



# Depot Express



Edinburg Chamber of Commerce E-News Letter

Volume 1, Issue 5

October 2010

NEWS HEADLINES:

- Thank You Edinburg
- Man & Woman of the Year Nominations
- Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet featuring: "Happy" the Comedian.
- Edinburg's Market Days

Check us out on Twitter & Facebook



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## Thank You Edinburg

Dear community, friends and supporters:

On behalf of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, we would like to take this time to thank you for your generous time, effort, and monetary support given towards the Chamber.

All of your hard work and dedication is reinvested into the Chamber to assure our commitment to our investors, volunteers and community. We appreciate our members, because with your continued support, even through these tough economic times, our organization continued to flourish.

Sponsors, throughout the years, you have been more than generous in supporting our events, and we assure you that your sponsorship dollars have enabled our organization to bring fun, quality of life events to the community at large.

Board of Directors and Ambassadors, your time, effort and contributions have made the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce a prosperous organization; it's because of all of you we are able to put forth grand events such as Texas Cook'em, Fiesta Edinburg and Market Days. We are so grateful for you taking time out of your personal lives to ensure that the Chamber continues to put together quality events; your attendance shows you care.

The Chamber has had a prosperous year, and is grateful to everything that the City of Edinburg, the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation, the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District, UTPA and Hidalgo County have done to sustain our organization on a grand scale as we continue to take charge and lead the way.

Thank you!  
Sincerely,  
Letty Gonzalez, President





# RIBBON CUTTINGS & Ground Breakings...



Pump It Up  
 Veronica McGurk  
 2720 Zinnia Ave  
 McAllen TX 78504  
 (956) 682-5867



Santana Textiles  
 N. Industrial Park  
 Edinburg, Texas



“A vision for you”  
 Help Center  
 J.J. Rodriguez  
 900 S Veterans Blvd.  
 (956)383-7556



Max Fitness  
 Jesse Escauilla  
 2651 Cornerstone Blvd.  
 (956)686-0123

## Feature Business of the Month ...



### September

Aguilar Meat Market  
 Mr. Ireneo Aguilar, Jr.  
 1306 E. University Dr.  
 (956)383-2231



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors Committee are a group of volunteers who are all members of the Chamber. The Ambassador’s meet the first Wednesday of each month to discuss various topics within the community, organize fundraisers and to chose a Feature Business of the month; the criteria for selection is as follows: 1. Special Acknowledgement and recognition of years of support of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce and/or recognition of outstanding support of the community 2. Number of years in business 3. Contributions and support of Edinburg Chamber of Commerce programs and events 4. Recent renovation and/or expansions of their business 5. Silent members (strong supporters) of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce in good standing.

If you are interested in being an Ambassador, please contact Martin Rivas at 956-383-4974.



# I Shop Edinburg in 2010



I Shop Edinburg is an exceptional program that helps you Save by shopping local. Designed to keep tax dollars in Edinburg, I Shop Edinburg provides special incentives to shoppers through a unique savings card. Everyone is invited to pick up a FREE I Shop Edinburg savings card at the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce or @ Edinburg City Hall. Businesses are also heartened to take part by registering their business for no fee, and includes an accessible marketing package that each individual business will choose to honor. As a participating business you will decide your own discount; whether you offer a “buy one get one free”, “free beverage with meal” or a “10% discount on any item”; customers will reap the benefits and become inclined to let others know or simply come back to shop or eat at your business. The Edinburg Marketing Committee is walking the streets to sign up Edinburg businesses to offer savings and increase sales tax for the city of Edinburg. Please call 956-383-4974 for more information.



[www.edinburg.com](http://www.edinburg.com)

## Leadership Edinburg Class XXII Kicks Off



Leadership Edinburg is a program of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce; it's a growing organization that strives to encourage a better Edinburg through strong leadership skills focusing on politics, education, and quality of life. It's a 9 month program that encourages local business/civic leaders to become involved in their community.

There are over 500 graduates who have taken the challenge and completed each program of work with pride and great accomplishment. Graduates of Leadership Edinburg typically continue to apply what they learned and demonstrate it by showing interest in community involvement including serving on committees and times in politics.

Class XXII kicked off their day 1/2 retreat in September. “This particular class is a dynamic group of individuals; everyone has a positive attitude and is excited about getting to know each other, and learning about their community. Everyone is anxious to get involved and start working on their big community project. We are happy that the Leadership Edinburg tradition has been going strong for as long as it has been. Leadership is a wonderful program, and we encourage anyone to become part of it” noted Letty Gonzalez, President for the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce.



# Thank you VIP Members:



Boggus Motor Sales, Inc.  
 Charles Clark Chevrolet  
 Edinburg Industrial Foundation Inc.  
 Elite Rehab Services L.L.C.  
 Exquisita Tortillas, Inc.  
 Kolder Inc.  
 Roy's Hauling Service, Inc.  
 San Antonio National Bank  
 Santiago Gonzalez, Jr., C.P.A.  
 Teleperformance  
 Texas National Bank  
 Valdez Meats & Catering



As a Chamber VIP Member you will receive:

- 50% discount for one Leadership Edinburg Participant
- 4 VIP tickets to Fiesta Edinburg
- 10% discount on all Chamber advertising
- 2 participants to each Chamber-sponsored seminar
- Set of mailing labels
- Newsletter Insert
- Broadcast Fax



# Ask a Chamber Expert...



Let us put our experience to work to solve your staffing needs, whether you are an employer or employee. We provide short and long term employment as well as temp-to-hire placement.

Austin Personnel Services has been in business in Texas for the past 25 years. We know the state and the local communities and have been part of their growth. As a valley owned company we work to keep the local economies thriving and the citizens of those communities employed.

We are professionals, and we value our reputation in the business world. We are here for the long haul, and we value good working relationships with both our clients and our applicants. Through our valley offices, we have placed many individuals in major companies who are enjoying successful careers.

Using our services for your staffing needs is always a good way to avoid unemployment fees, workers comp. fees and having to replace employees. At your request, we also provide background checks, credit checks, driving records, drug screening, notarized documents and provide any testing necessary at no extra charge. We pride ourselves in working closely with all of our clients and going that extra mile to service their account.

We can be reached at 956-318-1104 and you can visit our website [www.austinpersonnelrgv.com](http://www.austinpersonnelrgv.com).

Johnny Rodriguez, Owner



## Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Month...



September

Marty Martin  
Rio Valley Realty

4751 South Jackson Road  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956)687-7653

Marty Martin, our Ambassador of the Month for October, was born in Edinburg, Texas. He went to school in Edinburg and graduated from Pan American University in 1989 with a BBA in Finance. Marty still lives in Edinburg with his wife Debbie and two sons Christopher and Cameron. He obtained his Real Estate Salesman's license in 1989. He currently is a Broker/Co-owner of Rio Valley Realty, which he formed with partners in 1994. Marty serves on several Chamber committees including Ambassadors, Depot Restoration, Texas Cook-Em and Leadership Edinburg.

The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Ambassador's Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month. If you are interested in investing your time with your community, please call Martin Rivas at 956-383-4974 or email [membership@edinburg.com](mailto:membership@edinburg.com) THANK YOU!



## Edinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau...

It is the mission of the Edinburg Convention & Visitors Bureau to provide leadership in initiating as well as coordinating the marketing of Edinburg throughout the world as a highly desirable vacation and convention destination; to solicit and serve conventions and other related group business; and to engage in visitor promotions which generate overnight stays for Edinburg, thereby, enhancing and developing the economic fabric of the community.

The Edinburg Convention & Visitors Bureau must continue to be recognized as a viable entity, not only in the Texas travel industry, but also as a marketing strength in the Rio Grande Valley. In order to achieve this goal, there are many projects, programs and activities that need the participation and support of the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. In addition to many projects that we must do on a daily basis to stay competitive in the marketplace, the Chamber/CVB will continue to develop and innovative such projects and programs: Tourism Marketing, Conventions and Media.

The Edinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (ECVB) is here to serve you and to assist in securing conventions and seminars in the Edinburg area. If your business or organization is interested in hosting an event, the ECVB is happy to accommodate to assist in making your event successful. At the ECVB, we will supply your event with hotel listings, business and restaurant listings, plus maps and other helpful information that will make your event or meeting a success. Please contact Imelda Rodriguez for further information 956-383-4974. [tourism@edinburg.com](mailto:tourism@edinburg.com)



## Next Market Days to be held October 9th, 2010...

The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce (ECOC) and the Edinburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (ECVB) hosted the 2nd Market Days the 2nd Saturday in September, up to 70 vendors were present at Edinburg's open market featuring unique and interesting items, antiques, arts and crafts, live music and more; that's double the size of the first!

The ECOC and the ECVB will hold the next "Edinburg Market Days" Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 8am-2pm. Market Days will be held at the Town Square across from the Court House the 2nd Saturday of every month (weather and circumstances permitting).

Jamie and Patty Johnson make handmade crosses out of mesquite bark, found wood and old tree branches; the sisters are both from Edinburg, Texas and have full time jobs.

"Creating art pieces is very therapeutic; it's something we each enjoy doing; I use scrap wood from mesquite trees, and my sister uses tree branches" noted Jamie.

"Market Days is exciting for us; the first Market Days we sold between 3-6 items; and we only anticipate the event growing bigger; it's fun because we get to see people we haven't seen in years; we feel it's a good event for the community, plus it gives us great exposure" noted Patty.

Please call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce at 956-383-4974 or sign onto [www.edinburg.com](http://www.edinburg.com) for more information, to register as a vendor.





# Come see what Market Days has for YOU



## Upcoming Events, Save the date:

Edinburg Market Days Saturday, October 9th from 8am-2pm. Market Days will be held at the Town Square across from the Court House



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet Saturday, October 16th, @ Monte Cristo Golf & Country Club, 6:30 pm featuring : "HAPPY the Comedian"

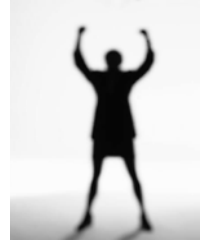
Fiesta Edinburg Last Weekend in February, Edinburg Municipal Park: food, fun, carnival, parade, live music and MORE!



[www.edinburg.com](http://www.edinburg.com)



**"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing; you will be successful."**



## Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet: Bringing Laughter into your life



Pictured is "Happy" the Comedian

The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Staff are planning an Annual Banquet scheduled for Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Monte Cristo Golf and Club located at 2919 N Kenyon Road in Edinburg.

The Banquet will honor Johnny Rodriguez as incoming chairman and Cynthia Bocanegra as outgoing chairman for the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. The banquet will also feature: dinner, silent auction, entertainment by "Happy" the comedian plus announcements of "Man and Woman of the Year, City of Edinburg Employee of the Year, Fireman of the Year, Ambassador of the Year" and the "Leadership Award". We hope to add laughter to your life!

Tickets to attend the Annual Banquet are \$35 per person, or \$350 for a table of 8. Attire will be business casual. All are encouraged to attend. Special Thanks to Allen Floral in Edinburg for their generous donation. Please call 956-383-4974 to purchase tickets to the event.

## Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Selects Man & Woman of the Year



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce will announce the recipients for the 2010 Man & Woman of the Year on October 16th, at the Chamber's Annual Banquet.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the community for participating in the selection process, all candidates were taken into consideration and the committee was pleased with the results.

## Edinburg Chamber of Commerce Accepting Donations for Banquet Auction

The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce is currently accepting items to auction off at the Chamber's Annual Banquet on October 16th, 2010. Items should be new and worth at least \$50.

If you are interested in donating an item or items, please contact us at 956-383-4974. Thank you in advance for your generosity.





# Miss Edinburg Announces Winning Contestants



Pictured are Ginger Rae Garza, Miss Edinburg and Yesenia Velis, Miss Teen Edinburg



Elite Productions under the direction of Minerva Olivarez would like to announce the Miss Edinburg Pageant that was held on August 14, 2010 at the Historical Edinburg City Auditorium.

Ginger Rae Garza, 18 year old Freshman at the University of Texas Pan American and daughter of Annie and Joel Garza was crowned Miss Edinburg 2011 at the Historical Edinburg City Auditorium. Yesenia Velis, 15 year old Junior at Edinburg High School and daughter of Margarita and Armando Velis was crowned Miss Teen Edinburg 2010

The competition consisted of interview, formal wear and on stage questions. A scholarship and a prize package was awarded to both winners.

Ginger and Yesenia will be representing the City of Edinburg throughout their reign with social functions, luncheons, ribbon cuttings, school events .

Miss Edinburg Ginger Rae Garza has developed a platform of promoting the importance of education and Miss Teen Edinburg Yesenia Velis will be promoting her platform on the importance on avoiding peer pressure.

If you would like the reigning queens to make an appearance or a presentation please the contact their Director, Minerva Olivarez at 956-929-0510 or email her at :missedinburgpageant@yahoo.com.



# Power Punch @ Lunch sponsored by Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance



The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce hosted Power Punch at Lunch on Wednesday, September 15th, 2010 from 11:30am – 1:00pm at The Depot, 602 W. University Drive.

The event was sponsored by Doctors Hospital at Renaissance. Over 75 members from the community came out to support the event, mingled and passed out business cards for one of the Chamber's most notable social-networking events.



The next Power Punch @ Lunch will be held in December, 2010. If you or your business is interested in being a sponsor for the next luncheon, please call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce for additional information on how you can promote your business and support the community all at one event.



Power Punch @ Lunch is a quarterly event hosted by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce that encourages the business community to network and promote their business through socializing in a comfortable atmosphere outside of the office.





P.O. Box 85  
 602 W. University  
 Edinburg, TX 78540  
 Phone (956) 383-4974  
 Fax (956) 383-6942

## Letter from the Chairman

www.edinburg.com

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Chairman

Cynthia Bocanegra \*Chaps Bar & Grill

Chair-Elect

Johnny Rodriguez \*Austin Personnel Services

Immediate Past Chair

Lee Castro\*Memorial Funeral Home

Treasurer

Elias Longoria\*Lone Star National Bank

Vice-Chairmen

Dina Araguz\*International Bank of Commerce

Gus Casas\*G&S Glass

Edna Pena\*Horizon Properties

Flo Prater\*Rio Valley Realty

Directors

Marissa Castaneda

Doctors Hospital at Renaissance

Thelma Garcia

First National Bank

Darcy Kelly

Peter Piper Pizza

Maggie Kent

General Dentistry Center

Abel Leal

Edward Jones Investments

Manny Mantrana

The University of Texas-Pan American

Robert McGurk

Elsa State Bank

Toribio "Terry" Palacios

Law Offices of Garcia, Quintanilla & Palacios

Naomi Perales

Texas Gas Service

Mark Pena

Lewis, Monroe & Pena Attorneys at Law

Staff

Letty Gonzalez

President

Evana Vleck

Director of Marketing

Imelda Rodriguez

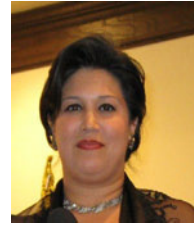
Director of Tourism

Martin Rivas

Director of Membership

Crystal Cavazos

Receptionist/Tourism Asst.



Wow! It's been a great year for the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. Our entire Board of Director's and Staff have been very productive and busy for the fiscal year from start to finish.

I am very proud to be a part of this organization, and honored to have served as Chairman for the Board of Directors for 09-2010. I am confident that incoming chair, Johnny Rodriguez will take lead and make positive changes for the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce. Hard work and dedication are two attributes that describe Mr. Rodriguez. I wish him the best.

I am happy to have served, and am excited about all the Chamber's accomplishments.

The start of Market Days kicked off, Leadership Edinburg Class XXII began, Fiesta Edinburg's Sports Bowl took place, a successful valley-wide fundraiser for Villa de Santiago, and of course planning meetings, seminars, ribbon cuttings, ground breakings and more.

What an exciting time to be an Edinburg Chamber of Commerce business member; there is so much to do and the more you are involved, the more exposure you receive as a member, plus there is no dollar value that you can place on community involvement.

The Edinburg Chamber Staff had a retreat, in which they scheduled an annual calendar full of events, meetings and seminars. We are happy to announce our upcoming Banquet on October 16th at Monte Cristo Golf Club; we encourage everyone to come out and support the community, as announcements for Man and Woman of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, City Employee of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year will be unveiled. Call 956-383-4974 for tickets.

Cynthia Bocanegra,

Chairman of the Board

Our Charge is to lead the effort in advancing commerce and the quality of life in Edinburg and the region. We will foster service, development, and growth by forging positive relationships, advocating volunteerism, and leadership development.