



Coming Together to bring you the latest Community News

Mid-Valley
Town Crier
Community News from the Heart of the Valley
(All photos provided by the Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce)

CHAMBER EVENT

City manager Olivares addresses the public at Good Morning Weslaco

Special to MVTC

The Weslaco Chamber of Commerce hosted the monthly Good Morning Weslaco breakfast event on Thursday, July 14 at Savory Perks Coffee House. Guest speaker Leonardo Olivares, Weslaco's city manager, gave an update on the current happenings of the city.

Olivares discussed the city's financial state which, at the moment, shows that Weslaco is doing better financially than the United States as a whole. The three major sources of income the city receives are property taxes, sales taxes, and bonds and fees.

Olivares remarked about Weslaco's competitive property tax, which he feels shouldn't be raised to keep that edge.

Sales taxes, he says, have actually gone up. In the past few months, Weslaco has shown an increase in retail sales revenue, which is a good sign of economic growth. The one source the city has more control on, Olivares said, is bonds and fees.

The city's infrastructure was another issue that was discussed. Though it's been a priority for the city, it has also been a financial challenge.

To build a new water plant, the cost is roughly at \$18 million. Weslaco's water treatment capacity is already at 100 percent, which proves the urgent need for an additional facility.

Olivares reported that an engineering firm has already been hired, and a preliminary engineering report has been created to determine



City Manager Leonardo Olivares speaks to Chamber members at the monthly Good Morning Weslaco breakfast event July 14.

initial details such as the location, size and type of water treatment facility, as well as the future demands of the community in the next 5 to 20 years. The next phase is the design phase, which looks to be in the near future.

Olivares also commented on Weslaco's promising growth and the potential the city has. With the Department of Public Safety regional office opening in Weslaco, along with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council relocating here, Weslaco will see 275 more jobs bringing more income for the city.

With regional entities locating to Weslaco, Olivares says that really reaffirms

Weslaco's strategic location in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Customs and Border Patrol Federal Inspection Processing Center is another example of Weslaco's promising future. Olivares commented on the fact that many companies are now interested in expanding their operations and locating in Weslaco, which in turn, means more jet fuel sales for the city.

This is a major source of revenue for the airport, and the increase in activity brings more financial credibility for companies looking to invest.

"I was really excited when I got [to Weslaco]," Olivares stated. "I really believe in the community and I see a lot of potential."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Border BBQ
1200 W. Pike
Weslaco, TX 78596

Open Monday - Saturday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Family owned and operated, Border BBQ serves delicious BBQ with a variety of sides, using family recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation. Breakfast tacos available from 7 - 10 a.m.

Texas National Bank
201 S. Texas
Mercedes, TX 78570
Ph: (956) 565-2485
Fax: (956) 565-5050

Banking Hours
Lobby:
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Motor Bank:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
At Texas National Bank, customers come first. Quality employees treat customers right to ensure a better banking experience. Serving the Rio Grande Valley since 1920, Texas National Bank has grown to offer two convenient locations - Mercedes and Edinburg. Texas National Bank also offers online banking to all customers so they can access their account information at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CHAMBER NEWS



Chamber of Commerce moves to temporary building

The Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce and Business Visitors Center will be moving into a new location at 255 S. Texas.

The Weslaco Chamber, along with the EDC, will make its new permanent home in the south part of City Hall. While that new facility is still under construction, the chamber will be at the former Laredo National Bank building just south of Keno Café.

The new building at City Hall will house the Weslaco EDC, Chamber of Commerce, and Business and Visitors Center, complete with meeting rooms. The first phase of the project will be completed in early 2012. Once that is completed, construction will begin on a new Event Center in the same building.

"We're excited about the new facility at City Hall," commented Martha Noell, President. "In the meantime, we'll be fully operating out of our temporary location on Texas Blvd."

Contact information including P.O. Box number, phone number and email addresses will remain the same. P.O. Box 8398
Weslaco, TX 78599
956-968-2102
chamber@weslaco.com



CASABLANCA
3rd Annual
GALA &
AUCTION
Friday, August 26, 2011
Victoria Palms Resort
Cocktails 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 7:30 p.m.
Dance till midnight

Chamber to host 3rd annual Gala & Auction Aug. 26

The Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their 3rd Annual Gala & Auction on Friday, August 26 at Victoria Palms in Donna. This year's theme is "Casablanca", and tickets are on sale at the Weslaco Chamber Office for \$100 each. Sponsor tables available. Call 968-2102 for more information.

The Weslaco Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit organization, works for the development and voice of business success in Weslaco by providing opportunities for all businesses and individuals who invest in the community. The chamber has a proud history of providing its members with high quality programs, leadership and business support. Funds raised from the event will be used to better serve the members and in the promotion of Weslaco as a place to live, visit, and invest.



Pictured (from left) Austin Payne, Bud Payne, Chris Warren - Weslaco Beautiful, and Mark Payne.

Payne Auto wins Commercial Beautification Award

Special to MVTC

The Weslaco Beautiful Committee presented Payne Motors with the Commercial Beautification Award for their extensive landscaping at their business along Expressway 83 in Weslaco.

Owner Bud Payne explained that he initially met with Steve Walker from the Texas Department of Transportation to discuss details such as what kind of plants he could have along the expressway, which ones would survive on little water, etc.

Being right along Expressway 83, TxDOT suggested soft tissue plants that would be less damaging in the case of someone accidentally crashing into it.

The landscaping design was a joint effort between

TxDOT, the City of Weslaco, and Weslaco Motors, showing what a program along the expressway could look like, that plants could live along the expressway and that you can have a nice, full landscape with a lot of greenery.

"The recognition is always nice," remarked Bud Payne. "Sometimes when you're on the expressway it's hard to get people to slow down enough to notice that you're trying hard to be a good citizen as a steward of our resources as well as part of the Valley community."

Weslaco Beautiful, a committee of the Weslaco Chamber of Commerce, was established to develop and expand the awareness of recycling and litter prevention and work for the beautification and preservation of Weslaco's natural resources.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



De La Garza Family Dental celebrated its new location on Westgate. Tours of the new office facility were given.



Border BBQ held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, July 13.



Taco My Way held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, June 30.

Green Tip, Chris Warren, Weslaco Beautiful

We at Weslaco Beautiful encourage the citizens of the Mid-Valley to REDUCE (Do you really need that much clothing or all those shoes or household items?), REUSE (Those newspapers and old towels can be used by your veterinarian, and plastic grocery bags have many ways to be reused.) and RECYCLE (Take those plastic bags back to the HEB store or Walmart on your next trip, and use the recycling programs at Lowe's, Home Depot, Office Depot, etc.). It's easy to be green!



LEFT: AT&T held a Business After Hours Mixer on Tuesday, July 5. Pictured here is Area Manager Olympia Reyes along with the rest of the staff at AT&T Mobility.