

Regional Pursuits

DECEMBER 2015 • VOLUME LXXXVII



Inside this issue:

- Aging Well in the Valley 2015 **2**
- Area Agency on Aging & TSHL Host First Ever Valley Town Hall Meeting **3**
- FEMA Region 6 Citizen Corps Workshop **4**
- News from LRGVDC Regional Police Academy & Training Center **4**
- Region M Finalizes 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan **5**
- Glenn Jarvis Retires as Region M Chairman **5**



REGIONAL PURSUITS is the newsletter published by the LRGVDC. This publication is financed in part through funding assistance from State and Federal grants. *REGIONAL PURSUITS* is available without cost and inquiries should be directed to:
Ken Jones, Executive Director
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
301 W. Railroad Street, Weslaco, TX 78596
Email: info@lrgvdc.org
Website: lrgvdc.org
956-682-3481, fax 956-631-4670



Aging Well in the Valley 2015



Dance Contest in Full Sing!



The LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging held their annual "Aging Well in the Valley" event on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at the St. Joan of Arc Parish Hall in Weslaco. 150 seniors attended this year and enjoyed visiting the health and information booths and dancing to music provided by DJ Lars, popular local disc jockey. Vendors and local establishments generously donated door prizes that were won by enthusiastic participants.

There was a dance contest judged by representatives from Health Spring, Molina, and Superior, which are managing care organizations, as well as APS Home Health, and local Telemundo celebrity Hugo Magallan. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies were awarded to the top couples.

This year's clinics provide free health screening that included blood pressure checks, height and weight measurements, and glucose screening. Information vital to seniors about Medicare and Medicaid, Provider Services, Dental Hygiene, Extra Help with Prescription Costs (Low Income Subsidy), Medicare Senior Patrol, Adult Protective Services and Caregiver Information was provided. LRGVDC Economic Development Department also participated in this event.



Pictured to the right are staff who helped coordinate this event



Area Agency on Aging & Texas Silver Haired Legislature Host First Ever Valley Town Hall Meeting

The Area Agency on Aging and Texas Silver Haired Legislature (TSHL) hosted the first ever Town Hall Meeting in the Lower Rio Grande Valley at the Weslaco City Hall. Members of the Legislature were present and spoke of legislative actions taken during the recent legislative session that affected the elderly. Members present were State Representatives Armando Martinez and Bobby Guerra and State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. Louise Butler, a member of the TSHL, took the lead in inviting the legislative delegation and lead discussions with members. The audience was given the opportunity to ask questions and/or make recommendations. There were fifty-three individuals in attendance.



TSHL Member Louise Butler welcomed the Group to the 1st Town Hall Meeting in the Rio Grande Valley



Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Our legislators addressing constituents at the TSHL Town Hall Meeting.



Representative Bobby Guerra



Representative Armando "Mando" Martinez

FEMA Region 6 Citizen Corps Workshop

In August State Citizen Corps Program Managers and representatives from across FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) Region 6 met in Denton, TX for a workshop. Representatives from Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico attended this regional gathering. The purpose of the workshop was to allow participants to share best practices, voice their concerns, and collaborate on ways to strengthen the role of the Citizen Corps program in addressing community preparedness and resiliency. The two entities chosen to represent Texas are the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)** and the Heart of Texas Council of Government. The LRGVDC was represented by Juanita Saenz, Homeland Security Planner (pictured in purple sweater in front row).



News from LRGVDC Regional Police Academy & Training Center

The new TCOLE training unit began 9/1/2015 and will end 8/31/2017. The LRGVDC Regional Police Academy & Training Center (RPA) offered the 84th Legislative Update course throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley the week of 9/28/2015–10/2/2015 and over 200 Peace Officers successfully completed the course. The RPA offers training that can be completed free of charge to all licensees for up to 32 Hours of TCOLE credit. For more information and course schedule dates, please visit the RPA webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/academy.html>.



In January, the RPA is cosponsoring the Supervisor Leadership Institute for Law Enforcement Executives (FBI-LEEDA). This is a 4 ½-day program for law enforcement executives offered by the FBI. The course dates are 1/4/2016–1/8/2016 at TSTC in Harlingen.

The RPA is also hosting the Sex Offender Registration Class on 1/20/2016 at TSTC and on 1/21/2016 at STC in McAllen. This presentation will be conducted by a Representative of TXDPS Sex Offender Registration Unit. This course will provide step-by-step instructions, cover legislative updates, and review the responsibilities of criminal justice agencies involved with the registration process.



Other courses of interest through February of 2016 include:

- Legislative Update, Kenedy County Sheriff's Office, 12/1/2015
- Child Abuse, TSTC, 12/2/2015
- Firearms Instructor's Course, RGV Border Security Tech. Training Center, 12/14/2015
- SFST Instructor's Course, RGV Border Security Tech. Training Center, 1/11/2016
- Patrol Rifle Instructor's Course, RGV Border Security Tech. Training Center, 1/25/2016
- Use of Force, TSTC, 2/18/2016

Below are the starting dates for the Basic Peace Officer Academy classes:

- Mission Night (191st) 12/07/2015
- Harlingen Day (192nd) 01/11/2016

Testing for the classes has begun. Please call Ms. Ileana Durán at (956)364-4507 to register for the pre-entrance exam.

**Region M
Finalizes
2016
Rio
Grande
Regional
Water
Plan**



The Region M Group; front row l-r: Sonny Hinojosa, Sonia Lambert, Mayor Jim Darling, Armando Vela, Dennis Goldsberry, Jorge Barrera, Judge Joe Rathmell. Back row l-r: Nick Benavides, Jr., Tomas Rodriguez, Carlos Garza, Glenn Jarvis, Judge Humberto Gonzalez, Frank Schuster, Ray Prewett, Jaime Flores, Robert Fulbright, Willy Cupit, and Don McGhee. Not pictured: Mary Lou Campbell, and Robert Pena

For the past five years the Region M Group has worked diligently on the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP), which is a draft for the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (Plan). Public comments on the IPP were received until August 24 this year and were considered at the September 30 Region M meeting. On November 4 the Group met and unanimously adopted the Plan. Region M's Plan, along with Regional Water Plans from the other fifteen (15) Regional Water Planning Groups will be integrated to create the 2017 State Water Plan which is used as a guide for the funding of water projects for the State of Texas.

Glenn Jarvis Recognized as Outgoing Region M Chair

Glenn Jarvis is one of the few remaining charter members of the initial coordinating body of the Region M Group that was created February 19, 1998 by the Texas Water Development Board and he has served as chairman of the Group for the 17 years since the first meeting held on April 15, 1998. His 50 plus years of experience in the field of water law and extensive knowledge of the law of the Rio Grande has been an invaluable asset to the Group. After the Group unanimously voted to adopt the 2016 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, Mr. Jarvis declined nominations to continue in this leadership role but will stay on as a voting member.

Following this announcement Mr. Jarvis was honored by Representative Eddie Lucio, III with a resolution written by the Texas Legislature that was presented by the Representative's Chief of Staff, Ruben O'Bell. Representative Lucio regrettably was unable to present the resolution himself, but Mr. O'Bell stated that Mr. Lucio is "the President of [Mr. Jarvis'] fan club".



L-R: Kathleen Jackson, TWDB; Ruben O'Bell, Chief of Staff to Rep. Eddie Lucio, III; Mr. Glenn Jarvis



Newly elected Chairman Tomas Rodriguez presents Glenn Jarvis with a plaque recognizing his 17 years as Chairman of the Region M Group.

Ms. Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member, presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Jarvis that reads, "The Texas Water Development Board extends our gratitude to Glenn Jarvis for his years of dedicated leadership as Chairman of the Region M Water Planning Group and his commitment to Texas water".

Mr. Jarvis was taken by surprise by these honors and received a standing ovation from the Group as he accepted them and thanked Ms. Jackson and Mr. O'Bell.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mayor James E. Darling City of McAllen	President
Mayor Tony Martinez City of Brownsville	1 st Vice President
Mayor Celeste Sanchez City of San Benito	2 nd Vice President
Honorable Norma G. Garcia Member-at-Large	Secretary
Council Member Richard Molina City of Edinburg	Treasurer
Mayor Chris Boswell City of Harlingen	Immediate Past President

REMAINING BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Sofia Benavides	Cameron County
Commissioner Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu	Hidalgo County
Judge Aurelio "Keter" Guerra	Willacy County
Commissioner Pilar Garza	City of Alamo
Mayor Irene Munoz	City of Donna
Commissioner Daniel A. Guzman	City of Edcouch
Mayor Victor Gonzales Jr.	City of La Feria
Alderdwoman Rosa Perez	City of La Villa
Mayor Henry Hinojosa	City of Mercedes
Mayor Pro-tem Norie Gonzalez Garza	City of Mission
Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez	City of Pharr
Mayor San Juanita "Janie" Sanchez	City of San Juan
Mayor David Suarez	City of Weslaco
Ms. Wanda F. Garza	South Texas College
Dr. Stella E. Garcia	Texas State Technical College
Mr. Troy Allen	Delta Lake Irrigation District
Mr. Ronald Mills	Willacy County Navigation District
Mr. Steve Brewer	Member-at-Large
Mayor Pro-tem Eddy Gonzalez	Member-at-Large
Mr. Arturo Ramirez	Grassroots Organizations

CONTACTS FOR ADMINISTERED PROGRAMS

Kenneth N. Jones, Jr.	Executive Director	Tom Logan	Director, Valley Metro
Crystal Balboa	Director, Finance	Manuel Cruz	Director, Homeland Security
Anna Hernandez	Director, Human Resources	Marcie Oviedo	Director, Regional Planning & Services
Victor Morales	Director, Procurement	Sergio Castro	Director, 9-1-1 Services
Joe Gonzalez	Director, Area Agency on Aging	Paul Williams	Director, Regional Police Academy & Training Center
Terrie Salinas	Director, Economic Development	Andrew Canon	Director, Hidalgo County MPO

PRSRT STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 31
 McALLEN, TX
 78501

**Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council**

301 W. Railroad Street • Weslaco, TX 78596

