



Become A Member

Upcoming Events

Communities Working Together to Accomplish What One Community Cannot Do Alone

The **E—Update**



***"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor,
summer an oil painting, and autumn a
mosaic of them all."***

- Stanley Horowitz

***It's An Exciting Lineup
You Don't Want to***



Miss!

**Register Today for
the 27th Annual
Conference on October
28th!**

The Texas Midwest Annual Conference is our signature event during which we provide our members with timely educational

sessions, motivating speakers, and showcase inspirational projects carried out by our next generation of leaders. This year, due to unprecedented circumstances, we will be holding the Conference virtually. However, we will also be hosting five in-person watch parties to give our member that peer-to-peer networking they've come to expect and appreciate during the Conference. These five locations include:

- **Brady** – Ed Davenport Civic Center, 816 San Angelo Hwy
- **Brownwood** – Civic & Cultural Center, 600 E Depot Street
- **Cisco** – Conrad Hilton Center, 309 Conrad Hilton Blvd.
- **Snyder** – Snyder Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, 2302 Avenue R
- **Seymour** – City Hall Cinema, 301 N Washington

Of course, you can choose to watch the Conference from the comfort of your home or office - either way, we want you to be able to gain the most out of the event.

This year's theme is **"Seeing the Small Town Future"**! **Deb Brown**, co-founder of [SaveYour.Town](#) and CEO of [Building Possibility](#), will be our keynote speaker.

Other well-known and recognized speakers include:

- **Alysia A. Cook**, Principal of [Opportunity Strategies LLC](#) (*Strategic Planning*)
- **Lorie Vincent**, Founder of [Acceleration by Design](#) (*Downtown Revitalization*)
- **Vicky Soderberg**, Owner of [Cygnet Strategies](#) (*Tourism Marketing*)
- **Jimi Coplen**, Executive Director of the [Development Corporation of Haskell](#), and **Becki Womble**, President and CEO of the [Bastrop Chamber of Commerce](#) (*Leadership Programming*)
- **Ray Tipton**, Executive Director of the [Brownwood MDD](#) & **Ken Becker**, Executive Director of the [Sweetwater MDD](#) (*Housing*)

We are thrilled to have **TMCN Marketing Partner Tolar Systems** handling the technical backend processes of the Conference to ensure a high quality virtual experience.

Come join us! For more information on the schedule and speakers, go to our [website](#), click the [Members Tab](#) and there you'll be able to register and choose your format for attending. We look forward to seeing you!

Texas Department of Agriculture To Host Roundtable by WCTCOG Economic Development Team

The Texas Department of Agriculture CDBG team is re-designing the economic development program (*the former Texas*

Capital Fund) to better address the diverse economic development priorities of rural Texas. While details are still being finalized, below is a high-level overview of the proposed programs:



- The **RED - Strategy Program** provides grant funding to assess the current and long-term community needs, recommend business retention & expansion strategies and identify potential projects and funding sources to support sustainable and strategic economic growth.
- The **RED - Project Program** provides construction/implementation grants to fund projects identified in the community's economic development plan. More flexible than the Texas Capital Fund, a RED - Project can meet any of HUD's National objectives including - LMI job creation, provide goods/services, job training, removal of slum and blight or micro-enterprise support.

TDA is hosting a virtual roundtable discussion on **December 8th** with stakeholders throughout the state. If you are interested in participating, please email [Roxana Newton](#).

Questions related to CDBG programs? Reach out to the
TDA Economic Development Team

Duncan: Texas Counties Must Band Together to Present Legislative Needs

by Abilene Reporter News October 6, 2020

Going into the next session of the Texas Legislature, things will be different, and likely "even more of a challenge than it has been in the past" for county officials, said former state senator Robert Duncan in a speech Tuesday, October 5th.

Duncan, who served in the Legislature for more than two decades, first in the House of Representatives and later in the state Senate, spoke to an auditorium full of socially-distanced attendees at Abilene Convention Center to launch the 98th Annual County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Conference.



County judges and county commissioners are opinion leaders, especially in rural counties, said Duncan, also former chancellor of the Texas Tech University System

Duncan said he remains hopeful that the legislative process still reflects that the state and counties are partners, whether "red or blue."

There is no one size fits all in a state like Texas, he said.

Robert Duncan gave the keynote address Tuesday morning. The 98th Annual County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Conference goes through Thursday. "We're very fortunate that we have local control, I believe, in our counties," he said, having a hand on the pulse of issues such as jail standards, law enforcement, mental health issues, child welfare, and similar topics.

Clear communication with state legislators, then, is "critical to your success," he told attendees at the convention, which has brought about 400 people to Abilene.

This is precisely why the Texas Midwest Community Network was formed back in 1994 and why it continues to be important that we stand and band together to bring rural issues to the forefront.

Legislative Update - November Ballot & Special Election



November Ballot

Texas State Senate

Incumbent Charles Perry District 28 is running unopposed while Incumbent Dawn Buckingham (Rep) faces Clayton Tucker (Dem) for the District 24 seat.

Texas House of Representatives

Shelby Slawson, District 59; Glenn Rogers, District 60; Incumbent James Frank, District 69; and, Incumbent Drew Darby, District 72, are all running unopposed. Incumbent Andrew Murr (Rep) will face Joe P. Herrera (Dem) in District 53; Incumbent Drew Springer (Rep) will face Patsy Ledbetter (Dem) in District 68; Incumbent Stan Lambert (Rep) will face Sam Hutton (Dem) in District 71; and Incumbent Dustin Burrows (Rep) will face Addison Perry-Franks (Dem) in District 83. ***Early voting for the November 3rd Election will begin on October 13th and end on October 30th.***

Special Election - Senate District 30

The runoff in the Texas State Senate Special Election between Shelley Luther and Republican State Representative Drew Springer will be held on December 19th, Gov. Greg Abbott announced on October 10th. ***Early voting for Senate District 30 will begin December 9th.***

Luther and Springer were the top two vote-getters in a Special Election on September 29th for the seat which became open when State Senator Pat Fallon was nominated by Republicans in Congressional District 4 after John Ratcliffe resigned to join the Trump administration.

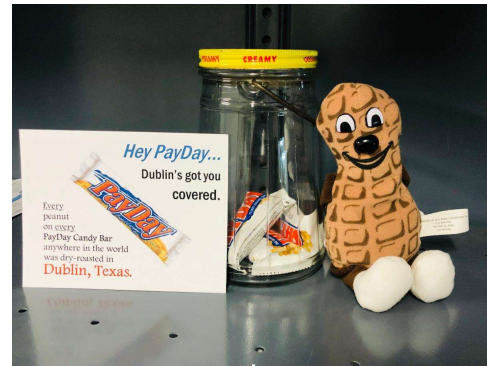
Our Most Popular "Did You Know?" Facebook Post This Past Month

by The Flash Today - Erath County, September 2018

Olam Edible Nuts is a nut facility located in Dublin that produces and processes many kinds of nuts including peanuts, almonds, cashews, walnuts and more, but what makes this facility interesting is where these nuts end up.

The facility dry roasts nuts for many different companies including Hershey, Nestle and General Mills, but for the Payday bar, Olam Edible Nuts is the only facility that dry roasts the nuts for the bar.

Jackie Gailey, the plant manager at Olam Edible Nuts, explains the history of dry roasting nuts for the Payday bar.



"We have been roasting the Payday bar since 2000. At the time it was strictly for the Payday bar but it has grown to [other companies.] We do all kinds of roasting for different companies, but the Payday bar is exclusive to this plant here in Dublin. We're the only facility that roasts these peanuts for the Payday bar so every bar that you eat came from here," Gailey said.

The peanuts have to be blanched first which is the removal of the red skin from the peanut and that is done through a heating and cooling process while the peanut is still raw.

Then, the peanuts are dry roasted. Dry roasting takes about three hours to do a truckload of peanuts.

After the peanuts are dry roasted, they are shipped out to the Hershey Robinson plant where the Payday bar is made.

Gailey says there are four other Olam Edible Nut facilities in the United States. There is a blanching facility in Blakely, Georgia, a blanching facility in Sylvester, Georgia and a roasting facility in Edenton, North Carolina.

"Our plant here in Dublin is the only multi-purpose plant. We actually do blanched peanuts which means that we remove the red skin from them or we can roast either one so we do both here. The company originated here in Dublin in 1990. That's when we built the plant and I've been here ever since then. At the time, we only blanched them; we did not roast them," Gailey said. "Most of the shellers around are customers like Golden Peanut that's in Comyn or Birdsong Peanut that's in Gorman. The company started out as Universal Blanchers. In 2009, I think it was, we were bought out by Olam and then in 2012 I think it was, we became Olam Edible Nuts which is just a company within the Olam company."



Fun Things to Do This Weekend is Moving to the Website

Offering wider visibility of our regional events and venues!

Our ever-popular **"Fun Things to Do This Weekend"** email blast will be moving to our website beginning November 1st! Why you ask? The answer is quite simple - our events are being noticed and we want to encourage more tourism to our region. We have been receiving messages suggesting that with us publishing our events just a few

days prior to the weekend, our potential visitors are finding it difficult to make plans on short notice. We've decided to accommodate them and open our doors wide open!

So, over the next month we'll be compiling the events from our published [2020Texas Midwest Travel Guide](#) Calendar of Events as well as those previously sent to us by our member communities. We are requesting any additional member events be sent to us at tmcn@tmcn.org. Please include the name of the event, event date(s) and a link where visitors can find additional information. Beginning November 1st, we'll post the events on our [website](#) under the [Visit Tab](#). We'll also be posting the link and highlighting these events through our social media channels.

Let's let Texas (and beyond) know about the exciting events and venues we have in the backroads of the Texas Midwest!



Your Regional Resource Connection

We have worked diligently to bring you timely information and resources to assist you and your community in overcoming the challenges presented by COVID-19 and put you on a path to economic recovery.

If you have not already done so, please check out the **Resource & Links** under the [Members Tab](#) on our [website](#). This page is continually updated with the latest news, announcements and resources coming out of Washington, the Governor's Office, State agencies, and our vast base of local and regional community partners. You will also find contact information for various State agencies, National and State Legislators, Workforce and SBDC Offices.

We are also posting timely informational resources, sharing articles of interest, and links to informative webinars on our Facebook Page through our internal TMCN ListServ and on our [Facebook Page](#). We trust you have found this information timely and of value to you and your communities. Our promise to you is to continue to be diligent in keeping you abreast of the current news and events affecting our region.

Regional Career Changes

Here are a few career changes you may have missed. We extend our best wishes to those accepting new positions:



[Early Chamber of Commerce](#): Katy Harris, new Membership Coordinator

[City of Eastland](#): Scott Dixon, new City Manager replacing Andy McCuiston who retired in April



October 15: Hope for the Holidays: Tips and Strategies for Getting Through the Season and Supporting Small Business Webinar, Texas Downtown Association, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 15: Lunchtime Live, Texas Conference for Employers, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 20: Strategies for Small POTWs Handling High Strength Influent, FMI and to Register [Click Here](#)

October 22: Virtual Veteran Entrepreneur Summit, Angelo State University SBDC, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 27: Online Housing Seminar, WCTCOG, FMI Call Alesha at 325-829-6213

October 28: 27th Annual Texas Midwest Conference - Hybrid Virtual, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 29: Leadercast Live Watch Party, Angelo State University SBDC, FMI [Click Here](#)

October 31: Last Day to Self Respond for Census 2020, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 5: Lunchtime Live, Texas Conference for Employers, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 9-13: Future of Rural Texas Symposium, Lubbock, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 9-12: Texas Downtown Annual Conference, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 12: Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Grant Deadline, TCEP, FMI [Click Here](#)

November 12, 13, 19 & 20: Elements of Successful Philanthropy, Texas Historical Commission, FMI [Click Here](#)

* **TMCN Event**

Partner Highlight: Atmos Energy

Atmos Energy employees take enormous pride in their commitment to fuel safe and thriving communities, and during the company's annual Week of Giving campaign held Sept. 14 through Sept. 18, employees across the enterprise pledged more than \$875,000 in donations that will benefit United Way, No Kid Hungry and The Salvation Army in the eight states served by Atmos Energy. Further amplifying the impact of this tremendous financial support, Atmos Energy will match all employee donations and contribute an additional \$875,000 – effectively doubling the resources provided to these crucial organizations that enrich childhood literacy, provide nutritious meals, and offer a helping hand to our most vulnerable neighbors – for a grand total of more than \$1.7 million. Each organization underpins Atmos Energy's enduring commitment to make a difference in the communities it serves.



Atmos Energy Corporation is the nation's largest fully regulated, natural gas-only distributor of safe, clean, efficient and affordable energy. As part of their vision to be the safest provider of natural gas services, they are modernizing their business and infrastructure while continuing to invest in safety, innovation, environmental sustainability and their communities.

For more information on **TMCN Marketing Partner Atmos Energy** [Click Here](#).



We Appreciate Our Partners!

The Marketing & Promotions Opportunities Program is one of the primary reasons for the continued success and sustainability of our organization.

We proudly promote and recognize our partners' unwavering support given not only to our organization as a whole but the 53 communities who make up Texas Midwest Community Network. We recognize and express our sincere gratitude for the longstanding and continued support of the following partners and, ask you, where possible, to demonstrate this appreciation by utilizing their services:

Champion: [Golden Spread Electric Cooperative](#)

Patrons: [Hendrick Health System](#), [Jacob|Martin](#), [Texas State Technical College](#) & [West Texas Rehabilitation Center](#)

Neighbors: [Atmos](#), [AT&T](#), [Center for Community Health & Development](#), [Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd](#), [Howard College-San Angelo](#), [Raise Your Hand Texas](#) & [Tolar Systems](#)

Event Sponsors: [Abilene CVB](#), [Abilene Regional Airport](#), [Angelo State University](#), [SBDC-San Angelo](#), [Cisco College](#), [Coleman County Electric Cooperative](#), [Fullerton & Associates PLLC](#), [Oncor](#) & [Texas Tech University SBDC-Abilene](#)

Interested in becoming one of distinguished Marketing Partners? [Click Here](#) for more information and how your company can benefit!

Texas Midwest Community Network

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