Gres, JoAnn Campbell, Robin Bunch, Dianna Surman, Kelly Reat, Joyce Clay, Scott & Teresa Kinsfather, Charles Cox, Wayne Galipp and Jackie Harlan. Thanks to our board members that came out on Saturday to help-Jim Bunch, Carol Bennett, Debbie Schkade, Vern Surman, Thelma Davis, Lucy Liu, Maurice Pitts and crew. Thanks to our AMAZING Staff - Gina Reat, Jason Willborn and Debbie Malinak. Thanks to Carl Droemer for his contribution to wine enjoyment in Lee County.

"Life's not about waiting
for the storms to pass...
It's about learning to
dance in the rain."

~Vivian Greene



Ribbon Cutting for Lost Pines
Center for Cancer Care in
Bastrop at the Lakeside
Professional Complex with
Dr. David Jones & Dr. Jeff Chen.

THANK YOU TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS-
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

- Flowers by Laverne
- Giddings Breakfast Lions
- Insurance Network of Texas
- Absolute Fitness
- Adeline Melcher
- Beverly McMurrey
- Blackjack Ranch L.E.E. Ltd.
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Circle W Restaurant
- Emmett Hannes
- Express Mini Mart
- Giddings Evening Lions
- Giddings Veterinary Clinic
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- J. B. Gersch
- Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant
- Joe Franks
- Kleiber Tractor & Equipment
- Lee County Juneteenth Association
- LiveAir Networks
- Melody Moore-Jaehne
- Mike Hopkins Distributing
- Morgan Petroleum Testers
- Round Top State Bank
- Rural Capital Area Workforce Development
- South Forty RV Park
- St. Mark's Medical Center
- Standard Regional Home Health
- Subway Sandwich Shop
- Texas Wendish Heritage Society
- Urban, Thielmann, Oltmann & Co.
- Wendy West
- Windmill Apartments

Congressman McCaul Wins 4th Straight U.S. Chamber Award

McCaul Recognized for Support of Business

AUSTIN – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce presented Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX 10) with the prestigious Spirit of Enterprise Award, for his continued support of pro-growth legislation during the last session of Congress.

"Businesses are the economic engine of this great nation. Especially during a recession our priority should be to help businesses succeed by creating a business-friendly environment with reasonable tax burdens and responsible regulations that won't stifle job creation," said Rep. McCaul.

Eligibility for the award is based on how Members of Congress vote on key business issues, which the Chamber outlines in its yearly publication How They Voted. These designated "key votes" are recorded floor votes on issues that the Chamber establishes as priorities prior to the vote. Those members of Congress who support the Chamber's position on at least 70% of those votes receive the Spirit of Enterprise Award.

Congressman McCaul has earned the Spirit of Enterprise Award every year since he was first elected to Congress. Rep. McCaul's votes against the Wall Street Bailout and his vote to override the President's veto of the Farm Bill cost him a perfect score this year. The U.S. Chamber is the world's largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses of every size, sector, and region.

Texas Ranked #1 Best State To Do Business.

Thu, 03/19/2009 - 4:10pm — wfranklin

Texas came in first place in yet another ranking based on growing jobs and the economy. In a survey of CEOs, Texas, for the fourth year in a row, ranked as the **#1 best place to do business**:

As the nation's unemployment figures continue to reach new heights, Chief Executive magazine's 2009 "Best & Worst States" survey took CEOs' pulse on what the best and worst places for jobs and business growth are. For the fourth year in a row, CEOs rated Texas as the #1 state to do business and California as the worst.

Chief Executive's fifth annual survey asked 543 CEOs to evaluate their states on a broad range of issues, including proximity to resources, regulation, tax policies, education, quality of living and infrastructure. Providing additional insight to the evaluations, CEOs were also asked to grade each state based on the following criteria: 1) Taxation & Regulation, 2) Workforce Quality, and 3) Living Environment.

As a testament to this statement, in contrast to much of the nation, in fiscal 2008, Texas' gross state product grew by 4.2 percent, compared to 1.9 percent for the national economy.

**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
 committed citizens can change the world.
 Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
 By Margaret Mead**

UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Chamber Luncheon –April 17th

We will host a monthly Chamber Luncheon for members. Luncheons 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. Dutch Lunch is \$10.

Calendar of Events for Community – See more details at www.GiddingsTx.com

Saturday, April 4th- Relay for Life Garage and Plant Sale at Round Top State Bank Parking Lot 8a-12p

Monday, April 6th- Country Music Monday at Sons of Hermann Hall at 7:30pm

Friday, April 10th- Giddings Food Pantry at First Baptist Church, 600 Sunrise. Register at 8am

Friday, April 10th- Lincoln Volunteer Fire Dept. Good Friday BBQ at Lincoln Community Hall 10am

Friday, April 10th- GHS DECA Club Fish Fry from 11am to 1pm at St. Margaret's Parish Hall

Saturday, April 11th- Giddings Food Pantry at First Baptist Church, 600 Sunrise. Register at 8am

Sunday, April 12th- HAPPY EASTER!!!

Monday, April 13th- GEDC Meeting at Noon at City Hall

Saturday, April 18th- GHS Prom at Texas Grand Ballroom

Saturday, April 18th- Lions Convention at American Legion Hall at 9am

Saturday, April 18th- MS 150 Bike Race from Houston to Austin-Fayette Fair Grounds is checkpoint

Saturday, April 18th-St. Mark's Medical Center Birthing Classes from 8am to 5pm

Monday, April 20th- J.D. Giddings Masonic Lodge will present the Community Builders Award at 6:30

Tuesday, April 21st- Walk-In Coffee at Martin Luther Lutheran Church from 10am to 1pm

Tuesday, April 21st-Chamber Board of Directors meet at Noon at Citizens National Bank

Friday, April 24th- 16th Annual API Golf Tournament from 8am to 5pm-Contact Wayne Galipp

Friday, April 24th-Relay for Life BBQ on a Bun fundraiser for First Baptist Church

Saturday, April 25th-Spring Fling Arts & Crafts and Downtown Shopping Extravaganza 10am to 4pm

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! ☺

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.



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