



A LETTER FROM THE CHAMBER PRESIDENT:

The rush of Spring Break and Easter has passed and summer will be here in just a few short months. The Chamber is busy preparing for its annual Awards Banquet and encourages all of our members to attend. Further details on the banquet are included in this newsletter.

It is also time to begin sales for our 2008-2009 Visitor's Guide and we hope you will continue to support this very important project by advertising your business.

Now is the perfect time of year to stop by the Chamber office and let us know how we can better meet the business needs of the community. Take advantage of the temporary slowdown in visitor traffic to visit with your neighbors and friends. When we work together, we all benefit.

Sincerely,

Betty Wells

President Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

Tickets for the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce's annual Awards Banquet are now on sale at the Chamber office.

Scheduled to be held Friday, April 18th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Pelican Station Restaurant, the banquet will feature live music by Dulce Maria Gonzalez and three menu choices for the sit down dinner. A social hour will be held from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm and Awards presentations at 8:30 pm. A cash bar will be offered.

Tickets are priced at \$25 per person. For more information on the banquet or to purchase your tickets, please contact the Chamber office at 9943-2262.

CHAMBER/CITY, EDC AND MUSEUMS TO LAUNCH TELEVISION AD CAMPAIGN

The Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, Port Isabel Economic Development Corporation, City of Port Isabel and Museums of Port Isabel will begin a six month joint advertising campaign with Time Warner Cable on April 1st. The six month campaign will air April, May and June and continue in October, November and December. Its message is "Port Isabel. . .where it's all about the destination."

Time Warner Cable representative Erin Cassity-Hales will be addressing Chamber members at the April 4th All Member meeting at 8:30 am at Pirates Landing and will be outlining opportunities for local businesses to participate in the promotion. One of the features of the campaign is utilizing the lower

Valley weather crawl, which will enable the community to promote special events.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 943-2262.

BLACK DRAGON CRUISES TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN MAY

The pirates are coming! The pirates are coming! And project coordinator Phil Calo and Pirate Queen Christy McDonald want to share the news with Chamber members.

Both will be addressing businesses at the April 4th All Member meeting at 8:30 am at Pirate's Landing Restaurant. Black Dragon Cruises is scheduled to launch business operations in May and will offer a variety of pirate-themed cruises of various durations as well as a daily "buccaneer" dinner cruise. According to Calo, "We intend to offer not only exciting family entertainment. . .but the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and variety of the renowned Laguna Madre, habitat for an enormous number of aquatic species," Calo said. "We'll stress the educational and ecological aspects and have a lot of fun doing it."

Black Dragon Cruises will depart from Pirates Landing in Port Isabel.

VISITORS GUIDE SALES TO BEGIN IN APRIL

Advertising sales for the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce's 2008-2009 Visitors Guide will begin April 1st, according to

Chamber President Betty Wells.

Now entering its second year of publication, Chamber officials plan to increase the print run of the guide from 20,000 to 30,000 and commit one-third of the total guides for local distribution. "We hope to attract visitors to the area and capture those who are already in our communities," said President Betty Wells. "The only way we can effectively accomplish this is to print more guides."

Chamber businesses will soon receive rate information in the mail and are encouraged to respond as soon as possible to meet the May 15th deadline for advertising commitments. For more information, please contact Betty Wells at the Chamber office at 943-2262.

MARCH NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS
Daddy's Seafood & Cajun Kitchen
Mamacita's Mexican Seafood Kitchen

QUEEN ISABELLA MARKET DAY 4/12
9a-4p Live Music~Vendors~Art & More

APRIL COMMUNITY & CHAMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2-Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting. White Sands Restaurant 8:30a	3	4-All Chamber meeting 8:30a (Pirates Landing)	5
6-PI Antique & Flea Market (Beulah Lee Park) 9a-4p	7	8-City Commission Meeting(City Hall) 7p	9-Merchants Committee Meeting (Mexiquito) 8:30a	10-Beautification Committee 5p (City Hall)	11	12-Queen Isabella Market Day 9a-4p on the Lighthouse Grounds. Live music, vendors & art!
13	14	15	P & Z (City Hall) 6p	16-Ambassador's Meeting (Treasures) 8:30a	17-Harbor Committee 5:30p (City Hall)	18-PICC Awards Banquet 7-9p at Pelican Station. Tickets available at Chamber office.
20	21	22-City Commission Meeting (City Hall) 7p	23-Merchants Committee Meeting (Mexiquito) 8:30a	24-Comprehensive Planning 5:30p (City Hall) Museums' Telling Our Stories Program 7p	25	26
27	28	29	30			

~ PORT ISABEL ~
Chamber of Commerce

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