

PROGRESS

Leading Businesses...Leading Communities...

Chairman's Message

Well...another month has gone by. Time passes quickly when we are kept busy! Charro days are here and a lot of fun had by many! Including many of our members at the Wells Fargo Charro Days Mixer. I want to thank Wells Fargo for continued support of our Chamber and the community. I want to thank all our supporters and especially the committees and members of the committees that help make all the great activities of the Chamber happen. Without these great volunteers little would get done. We are blessed to have such a tremendous group.

You probably know by now that the TSC board of Trustees voted to separate from the partnership with UTB. I have written about this before and as distressful as it is, we have to address the issue.

I have asked in this column and practically everybody I know including the Chamber Board, for reasons why this is happening. So far, what I've gotten is that "so and so did that" or "so and so did not



Robert Berry
International Shipbreaking

do this". I read ads in the Herald shouting about all the bad people. And, articles and ads that say we have to do one thing or the other for "the students". Frankly I am tired of all this. What I have learned is that our local students are paying the highest tuition and fees of any college in the State of Texas. Out of 50 colleges, UTB/TSC has the highest tuition and fees by at least double and triple the cost of 80% of the 50 colleges. This fact get's glossed over by both sides of the issue. I am at a loss to see how this is for "the students". But, maybe that's just me.

continued on page 5 (Chairman's Message)

Dance the Night Away!

Join the Chamber for the 12th Annual Diamond Ball!

Get ready for a night of Glitz and Glamour! The Bienvenidos Committee will once again give-away a One-Carat Diamond at the 12th Annual Diamond Ball scheduled for Saturday, March 26th at La Cantera Restaurant & Event Center.

The Diamond Ball is the Committee's Spring fundraiser, a black-tie dinner and dance, so named because a one carat diamond is always given away to one lucky person at the ball. Once again, Nevill Imaging Solutions will generously sponsor

the one carat diamond.

For our music enjoyment, the Latin jazz band, "The Brew" has promised nothing less than entertainment excellence.

Best known in the California area for their remake of Hall & Oates "Sara Smile," they have been played extensively on radio stations WAVE in Los Angeles, CA, various radio stations in Sonoma County, CA, the WAVE in Houston, and OASIS in Dallas. An accomplished band with

an incredible grass roots following, The Brew has opened for such diverse notables as the Rippingtons, George Howard, Everette Harp, Jeff Lorber, Chuchito Valdez, Hiroshima, Acoustic Alchemy, Larry Coryell, and Kirk Whalum. Recently, "The Brew" has spent a lot of time in the studio working on a new CD for release very soon. Much anticipated is the release of The Brew's 5th CD in 20 years.

continued on page 6 (Diamond Ball)

Shining Star Customer Service Award



March's Shining Star Customer Service Award is presented to Steve Torres of Gateway Printing & Office Supply, Inc. Steve Torres delivers exceptional customer service. Distance and effort are no object in the search for the means to satisfy his clients. The words, "this cannot be done" do not exist in his vocabulary. Steve is determined, fast, patient, dedicated and always courteous, which make him a first-class customer service

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Chamber and Wells Fargo Hosts Annual Charro Day Mixer!

On Wednesday, February 23rd, Wells Fargo hosted the 11th Annual Charro Days Mixer. The mixer helped kick-off the Charro Days festivities for the business community. It was a fun event for all 300 plus members in attendance.

Member Gourmet Central, catered a delicious Mexican food spread prepared with all the special trimmings while NEO Music provided DJ and karaoke services. Guests dressed in colorful Charro costumes, and unique gowns.

tumes, and unique gowns.

The mixer was a chance for members to relax, unwind, and enjoy the Charro festivities. Special thanks to Wells Fargo, L&F Distributors, Inc., Valley Coca Cola Bottling Company and to all the volunteers who helped make this yearly event a success! Moreover, thank you to Carino's Italian, Cornerstone Plumbing Contractors, IT Computer Solutions, Las Palmas Pharmacy, MaddAbbie's

Jewelry & Gifts, Pica's and Residence Inn by Marriott for the wonderful door prizes.

Additionally, the Chamber and Wells Fargo chose the Brownsville Literacy Center (BLC) as this years recipient of the mixer proceeds collected at the door. More than \$700.00 in donations were presented to the Brownsville Literacy Center during the program.

"I can't tell you how much we appreciate the efforts

of Wells Fargo and the Chamber," stated Maria Hinojose, President of BLC. "This donation will help the Brownsville Literacy Center further its mission to provide education programs designed to meet the literacy needs of Brownsville's underserved."

A Business After Hours Mixer planned and organized by the Chamber is the perfect opportunity to showcase your business or organization to other chamber members as well as

to the community. We hope that during your planning process you'll consider this opportunity. The Chamber is a great marketing tool that is often left undiscovered.

With cooperation from host businesses and event sponsors, the Chamber offers over three-dozen opportunities for members to network. Public Affairs Luncheons and Business-After-Hours Mixers expose your business to an average of 150 face-to-face

contacts at each event. Annual special events such as the golf tournament, trade shows and membership events offer you even more opportunities to network.

Remember, the Chamber is here to work for you. The staff is ready to work with you and your company to customize a mixer that is within your budget and one that will most benefit you, so pick up the phone and call 542-4341!



**For the most Current Calendar of Events
Visit Our Website at:
www.brownsvillechamber.com**

"Spirit of the Entrepreneur"

Eleven Women Kick off Women Entrepreneurs' Small Business Boot Camp

by Maria Nuez Hall
Ignite Consultants Plus

In February the Chamber kicked off the Women Entrepreneurs' Small Business Boot Camp. The eleven participants spent the day;

- Getting acquainted with each other.
- Understanding their strengths and challenges as uncovered in the Path Elements Profile (PEP™).
- Drafting a personal mission statement.
- A visualization exercise to begin the process of bringing clarity and focus to their entrepreneurial dream.
- Establishing a strong support network among the participants.

Our guest speaker, Suzanne Ramos, Regional President Border Banking Region of Wells Fargo Bank, shared three key points with the group regarding success for an Entrepreneur;

1. Vision - A clear vision

is vital for all businesses regardless of their size. It is the Entrepreneur's desire to be the best, to follow their passion and pursue their calling that will give them the fortitude needed to thrive in business.

2. Impact - Each one of us is a role model to other aspiring Entrepreneurs. Just being who you are and following your dreams is noble and worthy. Believe in yourself and your ability to make a difference.

3. Give Back (Pay It Forward) - We are blessed and fortunate to be able to do what we love. As an Entrepreneur you are a corporate citizen and you have an obligation to leave the world a better place.

A common denominator as the participants shared what they enjoyed the most about being an entrepreneur was Impact & Independence. The best piece of advice they would give to someone wanting to open their own business were the three P's; Passion,

Persistence and Patience.

At the end of our day participants shared the biggest impact they had experienced. The majority agreed that understanding and appreciating the unique abilities of themselves and others was a significant part of the workshop. Participants left with assignments to begin to unpack the vision for their business and life and to assess where they are now and how they need to stretch themselves over the next eight months of the program.

As the lead facilitator of this group I am humbled and blessed to be working with such a dynamic group of women and the collective wisdom we'll be able to leverage in our time together. Our first session laid the foundation for all of the hard work each participant will undertake as they learn about the various areas of business, the importance of having a working business plan and their personal journey of self-discovery.



Pictured left to right back row;Renzi Castro, Wells Fargo; Maria Nuez Hall, Ignite Consultants Plus; Celeste Garcia, Platinum Hair Design; Marina Garcia, Season's Home Health; Judith Lucio, Hamilton & Lucio, PC; Nina Thomas, Serenity Springs Day Spa & Hair Design; Suzanne Ramos, Wells Fargo; Karina Gutierrez, Constantino STYLELABB; Joe Atkinson, Wells Fargo. Front row left to right; Angela R. Burton, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce; Eva Woodfin, Community Development Corporation of Brownsville; Veronica Chavez, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce; Margie Magdaleno, Chick-fil-A; Bernie Gomez, Chick-fil-A; Lupita Cano, Sudarshan Eye Experts/Vista Optical; and Arely Pena, MaddAbbie's Jewelry & Gifts.

Brownsville's Cost of Living 14.3 percent Below National Average for 2010

According to the 2010 Annual Average Data release of the ACCRA Cost of Living Index, the cost of living in Brownsville averaged 14.3 percent below the national average for 2010, making Brownsville one most affordable cities in the nation. ACCRA is a nonprofit organization that promotes research for community and economic development and produces the ACCRA Cost of Living Index. The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce is responsible for conducting the research for the City of Brownsville.

The ACCRA Cost of Living

Index measures differences between areas in the cost of consumer goods and services, scoring a city's affordability on a scale of 100.

Brownsville fared best in the housing (70.8) and grocery items (88.6) categories. Costs were also below-average in misc. goods and services (91.3); transportation (95), health care (96.4), and utilities (93.4). Utilities category includes the price of electric power, natural gas and telephone. This measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. Survey participants are

those areas where chambers of commerce's and economic development organizations have volunteered to gather data.

The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce receives pricing report forms each quarter that require research and documentation for almost 60 categories such as grocery items, housing, utilities, mortgage quotations, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services. Over a two week period, the Chamber staff compiles the research data and submits it to ACCRA.

continued on page 5 (Cost of Living)



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*Manufacturers rebate offer valid for purchases made January 14 through April 29, 2011. Limitations and restrictions apply. Ask for details. © 2011 Hunter Douglas. ® and TM are trademarks of Hunter Douglas.



Residential Interiors

Mon.-Fri. 10 am to 6 pm • Sat 10:30 am to 1 pm
103 Expressway, Brownsville, TX
956-542-0172

Welcome! Bienvenidos! New Members

New Members as of
2-23-11

Anita's Restaurant & Tortilleria

Restaurants
Mr. Avi Schwarcz
795 Old Port Isabel Rd.
Brownsville, TX 78521-3571
Phone: (956) 542-8497
Fax: (956) 542-2451

Cornerstone Plumbing Contractors

Plumbing-Electric Supplies
Mr. Frank Cisneros
439 S. Browne Avenue
Brownsville, TX 78521-9304
Phone: (956) 243-4738

Gulf Coast Security LLC.

Security-Products, Systems,
Burglar & Fire Alarm &
Companies
Mr. Jesus De La Garza
2390 Central Blvd. Suite X
Brownsville, TX 78520-8717
Phone: (956) 544-1024
Fax: (956) 621-3248

Law Office of Estela Chavez Vasquez
Attorneys
Ms. Estela Chavez-Vasquez
955 E. Tyler
Brownsville, TX 78520-7137
Phone: (956) 548-1500
Fax: (956) 548-1501

Naismith Engineering, Inc.
Engineers-Civil-Consulting-Land Surveying
Ms. Anna Smith
789 E. Washington St.
Brownsville, TX 78520-5906
Phone: (956) 541-1155
Fax: (775) 305-2554

National Electric and Hardware

Industrial Supplies & Services
Mr. Jorge A. Garza
1205 E. Monroe St.
Brownsville, TX 78520-5843
Phone: (956) 548-6677
Fax: (956) 554-9390

Vicky's Cleaning

Janitorial Service
Ms. Virginia Cruz
816 East 10th., Apt A
Brownsville, TX 78520-5930
Phone: (956) 640-2082

Thank You! Gracias! Renewed Members

Renewed Members as of
2-23-11

Alivio Pain & Injury Recovery Center
February 3, 2009

Brownsville Elks Lodge #1032
September 21, 2007

Brownsville Navigation District (Port of Brownsville)
January 29, 1989

Brownsville Scrap Paper, Inc.
February 4, 2005

Bryan, Gonzalez Vargas y Gonzalez Baz, S.C.
January 14, 2004

Coastal Automation & Supply
February 14, 2006

Community Link
February 12, 2007

Dr. Francisco J. Del Castillo, M.D.
January 19, 2001

Dutch Fisher Real Estate
February 3, 2009

Electric Fixture Supply
January 1, 1987

Financial Corporation of America
January 21, 2009

Gage Pintail Lodge
January 1, 1986

Gallegos Electric, Inc.
July 20, 1992

Garcia's Curios & Liquors
October 30, 1987

Garza & Garza, L.L.P.
January 1, 1987

Gilbert J. Ortiz Insurance & Real Estate
March 26, 2001

Gladys Porter Zoo
January 1, 1992

Gulf Stream Marine, Inc.
February 1, 1996

Hales - Bradford, L.L.P.
January 1, 1986

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
January 27, 2003

Homewood Suites by Hilton
February 17, 2000

Ignacio G. Martinez, P.C.
December 30, 2009

Kennedy Bag Impressions, Inc.
February 9, 1994

La Pampa Argentinean Steak House
January 14, 2005

Lawn Care Services
February 20, 2008

Lower Valley Dental Association, PA
February 3, 2009

Manuel G. Guajardo, M.D.P.A.
January 1, 1987

Mary Kay - Nelly Burguete
November 19, 2009

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.
October 19, 2009

Seahorse Transportation
February 9, 1994

Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley, Inc.
February 4, 2008

Tejano Center for Community Concerns/ Raul Yzaguirre School for Success
August 9, 2002

The Shop
February 3, 2009

TIA, Inc.
March 21, 1995

Tropical Texas Behavioral Health
June 23, 2006

Valley International Airport
March 14, 2001

Valley International Supply
February 8, 2006

Valley Lubricants
January 1, 1987

Valley Trucking Co., Inc.
January 1, 1982

Walker Perez Associates
January 1, 1983

Wal-Mart Supercenter
January 1, 1983

Wells Fargo Advisors
January 1, 1987



On Tuesday, February 8, 2011 FedEx Office & Print Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of their newly remodeled office. The business has been opened for 15 years and was purchased by FedEx Kinkos in 2004. Recently they completed their transition from FedEx Kinkos to FedEx Office & Print Center. The Center offers copy service, fax, computer rentals and oversize printing. They also have pack and ship services and offer FedEx express and FedEx ground services.

On Friday, February 18, 2011 Chick-fil-A hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of their newly remodeled restaurant. Chick-fil-A is one of the largest privately owned restaurant chains in the nation. Today they are still carrying on the family tradition and keeping Chick-fil-A true to its roots; good people serving really good food every day except Sundays.



M2M Discount Card - Get yours at the Chamber!



It has been several months since the Member 2 Member Discount Program kicked off and the Chamber has heard positive feedback. Members are calling the chamber and commenting on how the discount card is working.

As of the end of February more than 57 Chamber members were registered to participate in the discount program. Angela Burton, President/CEO stated, "We launched the program to encourage business among

Chamber members." She continued by saying, "the advantages are numerous, members can save money when making purchases at participating Chamber merchants, those who participate will have additional advertising exposure and because of the program the capital stays within the community."

The M2M Discount Cards has been mailed to members along with their 2011 Chamber Decal as well as distributed at networking events. Additionally, M2M decals have been mailed to participating members so that patrons can identify their participation in the program. If you are a member and would like a M2M Discount

card please call the Chamber office or if your business would like to participate contact the Chamber at 542-4341.

Visit the following members for your discount or go to www.brownsvillechamber.com and click the M2M logo at the top right hand side.

Ace Eateries dba Denny's
Amazonia Restaurant Bar & Lounge
Anita's Tortilleria
Any Lab Test
Boogedy Bear's Partyland
Boost Mobile at Extravagant
C & C Wings
Carinos Italian
Carruthers Embroidery
Chili's Bar & Grill
Clinica Del Rey Plastic Surgery

& Cosmetic Center
CM Graphics & Signs
Cobbleheads Bar & Grill
Comfort Suites
Cornerstone Plumbing Contractors
Courtyard by Marriott
Cristy's Cake Shop
Dairy Queen West
Days Inn
El Pollo Loco Restaurant
Galaxy Bowling Center
Gold's Gym
Gonzalez & Arrambide, Inc.
Grass Unlimited
H & R Block
Holiday Inn
Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites
Homewood Suites by Hilton
Ignacio G. Martinez, P.C.
IT Computer Solutions
Jason's Deli

Kennedy Bag Impressions, Inc.
Krazy Knife Catering
La Condesa Cafe & Grill
La Quinta Inn & Suites
Las Palmas Pharmacy
Law Office of Estela Chaves Vasquez
Lawn Care Services
MaddAbbie's Jewelry & Gifts
Manpower Temporary Services
Mary Kay - Nelly Burguete
Mike's Tastes of Chicago
National Electric & Hardware
New York Deli II
NewSound Hearing Aid Center
Pica's
Platinum Hair Designs
Professional Printing, Inc.
Quiznos Sub

R.G.V. Killer Bees-Professional Hockey Club
Rancho Viejo Resort & Country Club
Residence Inn by Marriott - Brownsville
Rack Rate on Weekends
Sign Solution
Southern Stone, LLC
Staybridge Suites
Sudarshan Eye Experts/Vista Optical
Sunset Funeral Home
Taco Palenque Del Valle
Taco Pueblito, LLC
TechNet Consultants, Inc.
The Printers Border Press
Time Warner Cable (Media Sales)
Wing Barn
Wings Pizza N Things
Wink's Saloon Grill & Roping Arena

Wanted: Member Businesses to host Educator Interns

The Brownsville Business and Education Coalition, a Brownsville Chamber of Commerce initiative, has partnered for the fourth year with the Brownsville Independent School District to bring the Academic Leadership Alliance (ALA) Summer Educator Internship program to Brownsville. ALA is an initiative created in 2003 through a partnership of McAllen Economic Development Corporation, Region One ESC, and Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley.

The ALA Summer Educator Internship is a very structured business/education program that provides educators with experiential knowledge of job market demands by placing the educators in a business setting with the goal that the intern shares this information with their students in the classroom. In ALA's past seven years of operation, over 150 educators have partnered with valley employers to learn current business practices and identify critical skills needed in today's global competitive markets. Those practices and

skills are now being taught in classrooms.

Brownsville ISD has identified 10 high school teachers and 5 counselors to participate in the BBEC/ALA Summer Educator Internship this year and the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce is working to identify 15 employer partners to participate in the project.

On Saturday, May 21, 2011 participating educators and counselors will attend a training session in order to prepare them for the participating

employers and shortly after participating employers will attend a training session in preparation for the educator interns. The actual internships will begin June 13, 2011 and will continue thru June 23, 2011. The ALA program requires the educator interns to develop a lesson plan to be used in 2011-2012 school year and requires the employer to review and approve the lesson plan.

A debriefing luncheon will be hosted by BBEC on Thursday, June 30, 2011 in order for the

educator interns and the employers to share information and to discuss experiences.

Employers who participated last year are American Investigations & Security International, Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation, Brownsville Navigation District, Burton Companies, HEB, International Bank of Commerce, Michele Sanchez, PC, SGS Industrial Supply, Valley Baptist Medical Center and Valley Regional Medical Center.

The Brownsville Business and Education Coalition's mission is to provide, develop and encourage community support for excellence in education using appropriate methods and resources.

"Education is a key factor leading to economic growth. Business and education are interconnected," said Angela Burton, CEO of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

If you are interested in hosting an educator intern please contact Angela R. Burton at angela@brownsvillechamber.com or 956.542.4341.

continued from page 3 (Cost of Living)

CRA evaluation and later for publication.

The Cost of Living Index Calculator can be found on the

Chamber's website courtesy of Edward Jones. The Cost of Living Index Calculator allows web visitors to make cost of living comparisons between Brownsville and other communities. The calculator uses continu-

ously updated data pulled directly from the highly regarded ACCRA Cost of Living Index to make these comparisons. Visit www.brownsvillechamber.com/live/Cost_of_Living.asp to check out the calculator.

continued from page 1 (Chairman's Message)

Here's the end game. As far as I can see, the separation is now fact. Supporting education is one of the most important mandates of the Chamber. The Chamber Board sent a

letter supporting a partnership and has voted in support of the unification. Again, the separation is now fact. What must not happen is for political infighting to prevent the success of TSC and UTB. We must now work together

to do what has to be done to make a success of our higher educational system. I intend to do everything I can to assist in making this work. I ask our members and our community to join and help do it together.

A Passion to Connect

Chamber to host Communication Specialist Bill Drury

Social Media is bringing a significant change to the way marketing is done. Customers, potential customers and competitors interact every day through different Social Media channels to create advantages for everyone. Start-ups, individuals and well-established companies are creating new customers and increased profits from social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Some disturbing facts:

- Studies show that consumers prefer to work with businesses that have a strong social media presence. Businesses that ignore this changing environment do so at their peril
- One bad customer experience

can now be instantly blasted across Twitter or Facebook doing untold damage to a company's reputation

• Many businesses are using Social Media to broadcast information but don't know how to engage and connect with customers

On Wednesday, April 20, 2011, client communications expert Bill Drury, in collaboration with Google rated #1 Social Media expert Giovanni Gallucci, will present a workshop entitled, "A Passion to Connect" (Winning new customers and protecting your online reputation through effective Social Media Marketing). In years past, Drury was the National Training Con-

sultant for the Zig Zigar Corporation. He speaks, trains, and travels extensively, and has proven to be one of the most effective and entertaining speakers in the industry.

Passion to Connect™ is an action-packed 1/2 day workshop with proven strategies and techniques to help your business:

1. Protect your online reputation and avoid a Social Media train wreck
2. Discover the best ways to market your business with Facebook
3. Build your company image with Twitter and YouTube
4. Gain advantage from

this phenomenon and accomplished business goals

5. Build trust and rapport with customers and prospects
6. Stay connected
7. Improve customer satisfaction
8. Achieve sales growth
9. Avoid giving your competitors a significant advantage that'll be hard to overcome.
10. Network with your peers and share experiences
11. Understand where to invest your time most effectively
12. Generate leads and increase sales
13. Develop highly targeted advertisements with measurable results

14. Keep up with your industry

There are two sessions for your convenience.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Morning Session
 8:00 AM - Registration opens
 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon Repeat Session
 12:30 PM - Registration opens
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Brownsville/ SPI Board of Realtors, 1825 Central Blvd., Brownsville

Your investment will be discounted to \$89 per attendee or \$79 each for five or more registrants if you register by Wed., Apr. 6, 2011. If you register after Wed., Apr. 6,

2011 your investment is \$99.00 each for one attendee or \$89.00 each for five or more registrants.

Register Today by calling the Chamber 542-4341- Seating is Limited and Filling Fast

About our Speaker
 BILL DRURY is on a mission to help companies connect with customers. He speaks trains and travels extensively. Since beginning his professional speaking career in 1985, he has given over 2000 workshops. His lively presentations, tapes and videos have made him a recognized leader in the field of client communications. Bill has proven to be one of the most effective and entertaining speakers in the industry.

continued from page 1 (Shining Star)

shining star!

On behalf of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce thank you for making Brownsville "shine" with great customer service.

Nominate your favorite teller, clerk, food server, secretary, checker, colleague, news carrier...all chamber members qualify!

Fax 956-504-3348 or email angela@brownvillechamber.com your recognition, along with company name, employee name, and a brief write up about the customer service provided. Deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. Business must be a member in good standing of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

continued from page 1 (Diamond Ball)

The Diamond Ball is always a fun night for Chamber members, an opportunity for them to dress up in formal attire, take keepsake photos and dance the night away. Proceeds from this event are used to support committee activities, and to purchase the beautiful hand-made ceramic plaques that have been given to member businesses on behalf of Brownsville Chamber of Commerce.

The Bienvenidos Committee, chaired by Brunilda Villarreal, Farmers Insurance Group

- David Villarreal Insurance and co-chaired by Cris Garza of Sunset Funeral Home is one of the largest committees at the chamber. The committee takes an active role in Brownsville's economic development by officially welcoming new member businesses to the chamber and to our wonderful city.

The Bienvenidos Committee formed a sub committee called the Diamond Ball Committee lead by committee chairman Brunilda Villarreal, Farmer's Insurance Group, David Villarreal Insurance. Members (in no certain order) of the

committee are Brenda Perez of Frank E. Perez & Associates, Debbie Kerr- Musso of Gladys Porter Zoo, Dollie Lucio of English Motors, Judith Lucio of Hamilton & Lucio, PC, Brian Epps of Security Service Federal Credit Union, Ana Rodriguez, Carruther's Embroidery, Priscilla Saldana, American Firing Range, Inc., Cris Garza, Sunset Funeral Home and Nelly Burguete, Mary Kay.

This year there are three types of sponsorships:

Gold Sponsor - \$1,000: Eight Event Tickets, public-

ity as a "Gold Sponsor" in all advertisement, articles, sponsorship signs, and websites, recognition at the event, centerpiece/table tent with sponsor's name at each table, A free flyer insert in the "Progress" newsletter valued at \$200, (valid for one year after the Diamond Ball), a free highlighted online Business Listing valued at \$75 (valid for one year after the Diamond Ball) and premium seating at the event.

Silver Sponsor - \$500: Four Event Tickets, publicity as a "Silver Sponsor" in all advertisement, articles, and spon-

sorship signs, recognition at the podium the evening of the event, centerpiece/table tent with sponsor's name at each table and priority seating at the event.

Bronze Sponsor - \$250: Two Event Tickets, publicity as a "Bronze Sponsor" in all advertisement, articles, and sponsorship signs, recognition at the podium the evening of the event, and priority seating with other Bronze Sponsors at the event.

Individual tickets are \$100.00 for Chamber Members and \$125.00 for non-members. Don't miss out on this opportunity to support your Chamber, showcase your company and have a "diamond" of an evening. For more information about tickets or sponsorship opportunities call Aaron Rendon at 542-4341.



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Join
 Brownsville Chamber President
 Angela R. Burton
 for

Coffee Talk

an informal opportunity to discuss
 member benefits, chamber programs
 or just chat about
 Brownsville's business climate.

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM



IT Computer Solutions &

UTB/TSC International Innovation Center
 301 Mexico Blvd., Suite H3A-209



The Chamber
 Brownsville, Texas

Don't miss this early morning networking opportunity!

Tickets on Sale Now!



Mark Your Calendar! The Bienvenidos Committee will once again give-away a One-Carat Diamond at the 12th Annual Diamond Ball scheduled for Saturday, March 26th at the La Cantera Restaurant & Event Center.

The Diamond Ball is the Committee's Spring fundraiser, a black-tie dinner and dance, so named because a One-Carat Diamond is always given away to one lucky person at the ball. Nevill Imaging Solutions will sponsor the One-Carat Diamond.

This is always a fun night for Chamber members, a chance for them to dress up in formal attire, take pictures and dance the night away. Proceeds from this event are used to support committee activities, and to purchase the beautiful hand-made ceramic plaques that are given to member businesses on behalf of Brownsville Chamber and its members. For more information call the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce at 542-4341.

Address Service Requested

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BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER of COMMERCE 2010-2011 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS DIRECTORY

OFFICERS

Robert Berry
 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
 International Shipbreaking
 LTD,L.L.C.

Barry Goodrich
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