

Webb County Community Center's Newsletter

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&
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Director's Christmas Luncheon

It has become a yearly tradition to celebrate Christmas with good friends and esteemed colleagues. For the second year the Texas A&M Colonias Program and the Webb County Community Center Directors have come together to celebrate a special day in a special way. One by one everyone began trickling into the semi-large gathering room at Coyote Creek. Many familiar faces warmed the room, as well as some new faces who were happy to share a meal and a happy time. It is days such as these that all work is placed on hold for an hour or two just to share some laughs with good friends and good company along with a delicious meal. It's times like these that we have come to value and we always remember no matter where our paths

lead us. Today we all share a journey, with the same visions and the same goals but tomorrow may take us to new heights. So when we share moments such as these we learn to value them. In attendance that day was Mr. Pete Lara, Ms. Sara Buentello, Ms. Ofelia Rodriguez, Mr. Joe Gutierrez, Ms. Janie Puente, Mr. Mario Garcia, Ms. Alice Garcia, Ms. Elizabeth Rodriguez, Mr. Ricardo Molina, Mr. Gilbert Gonzalez, Mr. Enrique Escontillas, Mr. Jorge Negrete and Ms. Valerie Rivera Soto. Thank you to everyone who was in attendance, we had a

great time! We missed those of you who were not able to



be there but you were in our thoughts. From our entity to yours we wish you a year full of prosperity, good health, many good times, peace, joy, and lots of love. We look forward to working with everyone in 2009!

Farewell Friends

Like most everything, every good thing must come to an end. During this past year all the community centers have joined forces to make this newsletter a possibility. However with the growth of each center and the numerous events at each center, we have

decided to part ways and allow each of us to head in a different direction. Each Community Center will now be featuring their own monthly newsletter highlighting the many events they have going on each month. It has been our privilege to bring you this

monthly newsletter as an informational resource of the wonderful work each center does. Thank you for being a loyal reader. Take Care and God Bless each one of you.

Elizabeth & Alice
Editors

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- Rio Bravo brings smiles to children
- Naughty or Nice at La Presa
- Buenos Aires spreads joy
- Green Santa at Fred M & Anita Bruni
- Quad-City delivers gifts
- Larga Vista gets an overwhelming support from community
- Bruni hosts traditional Christmas



Rio Bravo brings smiles to neighborhood kids

For the month of December, the Rio Bravo Community Center had its regular monthly programs such as our Bread Distribution, Mercy Ministries, U.S.D.A., Bingo Hosted By B.A.N.C., Kids Café, CAA and Food distribution by South Texas Food Bank. Members from the center received Christ-



mas presents from Commissioner Pct. 1 Frank Sciaraffa.



On December 19, 2008 the Rio Bravo Community Center had it's Kid's Café Christmas Party and they were surprised when they opened the door to find children from the com-

munity waiting to celebrate. The children were so happy when they received their shoe-box presents and ate delicious cheeseburgers from McDonalds. Thanks to everyone who made this event



possible.

{ *"Rejoice A King is Born!"* }

Were children at La Presa Naughty or Nice?

La Presa Community Center had many different events this month. The bingo hosted by B.A.N.C. was held on Decem-



ber 16. Also our 2nd Annual Texas A&M Colonias Program Shoebox Christmas Event was held on Dec. 17th. Sixty-three children received beautifully decorated shoeboxes filled with lots of candies & toys. Special thanks to Mr. Pete Lara, Sr. and Ms. Sara Buentello for all the effort and generosity they put

into this joyful event. The Hon. Margie Ibarra, Webb County Clerk donated blankets to the residents of La Presa. On Dec. 22nd, Webb County Public Defender Hugo Martinez & his staff held a Christmas Party for more than forty children. La Presa Community Center was one place that Santa Clause made a pit stop, little girls and boys, big girls and boys; YES



Santa Clause had a gift for eve-



ryone! A special thanks to Assistant Public Defender Attorney Estella Rodriguez and her staff who organized this huge & heartwarming event. On behalf of the residents thank you for a VERY warm Christmas. Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa Pct. 1 wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"MI CASA ES SU CASA"
God Bless You.



Buenos Aires Spreads Christmas Joy

The Buenos Aires Community Center celebrated its annual Christmas Party with some delicious tamales, rice and beans and some yummy dessert. Along with the delicious food, everyone enjoyed live music. Everyone received a brown paper bag full of groceries. It was a special and much needed treat for many who attend the Center. Prizes were also raffled



and everyone left very happy. The Center also had its 3rd Annual Shoebox Christmas Project co-sponsored by the Texas A & M Colonias Program. Area children were treated to a Christmas gathering as they enjoyed some delicious cupcakes. The smiles on the children's faces were priceless as they each received their Christ-

mas gift. Each family also received a bag full of groceries. It is at this special time of the year that each of us stops and thanks our Lord for the many blessing we have. It is always a bigger blessing to give than to receive. Thanks to everyone who made these events possible. The Buenos Aires staff wishes everyone a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!



Green Santa arrives at Fred M & Anita Bruni

Children of the Peñitas area residents were surprised this Christmas when green Santa stopped by the center bearing gifts. Border Patrol sponsored 80 children

from the colonia. The kids were treated with several gifts and yummy cake and punch. Each child had a chance to take their picture with Santa. They also had fun singing Christmas carols. The Shoe Box Project sponsored 80 children from the colonia. Protrans was at the center on Dec. 12 to hand out the gifts, cookies and juice. All the kids were very excited and happy to get their presents. A special thanks to all the sponsors who made these events

possible; Border Patrol, Mr. Gilberto De Los Santos, Protrans and the Texas A&M Colonias Program for always making this a joyous event for the children.



Quad-City delivers gifts to area children

The Quad-City Community Center held their annual Elderly Christmas Party for their

in-house BANC program participants. The elderly had a wonderful time enjoying the food and a gift exchanged amongst themselves. Mario Garcia, Center Director and his staff delivered Christmas gifts to the homes of area children. The gifts were provided by the Texas

A&M Colonias Program shoebox project.



Larga Vista was Blessed by the generosity of this community!!!

Larga Vista Community Center would like to take this opportunity to thank all the different agencies that donated Christmas toys for the children of this area. Blankets for our Elderly, and food bags for many residents on Hwy 359 were also donated. We are extremely grateful to all the donors who were kind enough to donate items this Christmas Season. Without their generosity the children would not have gotten as many toys as they did this year. There was an array



with big hearts and care for our residents and their children. The Larga Vista staff Alice, Andrea, Javier, & Greg "Thank you" for all that you do and hope that it continues in the years to come. May God Bless you and Happy New Year!



of festivities in the month of December. Texas A&M Shoebox kicked off our month, followed by the Christmas Elderly Luncheon, Kids Café Christmas Luncheon, Optimist toy giveaway, TX Dot toy giveaway, County Clerks Blanket giveaway, LOVED food bags distribution, Head Start Christmas Program and of course our regular monthly programs. It is nice to know that there are many people in our community



Bruni host traditional Christmas Dream

On December 17, 2008, Bruni Community Center held their Annual Quad-City Elderly



Christmas Party. The event was



a great success. To set the holiday mood our local church guitarist and choir sang and played the old traditional Christmas carols. The local

elderly enjoyed a variety of holiday food as well as door prizes. It was quite a "Christmas Dream" as was the theme of the event.





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