



ALVIN MANVEL AREA Chamber Of Commerce

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER, 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Marketing Your Business During the Holidays
- Alvin and Manvel State of the City Addresses
- 2012 Board of Director Ballot
- Launch of the Young Professionals

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| President's Corner | 2 |
| Alvin State of the City | 3 |
| Ribbon Cuttings | 4 |
| Manvel State of the City | 5 |
| 2012 Director Ballot Information | 6 |
| Young Professionals | 7 |
| Monthly Calendar | 8 |

Marketing Your Business During the Holidays

By C.R. Cooper, Promotions *for success*

It's a fact of life: Business for many non-retail companies tends to slow down during the holidays. People are busy preparing meals, going out of town, etc. As business owners, we constantly ask ourselves, "What can I do to market myself better and increase business during the holiday season?" Here are a few great ideas to jump start your business during a slow season

Send a message

Take the time to send out a greeting card before Thanksgiving and Christmas. A simple message like, "We give thanks for our customers! Happy Thanksgiving!" with a 10% off coupon for an item in your store can help remind your customers to shop.



Create your own "Black Friday" sale.

The day after Thanksgiving (i.e. Black Friday) is a great opportunity to generate more business! Have an "early bird" special that gives a certain percentage off on products or services. Or, run specials through-out the day. For example, if you are an insurance company, you can offer a free \$5 gift card to a place like Starbucks for getting a quote on an insurance product. Be creative!



Network at Holiday events

Raise Your Profile. Many people go to networking events and receptions and slip into the room, circulate a bit and then slip out. If you have

been invited to an event (a reception, a hosted networking event, etc.) seek out the host and thank them for inviting you. It is also nice, before you leave, to thank the host for an enjoyable evening. This is important because: 1. You want the host to know that you showed up. 2. It's a way to touch base with the host, someone you may not have an opportunity to meet any other way. 3. It is a simple social grace that has been forgotten.

Volunteer! This time of year provides many opportunities to serve others in our community. Try hosting a food or blanket drive in your community. Not only will you be helping others but it will also reflect kindly upon your business.

Remember to always look for new opportunities and inventive opportunities to market your business or a particular product during the holidays!

President's Corner

I recently attended a Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives (TCCE) volunteer conference with several directors. One of the speakers, Chuck Ewart, a long time Chamber professional, outlined characteristics of an effective board. "Participation" topped his list. He spent some time outlining how a director could be involved, and I reflected on the past three

months I have been with the Alvin-Manvel Area Chamber. I have been ridiculously impressed with the involvement the board of directors has chosen to take. They have been open to change, vocal on their opinions and demanding of results. In addition, he cited having an open mind, being a team player, enthusiasm, and orderly approach to making decisions.

You, as a membership, have a great representation serving as directors, and I am proud to serve as your president. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2012 will bring for the community and the businesses the Chamber serves.

- Johanna McWilliams
President/CEO

Did you know we're
on Facebook?

Keep up to date
with the latest event
news

[http://facebook.com/
alvinmanvelchamber](http://facebook.com/alvinmanvelchamber)

Sponsor the Newsletter

3 1/2" x 2" AD - \$55

8" x 2" Ad - \$95

Full Page Inserts - \$150

Quarterly and Yearly discounts are also available

Call 281-331-3944

for more information



Christmas Networking Event

Thursday, December 8, 2011

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Historic Train Depot

121 E. Willis, Alvin

**** Cocktails ** Hors d'oeuvres ** Networking ****

Alvin State of the City



On October 11, the annual Alvin State of the City address was given at the Nolan Ryan Center.

The mayor began by describing the momentum Alvin has achieved recently.

Highlights of these achievements were the completed \$300,000 Train Depot renovation now used as the Alvin Convention and Visitor Bureau headquarters and Keep Alvin Beautiful's efforts to gain funds for the Alvin clock tower and Mustang bayou entrance area.

Also in the spotlight was the Alvin Public/Private partnership. Touted for bringing increased investment

and helping to revitalize the downtown area, it has motivated the City of Alvin to use some of its sales tax dollars to upgrade utilities, including an 8 inch water line.

Larry Buehler, the Alvin Economic Development Director laid out recent and upcoming projects in the region including \$1.1 Billion in capital investment in the industrial sector.

The City Council recently approved certificates of obligation for one-time projects among these are, installing brick sidewalks, upgrading signage in downtown Alvin and refurbishing the Alvin Museum.

The biggest announcements at the State of the City address though are plans to begin construction on a new Alvin Community Hospital, built and operated by University General Hospital Systems.

Under a 50 year lease to operate this critical care hospital, the hospital is slated to be developed in 3 phases, Phase one is a \$35 Million project consisting of the new hospital and medical office building. Estimated to open in early 2013 it is expected to provide over 200 jobs with average wages of \$45,000.

The second big announcement of the event was a newly passed economic development agreement that would bring new sporting facilities to Alvin and the area. The International Soccer Development facility phase one will consist of 12 soccer fields, parking, concessions, and a stadium. Additional phases will include a restaurant and future hotel.



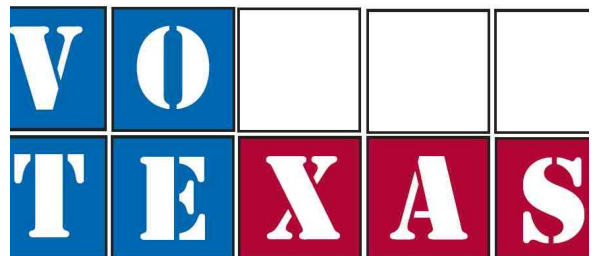
Elections are Coming Are you Registered?

Next year will begin a new Election cycle for National, State, and Local government. Make sure your voice is heard, make sure you are registered to vote and your address is up-to-date.

Next year, Texas primary elections will be held on March 6. To be eligible to vote, you must be registered by February 6.

Registration or address changes are easy and only take a few minutes to complete.

The easiest way to register is to download the application online at <http://www.votexas.org/> after you complete the form, you can then mail it in. Voter registration applications are also available at many post offices, libraries, Texas Department of Public Safety offices, and Texas Department of Human Services offices.



Ribbon Cutting : Piece Buy Piece

This month the chamber helped host multiple ribbon cutting events. Among them was new member Piece Buy Piece.

Piece Buy Piece is a new local retail and furniture resale shop in Manvel. Piece Buy Piece offers show room pieces and items fit for interior designers for a quarter of the price you would pay at retail. Piece Buy Piece has new furniture for used prices. The new

shop's owner, Deborah Rodkey, describes this as her passion. She sees Piece Buy Piece as a way for her to support and give back to the community.

Many of her pieces for sale have been donated and she continues to accept donations in the form of items, she has committed to give 50% yearly of donated item's proceeds to charity.



Piece Buy Piece
20226 Hwy 6, Manvel, TX
281-850-1162

Did you know we're on Facebook?

Keep up to date with the latest event news

<http://facebook.com/alvinmanvelchamber>

Ribbon Cutting Profile: Medic One Pharmacy

The Chamber celebrated with one of its newest members, Medic One Pharmacy, with a ribbon cutting earlier this month.

Medic One Pharmacy is a full service pharmacy in Alvin. Medic One Pharmacy specializes in medication therapy management, available for its senior customers, this is a partnership between the customer, their doctors, and Medic One to insure customers medications

are at the right levels and drug interactions are avoided.

Medic One Pharmacy offers free delivery to Alvin and Manvel, accepts Medicare/Medicaid and most insurance, and offers competitive prices. And "No Wait" prescriptions. Medic One Pharmacy is located at 400 Medic Ln, Suite C, in Alvin.



Medic One Pharmacy
400 Medic Lane, Alvin, TX
281- 824-0222

Ribbon Cutting Profile: Las Chicas Restaurant

Among this month's new member ribbon cuttings was Las Chicas Mexican Restaurant.

In addition to your favorite Mexican dishes, Owner, Cecilia Martinez proudly shared with the group that her restaurant is the "Home of the 30-Inch Burrito." Depending on what you ask for in your

burrito, it could weigh close to 9 pounds!

Las Chicas has recently relocated from their previous Hwy 6. location to their newer facility located at 535 Tovrea in Alvin.

Las Chicas Mexican Restaurant
535 Tovrea, Alvin, TX
281-824-4977



Manvel State of the City



During Manvel's Tenth Annual State of the City Address, Mayor Delores Martin painted a picture of the city's history, its current growth and the future for Manvel.

She reminded attendees that citizens must know where the city has been, where it is going and what the future holds for the city.

The residents also elected to give one-fourth percent of the Sales Tax to the road and drainage fund in last May's election. The city is also in the process of adopting a Mixed Use District for FM 1128 and a Special Use District which will offer incoming development many new opportunities for growth.

"On Dec. 10, our city adopted an Overlay District for State Highway 6. This district gives us the opportunity to manage critical visual elements and to promote future development that showcases State Highway 6 as a high-quality mixed use, multi-modal transportation corridor in Manvel," Martin elaborated.

The Mayor also addressed the Alvin ISD 2009 Bond Referendum which allowed the building of the John Albert Booth Agricultural Science Center. The same Referendum also made provision for the purchase and construction of the district's sixth junior high campus. This facility will be built

on a 30 acre site on the west side of the Rodeo Palms subdivision. The construction on the campus began in December, 2010 and is planning to open its doors in August, 2012

During 2011, the city has had a flurry of new businesses call Manvel home. Some 15 businesses have moved to Manvel or have remodeled their buildings. The Manvel Police Department moved into its new facility. The city has also entered into an agreement with the Brazoria County SPSCA in Lake Jackson for housing of the city's stray animals. "Manvel, indeed, is a City on the Move," she proudly announced.

-Article courtesy of Judy Zavalla and the Alvin Sun-Advertiser

"Manvel, indeed, is a City on the Move"

-Manvel Mayor Delores Martin



**I just joined... NOW WHAT?
WHAT ARE MY BENEFITS...
And... how do I market through the Chamber?**

Membership Advantage Breakfast

Thursday, December 1, 2011

9:00 AM

Los Compadres Mexican Restaurant

2625 S Loop 35, 77511

RSVP to 281-331-3944

or chamber@amacc.org

Are you a new member? Are you a long time member that is wondering how to make the most of your membership dollars? Make plans to attend this complimentary session on taking advantage of your membership!

Breakfast sponsored by Texas Advantage Community Bank



2012 Board of Director Nominees

Chad Beaver: He is President at Alvin Equipment Company, LLC, Built and moved to their current location in 1976. Alvin Equipment Company has the expertise needed to help get the most out of equipment, parts & service needs. A family owned and operated atmosphere that and 58 years and still going strong after three generations of the Beaver family's dedication to serving our customers. Chad studied at Sam Houston State University.

Kim Christensen: He is an Independent Certified Financial Planner for 10 years. He studied at the University of St. Thomas and the University of Houston. Kim helps at with multiple community and chamber groups. Kim uses his financial and business background by volunteering with Skills for Living, serves on the Brazoria County Association for Citizens with Handicaps and is on the board of the Alvin ISD Education Foundation

Chad Fontenot: He is a Captain with the Alvin Police Department and has been a police officer for 25-years. Chad graduated from University of Houston at Clear Lake with a degree in Sociology. Chad also graduated from the FBI National Academy and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas' Leadership Command College. Chad is also a charter member of the Alvin Evening Lions and is currently serving his second term as the charter president.

Dan Johnson: President Daniel Scott Engineering, LLC. Moved to the area in 2000. Dan's company operated in Alvin from 2007-2011 then Moved to Manvel. Served as consulting City Engineer for the City of Manvel. Graduated from Texas A&M University. Dan was a member of the HGAC Regional Flood Management Council and 2012 Houston Bay Area Emmaus Community Assistant Lay Director.

Tirso Martinez: Has been in the waste industry for over 26 years. Tirso has lived in the Houston area since 2006 and has been involved and has been involved with various Chamber of Commerce throughout the years. Tirso has been employed with IESI for two years. He is a firm believer in getting involved with the communities that he services. Tirso studied history at Randolph-Macon College.

Sheila Olson: She is an Alvin ISD Education Foundation Board member since 2001, and Foundation Director for 3 years. Sheila Graduated from Houston Baptist University and taught Elementary school. Sheila is Involved with her church, the Manvel PTO, the Chamber Youth Round Table.

Cory Scott: He is a Funeral Director at the family owned and operated Scott Funeral Home in Alvin. Cory has been an Alvin resident 10 years. Scotts Funeral Home has been a Chamber member for as long as it has been in Alvin. Cory served on the Chamber's Board of Directors

Viola Williamson: She has worked at DISH Network since 2007 and lived in the Alvin community since 2000. Viola has been involved in many chamber and community events including Keep Alvin Beautiful with the Alvin Cleanup; Beneezy Run with sponsorship food drives for the food bank here in Alvin; school supply drive for Longfellow Elementary and animal food & products drives for NABS.

Did you know we're
on Facebook?

Keep up to date
with the latest event
news

[http://facebook.com/
alvinmanvelchamber](http://facebook.com/alvinmanvelchamber)

A full page ballot has been included in the newsletter. Please make your selections and deliver or mail the ballot to the Chamber office in a sealed envelope marked "2012 Ballot" by 5pm Wednesday, November 17, 2011.

Thank you,
2012 Nominating Committee



Chamber Welcomes New Team Member



Michael Wayland is our newest staff here at the Chamber. He has been a Texas resident for most of his life, and has worked in the Alvin-Manvel area for the past two years at one of its larger employers. During that time Michael has grown very fond of the Alvin-Manvel area and is delighted he will get to spend more time here. Before that Michael was living and working in South Korea teaching English to

Children and Adults. Michael is a graduate of the University Of Houston Bauer College Of Business with a degree in marketing; He is currently working on his Master's in Business Administration at Lamar University focusing on Enterprise Resource Planning. He spent 5 years as a Loan Officer and 2 years as a Communications Manager at a publicly traded mortgage banking company. Michael has

also designed, developed, and maintained websites for over a dozen companies, some with thousands of pages of content and tens of thousands of monthly visitors.



Young Professionals

The Alvin-Manvel Area Chamber of Commerce is launching a Young Professionals program in 2012. Take your career to the next level and get involved in the business community. The Young Professionals program will deliver education and networking resources in a peer-based environment. The Chamber's Young Professionals pro-

gram will provide events on an ongoing basis that engage professionals ages approximately 21-39 from member firms to help them become more competitive in the business arena, establish contacts, and grow personally through a variety of program topics. For more information, to be added to the distribution list or to be part of the organization

of this program, contact Michael Wayland at 281-331-3944 or m_wayland@amacc.org.



Email List Reset, Make sure you're on the list!

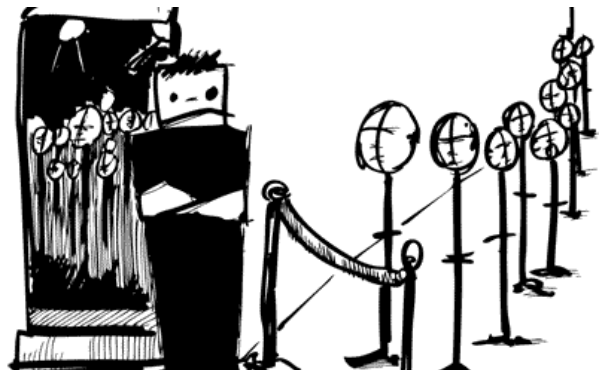
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In an effort to modernize and take full advantage of what our Chamber website has to offer the Alvin-Manvel Area Chamber of Commerce will be conducting an update of its member database and information. All information will be saved but with this change comes a new way to send out communications and emails. We encourage you to make sure you and all your

employees are on the new emailing list. Please send an email as soon as possible to: chamber@amacc.org.

This will allow us at the Chamber to continue to keep you up-to-date on all pertinent information and upcoming events.

Make certain that you include the email addresses of all members and staff you want to receive our general communications.



2011 Board of Directors

Gabe Adame - Chairman
Wells Fargo Bank

Wendy Del Bello - Chair Elect
Alvin Community College

Gerald Montieth - Treasurer
First State Bank ~ Manvel

Doyle Swindell - Past Chair
Ron Carter Automotive
Dealerships

Marshall Boyd
Boyd, Cook & Associates

Larry Buehler
City of Alvin

Jody Droege
TDEC, Inc.

Chad Dudley
HomeTown Bank of Alvin

Chad Gormly
Alvin Sunrise Rotary Club

Richard "Jay" Hawkins
Hawkins Lease Services

Angela Leger
Ameriprise Financial Services

Mike Merkel
Alvin Police Department

Claron Salter-Clark
State Farm Insurance

Julie Siggers
Alvin Convention & Visitors
Bureau

Clay Stagg
Charles M. Stagg, CPA

Roy Waldrep
Chocolate Bayou Community FCU

Joan Young
engraving etc. by joan

Ex-Officio Board Members

Stacy Adams
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Tommy King
Alvin ISD

Tom Stansel

Randy Weber
State Representative

Chamber Events - November & December 2011

Wednesday, Nov. 2

8:00 AM - Economic Development Team Meeting
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Tuesday, Nov. 8

9:00 AM - Youth Roundtable Committee Meeting
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Wednesday, Nov. 9

9:00 AM - Ambassador Meeting
HomeTown Bank of Alvin
1050 N Bypass 35, 77511

10:30 AM - Ribbon Cutting - Bunky & Son Construction
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

11:00 AM - Ribbon Cutting - Mary Kay, Ind. Consultant -
Sherry Love
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Thursday, Nov. 10

8:00 AM - Executive Committee Meeting
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Friday, Nov. 11

Veteran's Day - Chamber Office Closed

Thursday, Nov. 17

Networking Breakfast
Chamber Office, 105 Willis, 77511

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 24-25

Thanksgiving Holiday - Chamber Office Closed

Thursday, Dec. 1

9:00 AM - Membership Advantage Breakfast
Los Compadres, 2625 S Loop 35, 77511

Thursday, Dec. 1 (continued)

5:00 to 7:00 PM (RC @ 5:30)
Business After Hours Networking & Ribbon Cutting
UV Country, Inc., 2616 Hwy 35 Bypass N, 77511

Wednesday, Dec. 7

8:00 AM - Economic Development Team Meeting
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Thursday, Dec. 8

8:00 AM - Board of Directors Meeting
Kelley's Country Cookin', 1100 N. Bypass 35, 77511

5:00 to 7:00 PM
Christmas Networking Event
Historic Train Depot, 121 E Willis, 77511

Wednesday, Dec. 14

9:00 AM
Ambassador Meeting
HomeTown Bank of Alvin
1050 N Bypass 35, 77511

Thursday, Dec. 15

8:00 - 10:00 AM (Come & Go)
Membership Networking Breakfast
Chamber Office, 105 W. Willis, 77511

Dec. 25 - Jan. 1

Christmas & New Years' Holidays
Chamber office will re-open on Monday, Jan. 2

Thursday, Jan. 5

Board of Directors Retreat
Oakwind Bed & Breakfast,
4601 CR 156, 77511



105 W. Willis * Alvin, TX 77511

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #8