

Show Your
"Jacket Pride!"



Meridian
Chamber of
Commerce

News

Winter, 2015

2015 Chamber Board

Officers:

President: Miriam Wallace,
Wallace Sight & Sound

Vice President: Jason Hurley,
Mustang Dental

Treasurer: Mandi Hardin,
First Security State Bank

Secretary: Juanita Miller,
Miller Septic & Port-a-Pots

Directors:

Linda Calhoun,
Main Street Antiques

Stefanie Cobb,
Cobb Ranch Properties

Madelyn Rieke,
RARE Motorsports

Kris Toman,
Center Pointe Barber Shop

Matt Wallace,
Wallace Sight & Sound

Kay Duke – Ex-Officio,
Meridian Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER on the MOVE:

NEW MEMBERS: 4

CHAMBER INQUIRIES (in the past 90 days):

OFFICE VISITORS: 102
MEMBER REFERRALS: 74
RELOCATION PACKET: 0
TOURISM PACKET: 2

President's Message

Greetings to all and welcome to 2015! A new year has begun and as we look to ways that we can make Meridian even better, it's tradition for us to consider resolutions and to ponder plans for the coming year. At our January member meeting, I spoke about "Change".

People generally don't like Change. It makes some of us uncomfortable... change sometimes brings uncertainty and risk that we don't always like. However, people like the idea of Improving, but it's hard to improve if we don't change. So we, as a group, understand and acknowledge the tension between the natural desire to NOT change and the desire to improve.

We need to know what and how WE want to improve, both individually and as a Chamber. That means we need to talk about it. We should start with the people who have been most involved and honor their involvement and loyalty. There are many who have worked tirelessly to make Meridian better; we appreciate and honor their commitment.

Next, our desire is to encourage all members of the chamber to become more involved. What can we do to draw them in, to help them in their commerce, and still gain from their experience and expertise? We want to learn more about our members and work together in a common desire to make Meridian better.

Let's include those who are not yet

Meridian Chamber of Commerce members. Let's spread the word that the Meridian Chamber is continually evolving; our goal is to have the whole community align. The more we spread the same message, the more we will show the value of the Chamber.

Ultimately, we'd like the entire Meridian community to be glad that the Chamber of Commerce is improving and working to help our members in the process. Our message is that we are committed to helping make Meridian better starting with our businesses, but including the city, schools, churches, and local government.

After a year of learning and trying to not change things JUST to change things, or change before the timing is right, my goals for 2015 are:

- a) Make more improvements to what we're doing as a Chamber of COMMERCE
- b) Increase focus on things that truly help commerce
- c) Explore ways to make involvement with the Chamber of Commerce profitable for all involved

I hope that when you read this, you are encouraged. and If you have ideas or comments, please share them. We can ALL make Meridian better. I'm willing to change...are you?

Your Chamber President,
Miriam Wallace
(miriam@wssp-inc.com)

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce is to promote expansion and growth of our businesses through commerce and tourism and to partner with other local organizations to promote civic programs designed to increase civic pride in our community to make Meridian a great place to live, work and play.





Bosque Connect...sponsored by the Meridian Chamber of Commerce

As more and more people use their smartphones to shop and search for information, it's more important than ever to provide mobile technology. The Meridian Chamber of Commerce free mobile app for Android or iPhone users is an exciting new tool to connect our members and help your business reach new customers.

To accommodate you while you're on the go, the Chamber has partnered with Miati on a mobile application for iPhone and Android phones. All Meridian Chamber members receive a free listing within the app just for being a member! Your business is automatically listed in the application, which will be available to all members, visitors and community members. Your name, address and

connect
Bosque
Sponsored by The Meridian Chamber of Commerce

Go to your phone's App Store & Download Bosque Connect!

Scan this with your **Android**

Scan this with your **iPhone**

Developed by **Miati**
Meridian-Chamber.com

phone number will be instantly available.

As a user of the *Bosque Connect* app, you'll benefit from quick access to instant information. It's a great tool to promote your company!

Benefits of *Bosque Connect*:

- Your business contact information is listed in our members-only business listing.
- Opportunity to add % off

coupons or special offers to existing and new customers

- Stay up-to-date with Chamber and community events.

The Stats:

- Of the world's 4 billion mobile phones in use, 1.08 billion are smartphones.
 - 91% of all adults have a smartphone.
 - Android owns 52% of the U.S. smartphone market.
 - iPhone owns 39.9% of the U.S. smartphone market.
- Download the *Bosque Connect* app today! You can download our mobile app by scanning one of our flyers around town or by visiting www.apps-charts.com/app/Bosque_Connect/909524228/ on your smartphone or mobile device.

“Loving Life in Bosque County” Photo Contest

The Meridian Chamber of Commerce photo contest last fall was fun and yielded some great pictures taken around the county so watch for coming information on the 2nd annual “Loving Life in Bosque County” contest in 2015. We will again be looking for photos that feature a positive visual image of Bosque County life. Reflections of what our beautiful area of Texas has to offer. To create an image that depicts the essence of our community or what it means to live in Bosque County. If you are a camera buff and enjoy photography we invite you to enter the contest; of course photos must be taken within the county to be entered. Ready, Set, Go...start capturing those wonderful outdoor scenes in marvelously picturesque Bosque County... and watch for more information on the contest date later in the year.





New Business Ribbon Cuttings

Crossroads Bar & Grill

A new business Ribbon Cutting was held for Crossroads Bar & Grill after their big grand opening. Owners, BeBe Garcia and Cassandra Thompson had a complete remodel done to the building prior to opening. The Grill offers great food such as; burgers and sandwiches on a toasted soft pretzel bun, homemade chips and fries and more. For entertainment they have a large dance floor, pool tables, shuffleboard, electronic darts, live music, karaoke and a ladies night.

Their hours of business are Wednesday & Thursday 4pm-12am, Friday 4pm-1am, Saturday 11am-1am and Sunday 11am-8pm, Closed Monday and Tuesday. Give them a call at (254)435.2922 or stop in at 7915 State Highway 22. (Crossroads at Hwy 6 & 22)



Tres Hermanos Mexican Restaurant

A new business Ribbon Cutting was held for Tres Hermanos Mexican Restaurant at their new Meridian location 108 W. Morgan, in December. Owner, Cesar Ramirez, is the son of Martin and Luisa Ramirez, owners of the Whitney location located at 800 S. Colorado St.; which opened in April of 2000.

Tres Hermanos is open 7 days a week between 11am and 9pm. They offer delicious daily lunch specials Monday through Friday at very low prices from \$5.29 and \$5.79, dinner specials from \$6.99 and \$9.99 and an all day weekend special at the affordable price of \$7.29.

Call for take-out (254)435-2600 or Dine in at W. Morgan St.; directly across from the beautiful Bosque County Courthouse in downtown Meridian. For more information on their menu items check out their website at www.thetreshermanos.com

Great Ways to Get Involved...

Monthly Chamber Membership Meeting:

Second Thursday of each month:
Informative Speakers, Good Community Fellowship, Great Meal.

Call (254) 435-2966 for reservations

Committees:

Join One of Our Committees in 2015 & Help Make a Difference

By becoming active and involved, you help determine the direction the Chamber takes on issues that are important to the businesses and the community.

Chamber Website

Another great benefit of your chamber membership!

The Chamber office and board wants you to get the most out of your Chamber of Commerce membership. If you are a business member, church or non-profit organization we invite you to visit the new chamber website at www.meridian-chamber.com.



meridian-chamber.com, look at your membership listing and let us know what you would like to add. Email us any logo's or pictures you want added as well as a bio or useful information. What would you like new residents or visitors to see when they pull up your listing? Let us know and we'll get it done.





*Thank You to these Members for their Special Investment
in the future success of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce:*

2015 Platinum Member:



Gold Member:

Cobb Ranch Properties

Business Partner Members:

City of Meridian	First Security State Bank
Double B Foods	Texas-New Mexico Power
United Cooperative Services	

Silver Associate Members:

Rick & Jan Goon

Bronze Associate Members:

Don & Mary Beth McMahon

Chamber Member



**Spotlight your business
by sponsoring one of the 2015
Membership meetings.**

\$50 includes:

- Advertising in the next newsletter
 - Lunch for 2
 - A five minute commercial
- Promotional materials placed on each table

Call or email to reserve a month... 6 meetings are still available.

(254) 435-2966

meridian-chamber@sbcglobal.net

2015 Scheduled Events:

2nd Thursday: Membership Meeting & Luncheon;
12p-1p Meridian Civic Center

March 2-8: Bosque County celebrates Texas Independence

March 21: Annual Chamber Banquet

April 10 & 11: Bosque County-Wide Garage Sale

April 4: Easter Egg Hunt

April 25: Meridian Public Library-Jewels & Jeans

June 12-13: ChiggerFest/Bosque Go Texan BBQ Cookoff

September: 2nd Annual "Loving Life in Bosque County"
Photo Contest

October 10: Lords Harvest @ First United Methodist Church

October 23-24: National Championship Barbecue Cookoff @
Bosque Bottoms

December 5: Christmas on the Bosque



Please mark your calendars & plan to attend these events.

**For more information call the Chamber office at
254-435-2966**

The Meridian Chamber Newsletter design and layout courtesy of
Kimberley Smith of *Bosque Living Magazine*, (254) 675-4222.





A Chamber of Commerce Membership is a Good Idea!

Why Join the Chamber?

Some benefits of a Chamber membership might be more important to you than others however, the main benefits are universal. Chamber membership conveys credibility and stability to your customers. Any size business, large or small, can benefit from a chamber membership. The low annual dues are a very inexpensive way to gain all the advertising that a business or organization receives with a membership. Our associate memberships are available to any citizen in Bosque County that is interested in their community, wants to be involved and help our local businesses and organizations succeed.

What does the Chamber of Commerce do?

The majority of Chamber work focuses on attracting visitors to Meridian and encouraging them and local residents to patronize the

businesses, services, and attractions offered by our members. We continually stress that shopping local is very important for a strong local economy.

We distribute our brochures throughout the county and in visitor's centers in other cities. Our website and our new mobile app, *Bosque Connect*, keeps a list of current members. We also post and share information from our members on our FaceBook page, mobile app and website.

We refer 20 to 30 callers and walk-ins to our chamber members each month. We produce the weekly community calendar of events that is emailed weekly to our members as well as maintain the web calendar of events on the internet. We produce and promote community activities and events each year, which are designed to at-

tract more visitors to our city.

We do our best to stay informed on the issues that affect your business and quality of life and issue broadcast emails weekly to provide you with the most up-to-date information. All current members are listed in our quarterly newsletter and only Chamber members are listed in our relocation and visitor packets that are sent on request.

New members are introduced at our monthly luncheons and given the opportunity to address our membership about their company, products or service. All members can display their brochures in the Chamber literature rack. If you would like more information about membership or have questions, please call us at (254) 435-2966 or via email at meridian-chamber@sbcglobal.net.



Meridian Chamber of Commerce Members as of January 2015

January New Members

Jack & Tammy Cameron
Meridian Church of Christ
Tres Hermanos
Uncle Gus Lodge & Marina

January Renewed Members

A Plus Loans
ATMOS Energy
Avirett Agency
Bosque Living Magazine
Bosque River Retreat
Carlisle Real Estate
Carter BloodCare
CASA / Cross Timbers area
Center Pointe Barber Shop
China House
Citizens State Bank
City of Meridian
Cobb Properties

Cut-N-Up
Double B Foods
DW Blues Band
Edward Jones
First Baptist Church
First Community Bank
First National Bank of Bosque County
First Security State Bank
H & R Block
Lake Whitney Chamber of Commerce
Main Street Antiques & Interiors
Meridian Ace Hardware
Meridian Lion's Club
Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation
Mr. Ed's Country Feed Store
Murphey, Jane S. PC
Mustang Dental Care

National Championship Barbecue Cookoff
Rivers Bend Doggie Drop Inn, The
Wallace Sight & Sound, Inc.
Yellow Book USA
Your Community Phone Book

January Renewed Associate Members

Peggy Brantley
Richard & Jane Creech
David & Kay Duke
Rick & Jan Goon
Gene & Aline Harville
Mary Jones
Sue B. Kerley
Don & Mary Beth McMahon
Mark & Teresa McMahon





Believe in Your Vision, Believe in Yourself!

by Motivational Speaker, Chad Hymas

With the new year and usual resolutions that it brings, this looked like a suitable article...

Having a vision for the future is like holding your dreams in the palm of your hand. It will give you purpose and allow for your dreams to come true. If we can but follow a few short steps, we can make our dreams a reality.

The first step is to write down your goal and place it where you will see it every day. Reminding yourself of “the bigger picture” will help get you through those detours that life inevitably throws in your path.

The next step is to know exactly what is necessary to reach this goal. Once you have determined what these are, follow up by putting these written words into action. Make sure these steps are practical, as well as reasonable.

Your vision is your hope for a brighter future - for you and for those around you. Attaining this might require you to break out of your comfort zone. This is not always easy, but usually essential for inner growth, as well as success.

The last step, but very necessary, is to be mindful of ‘vision killers.’ These need to be avoided at all costs. A common vision killer is fear of ridicule from others. This will only hinder your goal of accomplishing what you need to do.

Before you can bring your vision to fruition, you must believe in it. You must believe you can attain it—whether it personal or professional.



Always remember: YOU are in control.

If you have failed before, consider the reasons why and learn from it. You will more likely succeed through that knowledge gained from those previous failures.

Make sure your expectations are realistic. You can't hit a homerun if you haven't practiced at the batting cages or put your time in. You must train and condition yourself to do so.

Also, listen to your critics, but don't let them convince you that you are less than you are. Most

critics will tear you down to make themselves look better.

I have also found that when you give your time and energy to others, you will get positive feedback and respect from others. This “building block” will give you self-respect which is essential for you to believe in yourself.

It's important that we never give up on our dreams, our goals, and our vision. If you believe in yourself, you will be successful.



“The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight, but has no vision” –Helen Keller

2015 Membership Drive

If you have not renewed your Chamber membership, now is the time to send it in!

Chamber membership is not limited to business owners! Everyone who is community-minded is encouraged, and welcome, to join the Chamber. Dues paid now are for the new Chamber fiscal year January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

If you are not a member, we invite you to join the Chamber of Commerce and help us make a difference in our small community.

An online membership form can be found on the Chamber of Commerce website: www.meridian-chamber.com

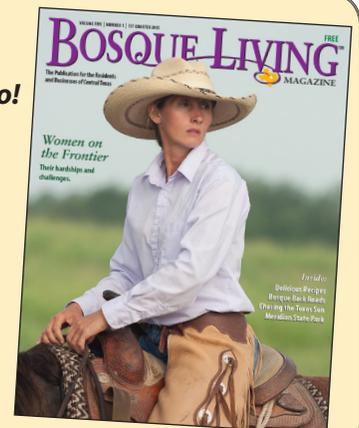
We're Growing by Leaps & Bounds!
Distribution is in Bosque County and the surrounding five-county area including Waco!

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2014 Christmas on the Bosque



Parade Photo Highlights

