

Kimble County Chamber of Commerce

Newsletter

Tuesday, march 20, 2007

Way back in 1856, Abraham Lincoln knew the truth to the proverb, "Actions speak louder than words". This proverb, quoted by Lincoln, can be traced all the way back to the year 1628. It was true then, and it is true today. When you interact with the citizens of Junction and Kimble County, you will hear lots of words like "caring, concern, enthusiasm, optimistic, hard work, fun, and patriotic". That's because that is truly who we are! We honestly do care about our fellow man and our actions show it! Larry Martin of Johnny's Exxon related a story to me last Tuesday of a time when his wife was ill. They were relatively new in town, yet everywhere he went, Larry said folks would look him straight in the eye and ask, "How's it going? What can I do to help?" He moved here "for a while", but now "never plans to live anywhere else!" Ted and Judy from Huntington Beach, CA, made it a point to write to our City Hall saying, "We are camping at the City Park tonight. Thank you so very much. We also appreciate all the USA flags in town. God Bless America!" They could see our patriotism on display. Billie Noguess contacted the Chamber, after volunteering at Hill Country Care Center, and she overheard one of the residents there explaining how she had "been on a cruise". In her mind, the resident had "taken a trip to a beautiful sandy beach with crystal blue water". Billie, knowing that the Chamber had just returned from their 1st Annual Chamber Cruise with Trips by Nick to the Western Caribbean, thought it might be nice to have the "cruisers" share their photos and stories with the residents. So, last Tuesday, Nick Bukis, Ann Lemon, Joyce Brown, Adelaide Copeland, Sarah and Charlie Ringling, and I took sandwiches, punch, cookies, lap top computers, and photo albums to the Hill Country Care Center for a Show and Tell Party about the Chamber Cruise. Using one of our new speaker systems, we all took turns telling funny stories and describing life aboard ship to these sweet residents. Our audience listened enthusiastically, ate all the goodies, and we all had fun! Thanks, Billie, for the great idea!

We also care about our hunting heritage, conservation, and the world around us. That was never more evident than at the 1st Annual Dos Llanos Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet this past Saturday night. There was a great crowd, great food, great prizes, lots of fun, and a good deal of money raised, to boot! Out hats are off to Clay Simon and his crew at the Simon Bros. Mercantile and Backdoor Café, Joe Brooks and his daughters, and everyone involved in making this first event such a huge success!

Another faithful Chamber Member who cares about Conservation, is Ann Lemon. She is an avid birder and a master naturalist. Through Ann's emails to other birders, Junction will host over 20 birders from the Ft. Worth Audobon Society this Friday and Saturday, March 23rd and 24th. Mary Lee Johnson, Field Trip Chairman for this group, has been to our South Llano River State Park in the past, and contacted Ann about helping her arrange a trip for members of her club. Birding is a relatively new field in the tourism industry, but it is truly giving hunting "a run for its money" where popularity and proceeds are concerned.

Also on Saturday, March 23rd, the Copperas, Roosevelt, and Murr Communities will hold their Annual Copperas Benefit Supper at the Old School House. Supper will begin about 6 PM, serving barbequed chicken and pot luck side dishes and desserts. There will be an auction after supper, with the proceeds to benefit the children and families of Kimble County. A percentage of these proceeds also goes to Kimble Hospital. Contact Mary Lee Bennet at 325/446-2853 or Vera Joy 325/446-3660 for more information.

Jan King has become an advocate for our own Junction Golf Club these past months, through fundraising efforts, raising local awareness, and general promotion of the golf club as an important asset to Kimble County. She wants to invite everyone to come and participate in a One Day Three Person Tournament, this Saturday, March 24th. Contact Mark Maples for more information at 325/446-2555.

Jennifer Robinson contacted the Chamber concerning the Hill Country Special Olympics, to be held at Junction ISD on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Events will include a kick-off carrying of the torch in true Olympic fashion, across the South Llano Bridge and through downtown. After the Opening Ceremony, track and field events will get underway. Jennifer says, "This is an important event for our community and these students. We hope to see lots of local folks in the stands to cheer for these fine athletes. Let's all come together to show support for the Children of the Texas Hill Country and Junction. Proceeds go towards next year's event, so come to Eagle Stadium for lunch in support of the Hill Country Special Olympics."

Ladies, don't forget to register for the 2nd Annual Women in the Outdoors Program on Saturday, April 14th, at the South Llano River State Park. This is an all day event, only for women, to get a chance to try new things like team wagon driving, golf, skeet shooting, archery, fly fishing, kayaking, gourd birdhouse painting, just to mention a few of the 20+ classes we will be offering. Classes are filled as registrations are received, so don't be slow! Get that registration downloaded from the Chamber Website www.junctiontexas.net or come by the Chamber and pick one up. Time's a-wastin'!! Call the Chamber for info 325/446-3190.

The words written at the beginning of this week's Newsletter, can also describe this week's featured business, Nick Bukis and Trips by Nick. Nick is always smiling and is known for his natural enthusiasm. When contacted about his selection to serve on the Chamber Board, Nick gave a hearty "whoop" Aggie-style! Nick started Trips by Nick, along with his wife, Alice, in January 2006. He immediately came to the Chamber with his brainstorm, the Chamber Cruise fundraiser. Boy, now that's what I call a brainstorm! Nick retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service, only to "enlist" in the teaching profession, where he taught in both the Junction Elementary and Middle Schools, and retired a second time in 2006. He had previously worked with Adventure Travel in Kerrville, and decided that a home based travel agency was "just the ticket" for his retirement hobby. Associated with Trip Professionals of Florida, Trips by Nick can help you plan travel for business or pleasure, handle both group and individual bookings, and as Nick says, "No group is either too big or too small for our personalized attention to detail". The 1st Annual Chamber Cruisers found this to be oh so true! Nick handled each and every detail of the trip, right down to helping a traveler with a broken tooth, locate a dentist in Jamaica! Nick and Alice, their two daughters and their families, are great examples of caring and commitment to community Junction-style. He is a very involved, fair, forward thinking Chamber of Commerce Board of Director Member, easily reached and eager to face the issues and challenges of volunteer service of today. Our Chamber, Junction and Kimble County are lucky to have Nick and his fine family and business as part of our lives! For all your travel needs, contact Nick Bukis and Trips by Nick.

The 2nd Annual Chamber of Commerce Cruise in conjunction with Trips by Nick will be to the Western Caribbean ports of Colon Panama, Limon Costa Rica, and Belize City, Belize. Sail on Sunday, February 3, 2008, from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, for an exciting 9-day cruise. Nick and the Chamber will host a gathering at the Sunshine Café on Monday, March 25th, from 5 PM till 7 PM to answer questions and make reservations for this cruise. It's months away, but to get good rates, time is of the essence. Deposits are needed by April 9, 2007. Come to the Sunshine Café this Monday and see if you want to "sail away with Nick next February"!

We are “tickled pink” with the reception received to our Newsletter. Daily e-mails are received to be added to the distribution list. We have our first out of state request, from Louise Wall of Vrain, New Mexico. Locals enjoy what we have to say, too. Marlene Jones, Administrator of Kimble Hospital, emailed “...the Newsletter is really good- thanks for including us on the distribution. It also reminded me to go to the website for additional information.” Thanks, Marlene!

Don't forget to e-mail us or mail us your entry to the “Name the Newsletter” Contest. The deadline is 5:00 PM, Friday, March 23, 2007.

Send us your feedback at junctiontx@cebridge.net to include something next week or just to say “Hi”. Your Chamber is promoting commerce and tourism and keeping you informed of events and happenings of Junction and Kimble County!

Kimble County Chamber of Commerce
402 Main, Junction, TX 76849
325/446-3190 e-mail: junctiontx@cebridge.net www.junctiontexas.net