

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Chamber Members:

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were good ones and we are all looking forward to a bright and prosperous new year.

Our 26th Annual Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walk will kick off the new year on Saturday, January 9th, starting at 10 am at the Port Isabel Community Center. The Chamber is seeking volunteers to help with the event and to assist with early check ins at the Chamber office January 4-7th. Please contact the Chamber office at 943-2262 if you are able to help.

Our January All Member meeting will bring the addition of a new Board members, Cecelia Bliss. Cecelia has been an active Chamber member and dedicated volunteer and we look forward to working with her in her new position. We will also be presenting the 2010 proposed budget to our general membership for approval. We are pleased to note that the Chamber has budgeted more money than ever before to advertising and promotions.

Our winter visitors are beginning to arrive in large numbers and we welcome them back. For more information on Chamber programs and activities, please contact the Chamber office.

I'd also like to remind you that our regular All Member meeting has been changed to Friday, Jan. 8th at 8:30 am at Pirates Landing. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,  
Betty Wells  
President

## 26TH ANNUAL LONGEST CAUSEWAY RUN & FITNESS WALK SET FOR JANUARY 9

Walk or run to the 26th Annual Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walk, scheduled to be held Saturday, January 9th beginning at 10 am at the Port Isabel Community Center.

More than 2,500 participants are expected to turn out for one of the most popular events in the area. Hosted by the Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce, the top three overall male and female runners will receive cash prizes of \$1000, \$600 and \$400, respectively. The first 2000 participants to check in will receive complimentary



T-shirts.

The 10K run will start at 10 am sharp and walkers will begin their three mile stroll at approximately 10:15 am. Louie's Backyard on South Padre Island will once again host the awards ceremonies. For more information, please contact the Chamber office at 943-2262. The event is being sponsored in part by First National Bank of South Padre Island, the South Padre Island Convention & Visitors Bureau, the City of Port Isabel, Port Isabel Economic Development Council, Louie's Backyard, NewsCenter 23, Favorite Brands/Nestle Waters/180 and the Port Isabel-South Padre Press/South Padre Parade.

## ANNUAL BOAT PARADE PLEASES SPECTATORS

Thousands of spectators lined local waterways on December 5th to view the 23rd Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade.

A total of 14 vessels of all sizes participated in the event, which began at the Port Isabel City Docks and ended at Louie's Backyard on South Padre Island. A variety of themes and decorations adorned the boats and spectators cheered and clapped as the parade went by.

"This is a very popular event with visitors and residents," said Port Isabel Chamber of Commerce President Betty Wells. "We were extremely pleased with the participation of area boats this year. It was a spectacular sight watching the vessels in parade formation. We felt that every one of them was a winner."

Best Overall honors went to Jason White and his crew aboard the Abby. The boat also took first place honors in the power 30' & over class.

## MUSEUMS OF PORT ISABEL ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTING TEAM

With the appointment of Edward Meza to City Manager after he had been Director of Historic Preservation and Director of the Museums of Port Isabel

since 1996, a new team has been named which will be overseeing the museums' facilities and programs.

Effective November 11, 2009, Edward Meza, City Manager, appointed two long time Museum employees as Museum Administrator and Curator of Education and Programs.

### Jeannie Marie Aby

Jeannie Marie Aby has been working with the Museums of Port Isabel for nearly 8 years as Administrative Assistant and has been involved in a wide variety of tasks including the day to day management of the museums, event coordination and support and tours and programs. As Museum Administrator, Jeannie Aby will bring

with her the experience of working behind the scenes in a vital support role to the museums many functions in city government, tourism, historic preservation and tourism.

### Gabriel Godines

Gabriel Godines, formerly Lighthouse Keeper and Museum Assistant will now fill the role of Curator of Education and Programs. Gabriel Godines has been with the Museums for nearly seven years and has not only served as Lighthouse Keeper, but also been involved in the museums many special projects from the Lighthouse Establishment Cinema to special exhibits to tours. Additionally, Gabriel has been appointed as Port Isabel's representative to the Cameron County Historical Commission.

City Manager Edward Meza adds, "I feel confident that both Ms. Aby and Mr. Godines will continue to serve the Museums well with their dedication and experience. We are fortunate to have two multi-generational residents with vision and experience that will interpret and promote our local heritage and culture."

Contact Info:

Jeannie Marie Aby, Museum Administrator, email: jriversa@copitx.com.

Gabriel Godines, Curator of Education and Programs, email: ggodines@copitx.com.

## NEW CHAMBER MEMBER PARAGRAPHS ON PADRE BLVD.

Photo captions: Left- Walkers during 25th Run / Walk. Above: Decorated boats on the Laguna Madre.

## JANUARY CHAMBER & COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/3	9:00am	Antique & Flea Market
1/4	5:30pm	Parks & Recreation Committee (City of Port Isabel)
1/5	6:00pm	Board of Adjustments (City of Port Isabel)
	7:30pm	You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown (SPICVB)
1/8	8:30am	Port Isabel Chamber General Membership Meeting
1/9	10:00am	Longest Causeway Run & Fitness Walk
1/12	7:00pm	City Commission Meeting (City of Port Isabel)
1/13	8:30am	Merchants Committee Meeting
	6:00pm	Planning & Zoning Committee (City of Port Isabel)
1/14	5:30pm	Beautification Committee (City of Port Isabel)
1/20	6:00pm	Economic Development Corporation (City of PI)
1/21	3:00pm	Harbor Committee (City of Port Isabel)
1/21	5:30pm	Comprehensive Planning Committee (City of PI)
1/26	7:00pm	City Commission Meeting (City of Port Isabel)
1/27	8:30am	Merchants Committee Meeting
1/28	7:00pm	Telling Our Stories (Museums of Port Isabel)

See more online at [www.portisabel.org/calendar](http://www.portisabel.org/calendar)

~ PORT ISABEL ~  
Chamber of Commerce

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