

Regional Pursuits

DECEMBER 2011 • VOLUME LXXI



2011 Safety Fair



Family Caregivers listen to a presentation by one of the featured speakers at the 2011 Safety Fair.

The RGV Caregiver Committee of the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging in partnership with South Texas College hosted the “2011 Safety Fair” on October 8, 2011.

The 2011 Safety Fair featured presentations, information and demonstrations on safety issues family caregivers may encounter while caring for their loved one. The overall goal for this event was to raise awareness on safety issues such as fire safety, fall prevention, crime prevention, Alzheimer’s disease, emergency preparedness, home safety, medication safety, diabetes safety and much more.

This year’s event included presentations by Lt. Rene Alaniz with the McAllen Fire Department on “Fire Safety & Falls Prevention”, Lt. Marcos Siller with the Weslaco

Police Department on “Crime Safety & Neighborhood Watch” and the LRGVDC 911 Department on “Importance of 911”. Important information for family caregivers about home health, hospice services, Medicare & Medicaid, Respite Services, Alzheimer’s disease, Elder Abuse and other subjects of interest were available. A demonstration was provided by Back to Action Therapy, out of Harlingen, and featured a balance game using the Wii game system.

Vendors provided door prizes for the participants and six smoke alarms were donated by the LRGVDC Citizen Corps (Community Emergency Response Team).

This event gave family caregivers a great opportunity to learn about community resources available to them.

2011 Safety Fair

Edinburg Bike Rodeo

Regional Police Academy and Training Center

Virtual Dementia Tour for Disability Awareness Days

Aging Well in the Valley 2011



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REGIONAL PURSUITS is available without cost and inquiries should be directed to:

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Edinburg Bike Rodeo



On Saturday, October 1, 2011, the first Edinburg Bike Rodeo was held at Edinburg City Hall parking lot. The purpose of the event was to promote bicycle safety, share the road awareness for vehicle drivers, and the City of Edinburg's new Safe



Passing ordinance. Both adults and children were encouraged to participate in several educational events before proceeding to the bike course. There were stations for Bike Repair, Bike Check,



Helmet Fitting and an instructional safety video. T-shirts for the event were donated by Freedom Fitness and the Edinburg Development Company. Chili's, Farmers Insurance, and the HCMPO donated bike helmets for children that did not have a helmet. Also, The Edinburg Boy's And Girl's Club and EMS donated a total of 16 new bicycles and helmets. The new bicycles were used by children in the bike safety course. At the end

of the event the new bicycles were raffled to children who completed the program. Other event sponsors were Bike Master, Bike Edinburg, US Border Patrol, Crime Stoppers, Ciclistas Urbanos, Hygeia Diary, Team McAllen and many others. The sponsors and volunteers of the Edinburg Bike Rodeo made the event a great success.



Regional Police Academy and Training Center

The Regional Police Academy and Training Center is proud to announce that the Basic Peace Officer Class #151, which graduated on Thursday, October 6, 2011, had all of the cadets pass firearms qualifications, the academy final exam and the state exam on the first attempt. The Academy staff would like to congratulate the Mission Police Department Academy staff for this achievement. Investigator Rolando Perez, Mission Police Department, is the lead-instructor.

The Academy also graduated the Harlingen Day Academy (#152nd) on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Since that time, we started the Mission Night Academy (155th) on October 8, 2011, the Harlingen Day Academy (156th) on November 7, 2011 and the Harlingen Night Academy (157th) on November 8, 2011. During this time, the Academy also reported numerous in-service courses ranging from Human Trafficking, 82nd Texas Legislative Update (required for all Texas peace officers), the Basic Instructor's



Investigator Rolando Perez Mission Police Academy



Mission Police Department Honor Guard

course, Family Violence, Auto Theft Identification and Recovery, and Firearms Identification and Interdiction for Law Enforcement – this course was a partnership with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE).

On November 12, 2011 and again on November 19, 2011, the Academy offered a fee-free Use of Force Seminar taught by Sgt. Michael Sullenger. The course was held at the gymnasium of TSTC and participants received 8-hours of TCLEOSE continuing education credit.

In December 2011 (12/6/2011 through 12/7/2011), the Academy will partner with the Federal Bureau of Investigations and offer a 16-hour Crisis Management and Tactical Considerations at no cost to local law enforcement agencies at the Harlingen Police Department in the Community Room (1018 Fair Park Boulevard, Harlingen, TX 78550). Officers are encouraged to sign up for this course since seats are limited to the first twenty (20) participants and each participant will receive 16-hours of TCLEOSE continuing education credit.

If you would like a copy of the annual or monthly training calendar and/or information about attending the Academy courses, please visit us online at www.lrgvdc.org and click on the "Police Academy" tab. Please visit the site often since we constantly update our courses.

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**Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council**



Aging Well in the Valley 2011



The LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging held their annual “Aging Well in the Valley 2011”, Wednesday, September 21, 2011. The event was held at Jose “Pepe” Salinas Civic Center in Pharr.

Seniors toured the health fair booths, enjoyed free lunch and danced to DJ Lars a popular local disc jockey. A large number of door prizes were distributed to seniors, ranging from fans, dishes, small appliances, bedding and gift certificates to local establishments.

DADS Asst. Deputy Commissioner, Gary Jessee, dropped by during his visit to the Valley to visit with seniors and participants.

Local Tejano recording artist, Carlos Guzman, local KRGV Channel 5 news anchor, Polo Sandoval and AAA Director, Jose Gonzalez judged the dance contest. The three top couples were awarded trophies.

This year’s clinics provide free health screenings for blood pressure, glucose and vision. Information vital to seniors about Medicare and Medicaid, Provider Services, Kidney Health, Extra Help with Prescription Costs (Low Income Subsidy) and other subjects of interest were available.

There was a great turn out with approximately 250 seniors attending this years’ event.

Virtual Dementia Tour for Disability Awareness Days



Virtual Dementia Tour participant going through the process of clearing the dinner table, but was unable to complete the task and instead only grabbed other items.

The LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging conducted a Virtual Dementia Tour at the “2011 Disability Awareness Days” sponsored by UTPA, Workforce Solutions and the Department for Assistive & Rehabilitation Services (DARS) on October 25, 2011. The Virtual Dementia Tour offered participants a unique glimpse into the world of Dementia. Participants were asked to complete simple daily tasks while experiencing the cognitive distraction that a person with Dementia may experience. With the assistance of 17 volunteers from the South Texas

College Nursing Program, a total of 64 individuals went through the Virtual Dementia Tour.

One participant wrote on the comments section of their post exam: “I always thought dementia was a disorder that caused us to forget things. I now see that dementia affects so much more than that. I will never take for granted being able to do the everyday things.”

For more information on the Virtual Dementia Tour contact the Area Agency on Aging at 956-682-3481