FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Temple Strong: A Letter from the Chamber President

Let me introduce you to my grandfather, George. He was a unique person who I idolized. Sure, we had our grandfather-grandson serious conversations when I went astray, but you know, overall, I learned a great deal from him. He was a farmer from the day he was born. He helped his dad, my great grandfather with the family farm. He was a letterman at the University of Wisconsin ... okay, we weren't totally alike!!! He was a WWI Veteran and took over the family farm with not one but two maple sugar camps. He raised cattle and sheep while starting an apple orchard and peach grove. He was a public servant seeing both sides of the results on election night in his career of service. He was the type of person who never gave up even when the odds were against him.

He worked hard his whole life and encouraged me to take the mantle of serving others. I remember fondly going with him to campaign ... because as a fourth-grader, I had the unique opportunity to be his "campaign manager" and had all the answers!! I passed out thousands of small cards asking the public to vote for Gramps, standing in line for hours at countless fish fries, tenderloin suppers, and more. Sure, my first exposure to politics did not end the way I had hoped, but I look back at the opportunity I was afforded and remember how he was providing a learning experience. He was encouraging me to come out of my shell and to understand what serving the public was all about. He was sharing with me without saying a word that to embrace servant leadership you will spend hours, meet all kinds of people, learn how to communicate and more importantly embrace the importance of diversity, caring about others, and deal with unique challenges. He even had a phrase he shared with me hundreds of times ... one that I'll never forget ... now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country! He believed and lived the life of service.

Why do I bring this up amid the greatest health crisis' we have ever faced ... well, first of all, it took your mind off the immediate problem. Hopefully, it gives you the comfort to know that we are in this together and that we will work together to overcome the obstacles of what tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow will bring. That through all of this new normal stuff we are being exposed to daily, eventually, everything will settle down. What will it be like around the corner? I wish I knew.

The Chamber staff along with the Board of Directors are working hard to meet our responsibility to inform, educate, communicate and advocate for you. We do our best to provide you with the most up-to-date information from reliable sources so you can make informed decisions. Check out www.templechamber.com/templestrong for the latest.

We participate in many conference calls, talk to the staff of our legislative leaders at the national and state level, and we communicate with our local officials to ensure burdens for operating a business are minimized. We communicate with our members not to ask what your plans are, but to see what we can do to help you today.

What can we do now? Say thank you to the health care professionals, the grocery store stockers and clerks, the restaurants and their employees, grocery distribution centers, and businesses who have creatively found a way to serve all of us, the person who delivers your mail and the city worker who picks up the trash and more. I also ask for all of us to never again take small business for granted. They definitely are the backbone of the American Economy!

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS NOW AND FOREVER!!!
They are working hard to survive, to support you and your causes yesterday, today, and tomorrow!!!

#TEMPLESTRONG

Let us pray for a quick resolution to the calamity that has consumed every waking moment. We pray for patience, guidance, and wisdom.

G. Roderick Henry
President & CEO
Temple Chamber of Commerce

COVID-19 Business Resource Page
templechamber.com/templestrong

TempleChamber.com
Temple Strong: Local Restaurants Serve Amid Coronavirus

With COVID-19 hitting Bell County in March, businesses have been scrambling to keep up with new regulations and restrictions. Bell County and the City of Temple declared a state of disaster and required all restaurants to close their inside dining but allowing them to still serve through curbside, drive-thru, or takeout.

Matt Serna, manager of the Pizza Hut on W Adams, sent complimentary pizzas to the Temple High and Lamar Middle School staff. “It's everyone's responsibility to do their part, and if I can relieve an ounce of stress, one pizza at a time, that's what I'm going to do!” The school was released for spring break on March 9 and has not reopened due to COVID-19's presence in Bell County. Serna said, "It is important to give back to the community during hard times."

Pizza Hut is not the only restaurant to support the community by providing their services. Bird Creek Burgers provided 40 grab and go meals for the 411 House, a youth empowerment house in East Temple. Chick-Fil-A packaged hundreds of meals for the HEB Distribution Center employees who are working extended hours. And La Riv Kitchen & Bar is offering free pasta meals to local families in need.

Subway is donating sandwiches and cookies weekly to the ER, Pulmonary & Surgery departments at Baylor Scott & White. John Guthrie, manager of Subway Sandwiches in Temple, spoke on why they decided to donate, “Due to the virus we had to shut down our location inside the hospital, but we didn’t want to abandon the staff. We wanted to give back and we’re a restaurant, so it made sense. It also gives hours to our employees, so it felt good to help everyone involved.”

There are multiple ways you can support local restaurants during this challenging time. Take advantage of their curbside, drive-thru, or takeout options. If takeout is not in the budget, be sure to like their social media pages, leave positive reviews, and share their content. Gift cards are also a great way to show support, you can buy now and use later. This is a challenging time, but we will overcome it together being Temple Strong.

Visit templechamber.com/templestrong-restaurants for a listing of Temple Chamber Member restaurants here to serve.
March New Chamber Members

Ecolab
Matthew Ranney | (800) 352-5326
20465 State Hwy 249, Houston, TX 77070
www.ecolab.com
Business and Mgmt. Consultants

Fowler Legacy Group
Guy Fowler | (254) 721-3456
PO Box 385, Belton, TX 76513
www.guyfowler.com
Real Estate

Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative
Ron Poston | (254) 749-7548
1111 S. Johnson Drive, McGregor, TX 76657
www.hotec.coop
Electric Co-op

March Renewing Chamber Members

9Round
Advanced Chiropractic
Advantage Pest Control
Allumed, Inc.
Almost Home Pet Resort
L.M. Armstrong Construction
Belltec Industries, Inc.
Biggie-Mini Self Storage Inc.
Bulls Financial Group
E.R. Carpenter L.P.
Carter, Congressman John R. - Texas 31
CASA of Bell and Coryell Counties
Celebrations Event Rentals & Design Shoppe
Cen-Tex Fireplace Solutions
Central Texas Veterans Health Care System
Centrifugal Castings, Inc.
Christian Farms-Treehouse, Inc.
Comprehensive Engineering Solutions, Inc.
Cornerstone Gardens Healthcare & Rehabilitation
Cotton Patch Cafe
CTWP
DHI Title
Eagle Systems, Inc.
EBCO General Contractor, Ltd.
Firestone Complete Auto Care
Greater Zion Temple Church of God in Christ
Holiday Inn Temple-Belton
Hooked On Health Wellness Begins at Home
House of Floors
Immanuel Baptist Church
Impact Therapy Solutions
Johnson Brothers Ford Lincoln
Johnson Hobbs Squires LLP
Keeping It Realty
Laura White Interior Design
Link Staffing Services
Lone Star Ag Credit
Louis Wayne Qualls Det. #1249 Marine Corps League
Mac Haik Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep
McDonald’s/Rosado Enterprises
McDonald’s/Rosado Enterprises Inc.
MRB Group
Pack ‘N’ Mail
Payss Insurance Agency, Kenny
Powerhouse All Star Cheer & Fitness
Pro Mix Ready Mix
Pro Star Rental
Rancho Lago Development, Inc.
RE/MAX Temple-Belton Realtors
Rockin’ R Retreat Center
Rotary Club of Temple-South
Rural Rental Housing Assoc. of Texas
Secrest Law Firm
Shine, State Representative Hugh D.
Taco Cabana
Temple Feed & Supply Inc.
Temple Iron & Metal
Temple Professional Firefighters
Temple-Belton Ladies Lions Club
Titan Total Training
United Planet Fitness Partners
United Rentals, Inc.
Validus Fitness & Training Gym, LLC
Veterans United Home Loans
West Temple Orthodontics
Wings Pizza N Things
Woods Flowers
Worldclass Management, Inc.

Leave your business banking to the experts.

As a business owner you wear a lot of hats, but when it comes to banking, leave it to the experts. At Extraco, we’ll handle the hard stuff, and you’ll be back to business in no time.

Commercial Loans | Treasury Management | Business Bonus Banking

See what Extraco can do for your business, contact an Extraco Commercial Banker today at 254.774.5500 or visit extracobanks.com/business

Extraco is a Member FDIC.
Temple Strong: Temple Chamber Members Helping Amid the Coronavirus

The Coronavirus pandemic is forcing many businesses to close or modify operations in order to slow the spread of the disease. Temple Chamber Members continue to inspire by stepping up to support the community.

They have provided healthcare workers vital equipment in short supply, helped community nonprofits with donations, and supported the community with various services.

Here is how Temple Chamber Members are helping amid the Coronavirus:

- **Smile at the World Orthodontics** coordinated a personal protection equipment drive among the Bell County Dental community. They collected 5,000 masks, 20,000 gloves, and various other items and donated to Baylor Scott & White.
- **Altrusa of Temple** members are making masks for healthcare workers.
- The Respiratory Care program at **Temple College** has loaned three ventilators they use to train students to Baylor Scott & White should they have a need.
- **The Temple Health & Bioscience District** is working with Baylor Scott & White on 3D-printing personal protection equipment.
- **The Gin at Nolan Creek** raised money for the United Way of Central Texas through a “dine and donate” event.
- **Integrity Rehab** is making Blessing Bags for Homebound Seniors to be distributed throughout Bell and Coryell counties (learn more at facebook.com/IntegrityRehabTemple or by calling (254) 699-3933).
- **The Mayborn College of Health Sciences at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor** donated thousands of personal protective equipment items and 5,000 masks, 20,000 gloves, and various other items and donated to Baylor Scott & White Memorial Hospital to help address the national shortage created by the coronavirus crisis.
- **La Riv Kitchen & Bar** is providing free pasta meals to families in need (facebook.com/LaRivTempleTX)
- **Bird Creek Burger Co.** provided lunch to Temple ISD Nutrition workers as they pivoted overnight to begin service of meals to go for students of the district.
- **The Grand Avenue Theater, Emporium Packaging & Spice Company, and Pignetti’s** are offering pantry items to help offset any deficit at the grocery.
- **Precious Memories Florist & Gifts** sent flowers to the Call-takers at the 2-1-1 Call Center to show appreciation for the long hours and service they are providing to the community.
- **Walmart** locations are hosting special shopping events for customers 60 years of age or older every Tuesday (through April 28). Those customers are able to enter the store beginning at 6:00 am an hour before the store opens.
- **H-E-B** has made a $3 million commitment to support local organizations helping people most in need and working hard to combat the spread of Coronavirus. With this gift and their statewide partnerships with nonprofits, they hope to provide relief to our most vulnerable neighbors: seniors, children and low-income families.

As the Chamber learns of other stories of Temple Chamber Members serving the community, updates will be made to templechamber.com/templestrong. This is a challenging time, but we will overcome it together being Temple Strong.

CARES Act Resources for Businesses of All Sizes

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce released guides for businesses of all sizes to secure relief under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is working with state and local chambers across the country to provide businesses with the information they need to stay afloat and keep people employed during the pandemic,” said Suzanne Clark, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

“These comprehensive guides ensure business owners fully understand what aid is available to them and how to access those funds as quickly as possible. We are committed to ensuring no family or business goes bankrupt due to financial hardships associated with the coronavirus.”

**Economic Injury Disaster Loan Guide**
The CARES Act expanded the Small Business Administration’s long-standing Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL), which includes $10,000 grants for eligible applicants. The EIDL program was created to assist businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

The guide is available at: uschamber.com/eidl

**Small Business Emergency Loan Guide**
The U.S. Chamber's Coronavirus Small Business Emergency Loan Guide, first issued last week, outlines the steps small businesses need to take to access much-needed Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds. The guide now includes important information including key dates as the government moves toward implementation. Recently, the Treasury Department issued more details on this paycheck protection program and a loan application available for download at home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses).

Starting April 3, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans. Starting April 10, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply for loans. **There is a funding cap, so the Treasury Department recommends applying as soon as possible.**

All guides are available at: uschamber.com/sbloans

A Spanish language version of the guide is available at: uschamber.com/sbloansESP
Choices Fitness Studio

Choices Fitness Studio, located at 2905 Thornton Lane in Temple, specializes in semi-private boxing fitness and circuit training. Attendance is limited to 8 people per hour. Personal trainer on duty. Daily circuits include kettlebells, boxing fitness, weights, cardio, intervals, Cage Fitness, sandbags and more. Something different daily. $39 a month for unlimited circuit training and boxing fitness classes. Call or text owner/trainer David Stone at (254) 541-7710. More information at www.choicesfitness.com. Locally owned and operated.

David Stone
2905 Thornton Lane, Temple, TX 76502
(254) 541-7710
www.choicesfitness.com

Xtreme Jump Adventure Park

Xtreme Jump Adventure Park strives to provide an entertaining, safe, inviting, family fun atmosphere and innovative experience while exercising the physical and mental components necessary for a healthy lifestyle.

Eddie Palmer
3111 S. 31st #6504, Temple, TX 76502
(254) 314-2117
www.xtremejumpparks.com/temple
Cyber Safety Tips
While Working Remotely

We all must be especially wary about questionable emails, links and text messages related to COVID-19. There has been a rise in the number of cyber scams exploiting the coronavirus, many specifically targeting those working from home. Always verify by phone any requests or links – even if the sender is familiar.

CompTIA has put together several cyber safety tips to help people stay safe while they work remotely. They include:

- Reset frequently used passwords, such as for your email account and router, every 3 months. Strong passwords are long, avoid common phrases and include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.
- Double check URLs to ensure they make sense and match the domain of the company’s main site and look at the far left of the address bar for a padlock icon to indicate a secure connection.
- Common signs of a phishing email are a sense of urgency (phrases like “click here to sign in now”), requests for wire transfers or personal data, requests for gift card purchases, payroll direct deposit redirections and uncharacteristic language or typos. Never trust links in emails, even if the rest of the email looks legitimate.
- Use a secure connection to end-to-end encryption of data in transit. This can be a VPN to the office or from home to a security filtering company that will verify web connection links for safety.
- Keep your devices secure by always locking or logging off of your computer when you walk away from it, not using free or found USB drives and checking with your IT department before using any new devices on company laptops, phones, and tablets.

The Computer Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) has also created a dedicated forum, covid19.comptia.org, with more information on working remotely during the Coronavirus pandemic.

With the right information and a few extra simple steps, everyone can practice cyber safety.

Environmentally Friendly Tips for Social Distancing

Tanya Gray, Keep Temple Beautiful

The coronavirus is a pandemic that means everyone needs to socially isolate, however social distancing doesn’t have to be boring. It can actually help the planet. Now is a great time to learn about climate change and engage in earth friendly activities. Here are five ideas on how to mindfully spend your time at home as we try to get through this very challenging time and preserve our health.

Reading. I truly love to read. Reading after all is fundamental so why not pick up a book? Here are three books that will expand your knowledge of the climate crisis: An Inconvenient Truth: The Crisis of Global Warming by Al Gore, The Story of More: How We Got To Climate Change and Where To Go From Here by Hope Jahren, Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warming by Paul Hawken.

Walking. Which of course, because of what is happening, comes with a caveat. As long as you stay at least six feet away from others, you can enjoy the fresh air. I walk around my neighborhood every evening with my boxer Dexter and my neighbors and I wave at each other from across the street. Walking has got to be the most climate friendly method of transport on the planet plus it’s good for your mental and physical health.

Plant a garden. Whether you live in the suburbs, or in a tiny apartment or on a farm, it is possible to grow flowers, vegetables, herbs or other plants. They are good for air quality, it’s calming, relaxing and you might just develop a green thumb if you don’t already have one.

Support environmental organizations. Being inside can often lead to ordering online. So why not make your ordering work to support environmental causes, helping to offset deliveries? By ordering through Amazon Smile’s, you can choose an eco-conscious organization from their environmental charity list to give back to. Every time you order, money is donated to the charity of your choice. Like Temple’s very own, Keep Temple Beautiful. This is a wonderful way to put your money to work! So, the next time you order from Amazon, think Keep Temple Beautiful.

As we exercise our individual and collective responsibility to reduce viral transmissions to preserve human health, we can still exercise our responsibility to act for environmental health. Let’s use this solitary time to reassess our current habits and develop new ones that are better for the planet.

To become a member of Keep Temple Beautiful or donate to our many projects and programs, call (254) 493-4000 or email tanya@keeptemplebeautiful.org. Please like us on www.facebook.com/keeptemplebeautiful.
Staying Strong Amid COVID-19
Temple Health & Bioscience District

The mission of the Temple Health and Bioscience District (THBD) is to grow twenty-first century jobs by fostering bioscience education, research and healthcare in Central Texas. In the midst of the coronavirus outbreak, the THBD team is shifting the ways we serve so that our community can continue to benefit, but from a safe distance with precaution. Our thoughts go out to all of those already impacted by this pandemic. The THBD team encourages the community to utilize resources such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local trusted news outlets to stay well informed.

Please note: THBD will be closed to the public until further notice; Visitors are invited to take a virtual tour of the lab on our website; To limit undue risk of coronavirus exposure, the THBD E-Learning Series will be conducted ONLINE ONLY until further notice. Learn more at templebioscience.org/programs.

Thank you to the tireless medical personnel who put themselves at risk every day on the front lines to save lives, and thank you to our community for the every-day sacrifices we are all making to keep our community safe. COVID-19 has brought the world together with a singular sense of purpose. We will overcome this pandemic and be stronger for it.

Monitoring MedTech Advancements in Temple
Whether you have lived in Temple for years or are just getting to know our growing city, you are sure to have noticed the influx of medical and technology jobs across the city. Last year, Temple was recognized by Smart Asset as a "Top 10 City to Work in Tech," thanks to affordable cost of living and comparatively high wages. As the biotech industry in Central Texas continues to flourish, one local startup is pushing the limits of possibility and pioneering new medical technology.

In 2019, Stan Marett, President of MR3 Health, Inc., met THBD Executive Director Tami Annable at THBD’s Annual MedTech Startup Symposium and Pitch Competition. Marett opted to attend the annual symposium and participate in the pitch competition. During this competition in Temple, individuals were given five minutes to present a new product they hope to bring to market. The judging panel of entrepreneurs, healthcare and medical device experts awarded Marett and MR3 Health third place in the competition.

After the competition, Marett wanted to learn more about what the only taxpayer-funded nonprofit bioscience incubator in Texas has to offer. During a tour, he realized THBD’s proximity to the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs (VA) and Baylor Scott and White made the incubator an ideal place for MR3 Health.

Designed to help proactively connect physicians and patients through remote patient monitoring (RPM) devices, MR3 Health aims to prevent complications associated with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension and congestive heart failure. The devices monitor patients daily to identify and communicate alerts to the patient and their healthcare provider to indicate the possibility of a high-risk event.

Now a tenant at THBD, Marett hopes to work with doctors and patients in the Temple area to provide RPM services and create a strategic relationship with Baylor Scott and White that can be replicated in other areas. Additionally, MR3 Health aims to engage with the VA for studies that can help to improve new products and services.

In December 2019, MR3 Health was recognized as a "Top 10 Patient Monitoring Pioneer" by MD Tech Review. This national distinction recognized MR3’s foot sensor, TempTouch™ infrared dermal thermometer. The device takes temperature readings and uploads them to cloud-based technology to track changes and alert physicians of any problems. Marett and his team optimized the product for today’s market by enabling Bluetooth technology and a smartphone app to make the technology accessible and effortless for patients to use.

While offering financially accessible products for patients and providers is top-of-mind, so is patient compliance. Readings are only measurable if taken by the patient. Rather than relying on patients to remember to check their readings, MR3 Health pings patients who miss a daily reading and transmits early alerts to clinicians.

"We are partners in healthcare," says Marett. "As we grow, we will continue to ensure patients have accessible tools to track their own health and improve their outcomes. We look forward to continuing our research and building upon valuable partnerships in Temple to help patients and providers manage care effectively. We are excited to be part of the Temple Health and Bioscience ecosystem. We look forward to growing our presence in Temple."

Temple Strong:  Fund created to nourish homeless, healthcare workers, first responders

We hope to help nourish those who work with the high-risk population and those who rely on the community spirit for their next meal while supporting local businesses.

All funds collected will be used to purchase meals from various Temple area restaurants to be delivered to soup kitchens, healthcare workers, and first responders.

This is a win-win-win for the frontline worker or homeless who need community support, local businesses that need our patronage, and area residents who want to help during this time.

Even a small donation could help us meet the goal. To support the Temple Strong Campaign, visit bit.ly/TempleStrongFund or call Rod Henry at (254) 773-2105.

The Temple Chamber of Commerce wants to support the homeless, healthcare workers, first responders and others during these trying times as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Temple Strong fund.
The Santa Fe Plaza and Market Trail Recognized as a Great Place in Texas

The Santa Fe Plaza and Market Trail were recognized as a Great Place in Texas by the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Great Places in Texas program recognizes unique and exemplary streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces – three essential components of all communities – and celebrates how planning has played a vital role where we live, work, and play. The program promotes and recognizes great places while celebrating stories of exemplary planning that have resulted in stronger and healthier communities.

The recently completed Santa Fe Plaza and Market Trail were the product of innovative City and Community leaders identifying a vision for the Downtown Temple Strategic Plan in 2013. As a result of the planning and collaboration, the new multi-functional plaza and trail are at the center of downtown Temple’s continuing transformation.

The Santa Fe Plaza and Market Trail were designated as a Great Public Space. Great Public Spaces help promote social interaction and create a sense of community.

The Santa Fe Plaza is a public space with functional design elements that also pays tribute to the most significant symbol of Temple’s railroad heritage, the Santa Fe Depot. The Santa Fe Depot is the backdrop to the Plaza which is flanked by the Santa Fe Business Center and the Temple ISD Administrative building.

The Plaza's design allows for booth space for events, and the food truck park alongside the Plaza provides space for entrepreneurs to promote their businesses. The design also recognizes the value of nature with a water feature and green space.

The Santa Fe Market Trail is a pedestrian path that connects Whistle Stop Park to the east via improvements under the 3rd Street Bridge to the new MLK Festival Fields. The MLK Festival fields are located between Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and South Fourth Street and are the home of festivals and events to enhance the quality of life in Temple.

Learn more about the Great Places in Texas at texas.planning.org/community-outreach/great-places-texas/explore-great-places-texas.

2020 U.S. Census - Bell County Counts

As 2020 marks the dawn of a new decade, the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting a count of every person living in the United States called the census. The 2020 Census is underway and the most important thing you can do is respond online, by phone, or by mail when you receive your invitation.

Having the most accurate count is vital to the strength of Bell County today, and for the next 10 years. Census data impact billions of dollars in federal funding for essential public services provided by states and local governments such as healthcare, public safety, education, and transportation. The census also determines our representation in Congress and is used in redistricting at the state and local level.

A letter from the U.S. Census should have arrived at your residence by mail between March 12-20 with an invitation to respond online or by phone with an ID number to login. Please note that some households will also still receive paper questionnaires. Follow-up reminders are currently being sent.

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau has adjusted 2020 Census operations to protect the health and safety of Census employees and the American public. Visit 2020census.gov for current information.

We urge you to respond to your invitation and to encourage those you know to do so as well. Participating is essential to our community’s future.

Additionally, responding now will minimize the need for the U.S. Census Bureau to send census takers out into communities to follow up amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

Learn more about how the 2020 census will impact Bell County at bellcounty-counts.org.