



Chamber News



Spring 2010

Annual Membership Banquet

The annual meeting of the Chamber was held on April 8 at the Pridgeon Community Center. Chamber Board Vice President Rayne Knight welcomed everyone to the banquet, and thanked the banquet sponsors -



Best Western Franklin Inn & Suites (Platinum Sponsor), Luminant (Platinum), Twin Oaks Power (Gold) and Atmos Energy (Silver).

After a delicious dinner, Chamber Secretary/Treasurer Jimmie McCullough presented the 2010 Recognition Awards. The

2010 winners are Sharon Elliot, Volunteer of the Year, Guaranty Title,

Business of the Year and 5th grade science teacher Rita Williams, Educator of the Year. Representative Jim Dunnam presented each of the winners with a flag that had flown over the Texas State Capitol. Jonathan Glueck of Congressman Chet Edwards' office presented each of the winners with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol.

The 10-year anniversary of the Pridgeon Community Center was celebrated during the evening. Jimmie McCullough explained how the Pridgeon Center was made possible due to a gift to the Chamber from Lewis & Nayrue Pridgeon. The members of the 1999-2000 Building Com-



Rep. Jim Dunnam (far right) presented flags to Stephen Boykin, Sharon Elliott and Rita Williams

mittee were recognized, as well as the 1999 and 2000 Chamber Boards of Directors since these people were involved in the planning and construction of the building. Many door prizes were given throughout the evening to celebrate the anniversary: Lone Star Burger Bar - rib eye dinner for two, Dianne Schluter - Texas A&M Scent Warmer, Knuckleheads - \$50 gift certificate & Franklin Lions shirt, Nelda Smith - oil painting, Mayor Charles Ellison - print of original painting, Sleep Inn &



Jimmie McCullough presents Martha Galick with one of the door prizes

Suites - two one night stays in King Jacuzzi Suite, Representative Jim Dunnam - a print of the State Capitol, and M&M Farm Supply - \$75 gift certificate. As a special gift, attendees were given a 64" Franklin Lion's/Chamber of Commerce golf umbrella.



Rayne Knight and Jerry Baxter discussed the Chamber activities and projects during the year. The landscape plan for the expansion of the Greenbelt area along U.S. 79 was displayed for everyone to see.

Ten Project Graduation high school students helped during the evening. They earned \$800 in tips, which is much more than they have ever made at this event in the past.



Project Graduation Students

Community Leadership Meeting

On April 5, the Chamber hosted a meeting for the leaders of the Franklin Community. Dinner for the meeting was provided by First Star Bank. Twenty community leaders attended the meeting, including County Judge Jan Roe, Mayor

Charles Ellison, FISD Superintendent Bret Lowry and representatives from the City Council, Chamber Board, Franklin 4A and 4B tax committees, and the Franklin



City Councilwoman Olivia Campbell, Mayor Charles Ellison, Chamber Board Member Jerry Baxter and Chamber Board Member Bob Ruth

pastoral alliance. The leadership meetings are not used for decision making, only for sharing ideas and suggestions on how the groups can work together to solve problems and plan for the future.

Judge Roe gave an update on the progress of the Courthouse Annex. She explained how the County is working with the Texas Historical Commission to preserve our history while allowing the growth of our county seat. Restoration of the Courthouse is planned after the Courthouse Annex is completed.

Superintendent Lowry discussed the proposed sidewalk on FM 1644, which will extend from the high school to the four-way stop at Hearne Street. The school district is awaiting approval from the Texas Department of Transportation before construction can begin. Once approval is received, the project will be put out for bids. Mr. Lowry stated that they hope construction of the sidewalk will occur this summer.

Chamber Board member Bob Ruth, who is a landscape architect, shared drawings he had prepared for the expansion of the landscaped area along U.S. 79 (the "Greenbelt"). The plans include tree and shrub plantings in several areas along the highway, new Franklin welcome signs, and a kiosk for the El Camino Real de los Tejas Trail. Limestone blocks will be used in the landscaped areas to provide a consistent theme throughout the Greenbelt. Financing for this expansion will be sought through economic development funds.

Chamber Board member Jimmie McCullough reported
See Leadership on back



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

Town Hall Meeting



The Chamber co-hosted a Town Hall Meeting at the Pidgeon Community Center on April 22 to discuss ways Franklin can overcome community health problems such as the prevention of underage drinking, elimination of substance abuse and creation of programs for youth.

Judge Jan Roe was the moderator for the meeting. Topics discussed included signs and symptoms of drug abuse, drug trends, the Boys and Girls Club of Robertson County, the new Parent Resource Center to be started in Franklin, and new programs being implemented by Robertson County EMS.



The general consensus of the audience was that Town Hall Meetings of this type need to be held more often.

Panelists included RCEMS Director Chris Lamb, Municipal Court Judge Bobby Nickelson, FHS Principal Stacy Ely, Reynolds Elementary Asst. Principal Courtney Mason, City Councilman Ralph McKinney, City Councilman Ferman Richard and Sheriff Gerald Yezak

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



FRANKLIN
 AREA
 CHAMBER OF
 COMMERCE

Leadership

Cont'd from front page

that the financial feasibility analysis for a hospital in Franklin has been completed. The Economic Development Committee will soon meet to develop a marketing plan to distribute the results of the analysis. The committee has already received requests from three hospitals for copies of the analysis.

Mayor Ellison reported that the City plans to build a basketball pavilion on the south side of the railroad tracks, across from Calvert Street. However the project is currently on hold until additional 4B tax funds can be accumulated.

City Councilwoman Olivia Campbell and Chamber Executive Director Peggy Baxter reported on a meeting they had with Charlie Mancuso regarding establishment of a recycling center in Franklin. Judge Roe discussed the need to have recycling centers county-wide. The City, County and Chamber will continue to work on this project.

The need for improvements to the City Park was discussed. Tina Ely, 4B tax committee member, expressed concerns about the restrooms in the park. Mayor Ellison agreed that restrooms should be a priority.

Peggy Baxter showed sample banners for the light poles along U.S. 79 so banners can be displayed year round. The banners included welcome banners, Franklin Lion's banners and patriotic banners. Also included were banners to promote the historic courthouse square, the Carnegie Library, the Pidgeon Center, the El Camino Real de los Tejas trail and the Brazos Trail. She will apply for Hotel Occupancy Tax funds for the project.

Additional discussions included expansion of the Pidgeon Community Center and the need for a senior center in Franklin.

Visit www.franklintexas.com for upcoming events in the area.

New Businesses . . . a symbol of growth and progress



A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house were held on January 26 at Farm Bureau Insurance's Franklin office at 402-B Decherd Street.



Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held on April 24 at Amigos Restaurant and TAME Hair Salon located on U.S. 79. George Dixon (photo on right, center) from Rep. Jim Dunning's office attended the ceremonies.



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Ideas from Chamber members



RECREATION
 Walking trail
 Nice park
 Basketball facility
 Red Box
 Dances

Senior Center
 Community plays
 Swimming pool
 Community Recreation Center
 Exercise center
 Aerobic classes
 Bowling alley
 Something for youth
 Putt, Putt
 Rodeo arena
 Carnival
 Weight loss boot camp

HEALTH

Hospital/Clinic
 Full time physician
 Full time dentist



More Restaurants

Sidewalk on FM 1644

Community Room at Pidgeon Center

Larger variety at grocery store

Better access to a Christian radio station

Clothing & shoe stores

Wal-Mart or Target

Drop off boxes for Goodwill, Twin City Mission or Salvation Army

Lower truck raffle ticket price

Beer & wine sales

Rural high speed Internet



COMMERCE

Farmers Market,

3-5 Metal rent spots for crafts & trades

Quarterly trades days in Pidgeon Center parking lot



BEAUTIFICATION

Recycling center
 Zoning

Clean up vacant lots & houses
 Refuse pickup for large items
 Encourage beautification
 Christmas decorations on both sides of US 79
 New Christmas banners
 Year round banners on US 79
 Expansion of landscaped area on US 79
 New Welcome to Franklin signs

ROADS

Fix roads in town
 Paved streets
 Lower speed limit on US 79 & FM 1644
 Stop signs
 Yield signs
 Street sweeper
 Leash law

