

Coming Together to bring you the latest Community News



(All photos provided by the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce)

Chamber News

Weslaco Staycation packages available

The Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce is participating in the Upper Valley's Staycation promotion.

The Hidalgo County Tourism Coop coordinates and promotes the Staycation project throughout the Valley and on the web to entice residents and visitors to discover the great things to see and do close to home. You don't have to travel far to enjoy the summer with Staycation packages offering hotel and activity packages bundled together, creating a savings for the vacationer.

For more information on the Weslaco Staycation packages call the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce at 968-2102 or visit www.weslaco.com and click on the Staycation link.



Chamber ready to produce new guide and map

The staff at the Chamber is working hard on the next Weslaco Magazine which is used as a guide to newcomers, visitors, businesses, tourists, birders as well as distributed to Visitors Centers throughout the state.

The magazine is a snapshot of Weslaco, providing information about shopping, dining, churches, schools as well as demographics and other critical information about the area. The updated Map is also in production where Weslaco and the Mid Valley is depicted accurately in a very easy to read format, including a city street guide. Both are a perfect resource for potential new businesses, residents and consumers. Call the Chamber offices at 968-2102 for more information on how you can advertise in the publications.



Chamber readies for new fiscal year with a GO GREEN attitude

The Weslaco Chamber is embarking on a new venture for our community as we embrace the GREEN revolution. It isn't just a fad to say reduce, reuse, recycle, it has become a way of life. The Chamber intends to recognize businesses that want to be part of the shift. Businesses who are taking better care of our environment and community in which we live are invited to join the Chamber's new program.

The Weslaco Beautiful Committee is taking the lead on the program. A survey will be sent to member businesses with questions pertaining to Green practices they may use as well as environment-friendly products and services they provide to their customers. Awards will be given to the businesses for their efforts and hard work demonstrated in making a greener workplace and the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce will promote those businesses. Weslaco Beautiful will also host workshops to teach green methods. Whether you're the boss or the employee, whether your office is green already or still waiting to see the light, some practical steps can lay the groundwork for a healthy, low-impact workspace.

Over the next year the Chamber will hold workshops, bringing people together to discuss the ways your business can take the next step. To learn more about the program call the Chamber at 968-2102.

Two films in production in the Rio Grande Valley

The Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce along with many Rio Grande Valley businesses are supporting the efforts of local filmmaker David Rice in the production of "Gone Hollywood" and "Scavengers", two films being produced in collaboration with national talent from Los Angeles, New York and Miami.

Executive Producer David Haines and Rice are shooting the film for the next five weeks in the Edcouch/Elsa area. Both movies will be family friendly positive films reflecting the Valley's true values of family, friends and faith.

Rice, a Valley native is tired of seeing the area depicted as a violent drug culture and says it is time to take control of



From left, David Haines, executive producer; Demetrius Navarro, director; Mario Ortiz, director of photography.

and God and believes with that everything is possible. "I take the responsibility of protecting and guarding the integrity of the community very seriously," Haines said. "We don't want to be like the circus that comes to town that takes and doesn't give



Ron and Nancy's Little Italy receives Beautification Award

In 2005 Ron and Nancy Moshier bought their dream restaurant in Weslaco after spending years in the community Winter Texans. Their hard work in renovating and landscaping the property has paid off in receiving the Weslaco Beautiful Commercial Beautification Award.

After five years of hard work in their garden in the front as well as on the side of the restaurant the couple has transformed it into a beautifully landscaped property beaming with curb appeal. The restaurant, located at 425 S. International Blvd. in Weslaco just south of Expressway 83, was previously a fast food restaurant before the Moshiers started Little Italy. The couple had quite a challenge in beautifying the property transforming it with a brick garden in the front planting a full spectrum of plants from palms to incredibly colorful flora that attract butterflies and birds alike. They also grow their own basil and mint in the garden for use in their recipes.

"We love our customers and love to share our lives with everyone in the community. As for winning the Beautification Award from the City of Weslaco, we just want to say... Grazie!"

For more information about Little Italy visit the restaurant's website at www.littleitaly.com.

The Weslaco Beautiful Beautification Awards are designed to recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations that contribute to community pride through excellence in landscaping, beautification and continued property maintenance. To learn more about the Beautification Awards call the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce at 956-968-2102.



Weslaco Beautiful Honors Local Resident with Beautification Award

Newlyweds Dustin and Ashley Dickerson have found working together in their home's beautiful yard a rewarding experience and hope to be an example for others in their neighborhood.

Bright colorful flowering plants throughout the garden delight and welcome visitors as they walk to the front door. The couple used hearty plants that withstand the heat such as gerber daisies, lantana, plumbago with gorgeous green ground covering. Vivid flowering crepe myrtles throughout the yard lend height and additional color up against their gorgeous home in the Southgate Woods subdivision.

The Dickersons both lead busy lives; he is a farmer and she works for Idea Public Schools. They enjoy their time together taking pride and careful care of their home's landscape.

The Weslaco Beautiful Residential Beautification Awards, cosponsored by the Tip of Texas Orchid Society, are designed to recognize the efforts of individuals and organizations that contribute to community pride through excellence in landscaping, beautification and continued property maintenance.

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back. This has become a fair exchange where the community is part of this endeavor and we will give back to it a positive and enlightening film that shines on the Rio Grande Valley," he added.

The production of these two films are not only boosting the area's economy to the tune of more than \$300,000, the advancement for the young professionals in the area who have the opportunity to hone their craft working side by side with industry professionals has been immeasurable.

There are actors, producers and directors here working with local talent offering mentorship, guidance and motivation that has proven to be invaluable. "Valley talent can succeed while they turn the national spotlight back on their home turf," Rice added. This crew is working more than 12 hour days, pursuing their dreams.

The staff of the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce sees this as an opportunity to lend a hand to a project that is stepping up to the plate to illustrate the Valley's people as honest hard working individuals. Martha Noell, President and CEO of the Chamber is happy to offer support to the filmmakers. "Too often we see movies or hear stories that are negative depicting the Valley as a violent region." She adds, "This is a perfect example of people who come together and tell the true story of our beautiful Rio Grande Valley and the people who live here."

Many Valley communities and businesses are supporting the venture with film locations, hotel rooms, food for the crew and transportation.

Welcome New Members

CHARMING PEDIATRICS

Children from birth to 18 years of age are welcomed into a warm and caring atmosphere by Dr. Jocelyn Oakes of Charming Pediatrics. The doctor and her affectionate staff see their patients on a by-appointment basis making taking the time and care necessary for each child's needs. The office procedures are efficient in order to make sure patients and their loved ones do not wait too long to see the doctor. Call Charming Pediatrics at 447-4200 for more information.