



# Chamber News



Winter 2010

## Franklin's Christmas Parade & Party

This year's parade had 54 entries (many with multiple vehicles), and more floats than ever! There was also a record number of houses and businesses who entered the "Best Decorated" contest, which helped Franklin look very festive for the Christmas season!

With so many parade entries, decorated houses and decorated businesses, the judges had a very hard time this year! The prize winners were:

- ▶ 1st place float: \$300 and a trophy to Franklin Girl Scout Troop #9401
- ▶ 2nd place float: \$200 and a trophy to Franklin FFA



- ▶ 3rd place float: \$100 and a trophy to Franklin Lionette Dance Team



- ▶ 1st place non-float: \$100 and a trophy to Double S Dazzlers Twirling
- ▶ 2nd place non-float: \$50 and a trophy to Brazos Valley Model A Ford Club

- ▶ Best Decorated Business: Country Flowers. For their prize, the Chamber board will cook a steak lunch for them (when the weather warms up!)

- ▶ Best Decorated House: Kadie Johnson received \$50 and the "official" Best Decorated House sign to display in her yard.



After the parade, the community Christmas party was held at the Pidgeon Center. Refreshments were provided by the Chamber, and the

Franklin Lions Club offered a chili/hot dog supper. Live entertainment was provided by soloists Lisa Brown, Lori Hull and Cary Crow. Entertainment was also provided by the South New Hope Baptist Praise/Dance team. Santa found out what the children



wanted for Christmas and gave each of them a big candy cane.

During the party, Chamber president Mike Brewer presented Derek Scott with a plaque to show the Chamber's appreciation for all the many ways he helps the Chamber.

The Chamber thanks the sponsors of this year's Christmas parade and party - EnCana Oil & Gas, Twin Oaks Power and Derek Scott's Auto Park. Thanks also to everyone who participated in the parade, all the homes and businesses who helped decorate Franklin for the Christmas season, and the volunteers who helped make the parade and party possible. Special thanks to Coach Knight for announcing the parade, Judge Jan Roe for announcing the party (and singing with the kids), Derek Scott for controlling the sound system during the party, everyone who provided entertainment at the party, the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department for helping line up the parade, the parade judges - Steve Jones, Evelyn




Thank you to Stacey Reynolds Photography for providing the parade photos.




## Silverado Raffle Truck Given Away

The winning raffle ticket for the 2010 Silverado truck was drawn by Carly Nichols, the parade theme contest winner, at the Community Christmas Party. The winning ticket belonged to Charles Laws. Mr. Laws, who has a ranch near Buda, Texas, bought his ticket at the Pidgeon Center while attending a Farm/Ranch management seminar put on by the Robertson County AgriLife Extension Office. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket, and to Derek Scott's Auto Park for helping us get the truck. The proceeds will be used to help promote the Franklin area.

**Sunday February 7**  
Come watch the Super Bowl on the **145" diagonal screen** at the Pidgeon Community Center! This will be a BYOB and BYOC event. (BYOC is Bring Your Own Couch or Chair, unless you don't mind sitting in the Center's chairs!) The Chamber will provide snacks and sodas, but you may want to bring some of your own too.

 **FRANKLIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
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Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center located in the Pidgeon Community Center at 351 Cooks Lane (off Highway 79)  
Hours: 8:30am - 4pm



**RIBBON CUTTING & OPEN HOUSE** 11am Tuesday January 26, 402-B Decherd Street Franklin, Texas, (next to Styles Unlimited)

## Board Members Elected

Thank you for your participation in the December board member election. Mike Brewer, Brad Ely and Steve Jenkins were elected to serve three-year terms starting in 2010 and ending in 2012. Thank you to Mike for the



six years he has already served on the board, and Linda Braswell and Kevin Gassen for the three years they served on the board.



## Membership Renewals

The Chamber Board of Directors, and Peggy and Betty in the Chamber office, thank each and every one of our members for the support you give us. Your support helps us promote our community in the following ways:

- ◆ We use YOUR ideas about what the Franklin area needs so we can improve our community.
- ◆ We hold events so we can mingle and share ideas (Christmas Parade & Party, Tailgate Party, Annual Meeting and our new event this year - a Super Bowl Party).
- ◆ We advertise our community through [www.franklintexas.com](http://www.franklintexas.com), and printed publications such as the **Franklin Guidebook**, Brazos Trail publications and other advertising opportunities that come along.

By being a member, you have:

- ◆ a voice in our community,
- ◆ opportunities to mingle and network at Chamber events (along with free meals!), and
- ◆ discounts on rentals of the Pridgeon Community Center.

In addition, we support our Chamber business members by promoting your products and services:

- ◆ We provide you with a free yellow page listing in the **Franklin Guidebook**,
- ◆ We provide you with a free listing on [www.franklintexas.com](http://www.franklintexas.com), including a link to your business web site,
- ◆ We make many referrals for your business through the many phone calls that come into the Chamber office, and
- ◆ We provide free ribbon cuttings and ground breakings.

Information to renew your Chamber membership and **Franklin Guidebook** advertising is enclosed with this newsletter. Please be sure to fill out the "New Year Planning" section to help us set our goals for 2010. *Thank you for your support!*



Thank you to Kevin Gassen for helping Derek Scott install the Pridgeon Center's new sound system, and for building a cabinet for the sound system and a shelf for the utility room.

## Update on Chamber Projects

Based on your input last year about the needs of the Franklin area, the Chamber board selected a list of projects to "tackle". An update on these projects follows.

► **Beautification - Franklin signs on US 79:** We are very fortunate that Chamber board member Bob Ruth is a landscape architect! Bob has helped us with many projects in the past - designing and overseeing the construction of the new LED sign and patio at the Pridgeon Center, having the Center repainted, and purchasing furniture items for the Center. Bob is currently designing new "Welcome to Franklin" signs for US 79 and FM 46.

► **Beautification - Greenbelt Expansion -** Bob is also working on the expansion of the landscaped area along US 79 which currently exists only for short amounts on each side of the traffic signal.

► **Health - Clinic/Hospital:** The feasibility analysis from ProjX, the consultants retained by the Chamber, City and County, has been received. The Economic Development Committee will meet soon to discuss the results of the analysis.

► **Safety - Helipad for Emergency Medical Services:** First Star Bank has broken ground on a helipad for Robertson County. The helipad will be located next to First Star Bank in Franklin. **Thank you First Star for doing this for Robertson County!**

► **Safety - Street light at intersection of Cooks Lane and US 79:** There is a new 400 watt street light at the Cooks Lane/US 79 intersection. Thank you to Mayor Ellison for getting this project done!

► **Safety - Sidewalk on FM 1644:** In



FRANKLIN  
AREA  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE

*Board of Directors:*  
Mike Brewer, President  
Rayne Knight, Vice President  
Jimmie McCullough, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jerry Baxter  
Brad Ely  
Steve Jenkins  
Bob Ruth  
Kim Scott  
Jennifer Stegall  
*Executive Director:*  
Peggy Baxter  
*Administrator:*  
Betty Adams

March of last year, Congress Chet Edwards came to Franklin to formally announce that he had secured \$332,500 for a sidewalk on FM 1644. The paperwork to obtain the grant has been processed and approved, but payment has not yet been received.

► **Recreation - Basketball facility:** The City of Franklin is working on a new basketball pavilion.

► **Recreation - Walking trail:** The Chamber board put this project on hold until the sidewalk on FM 1644 is completed.

► **Environment - Recycling Center:** The Chamber and City are working with a recycling service to learn more about what would be involved in having a recycling collection center in Franklin.

► **Technology -** According to Kevin Gassen, Texas Communications is working on a line-of-sight high speed Internet for Robertson County. It will operate from the new emergency services tower north of Franklin on Maris Lane. They plan to cover a 15-mile radius from the tower and expect to be operational during the first quarter of 2010.



## Mark the Date

The Franklin Lions Club is planning a festival to be held in Franklin on May 1. Details will be in the local newspapers as plans are finalized.

## New Ceilings for Pridgeon Center

The ceiling of the Main Hall of the Pridgeon Center has a new look. The 2'x4' sagging ceiling tiles were replaced with new 2'x2' tiles. Also, Best Western Franklin Inn & Suites donated new ceiling tiles for the three meeting rooms in the Pridgeon Center. Instead of "plain" ceiling tiles as seen in most offices (and in the meeting rooms before the change), each of these tiles is divided into eight smaller tiles that slightly drop down from the ceiling. The tiles help "dress up" the rooms. Next time you are in the Pridgeon Center, look up!

## Scholarship Fund Fashion Show

The first ever Franklin Scholarship Fund Fashion Show is in the planning stages. Anyone who is interested in helping in the planning of this event should contact Cindy Permann at Elaine's Steel Magnolia Hair Salon at 828-3366.

Don't forget that  
**Copy Services**

are now  
available at the  
Chamber office.



*Special pricing for Chamber members.*