



**Pharr**  
Economic Development  
Corporation



WELCOME  
TO

**PHARR**



facebook.com/PHARREDC

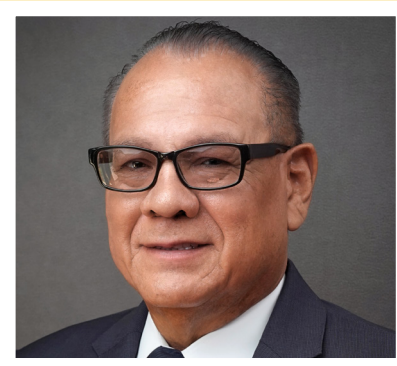
1215 S. Cage Blvd. Pharr, TX 78577

pharredc.com

(956) 402-4332

# ECONOMIC TIMES

## Pharr EDC Celebrates CIL Queenstown Park



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 3rd Quarter Edition of the 2022 Pharr Economic Times Newsletter!

The Pharr EDC would like to thank you on behalf of our board, staff, and members for your continued support and business. Our economic development projects and news have been very exciting this quarter, and we are thrilled to share them with you.

In this 3rd Quarter newsletter, we are proud to highlight our recent Pharr EDC Foundation Golf Classic Fundraiser, which raised scholarship funds for our local students. We are also excited to share with you our economic advancements and showcase our most recent groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies for newly established businesses as well as other projects. Our Pharr EDC team has been busy taking part in advocacy and partnership activities, workforce initiatives, and continuing to grow our economic development capacity.

The Pharr EDC is proud to continue our tradition of pro-business, friendly, and high-quality customer service as we support our city's business ventures, partnerships, and programs. We thank you for your business and remind you that we are committed to growing Pharr, together!

Sincerely,

*Victor Perez*

**Victor Perez, President/CEO**  
Pharr Economic Development Corporation

In July, the Pharr EDC officially broke ground on the new Commodities Integrated Logistics (CIL) facility in Pharr. CIL currently has over 1,150,000 SF of warehouse space and will be expanding its cold storage facility capacity by 10% via the construction of this new 150,600 SF state-of-the-art facility in Pharr, Texas, called Queenstown Park.

"We are proud to continue to facilitate the growth of Commodities Integrated Logistics (CIL) in Pharr as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. "This brand-new facility is expected to create more full-time jobs and expand their cold storage capacity to meet demand and help advance CIL's services, attract new partners, and enhance output. The Pharr EDC is proud to be a part of CIL's growth and development as they continue to grow here in our great City of Pharr." – Victor Perez, Pharr EDC President/CEO.

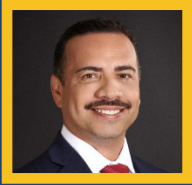
The facility will include 135,600 SF of cold space and 15,000 SF of office space. Queenstown Park will provide processing, storage, and distribution services and fits into several tenets of the prospective Pharr community plan including creating jobs and advancing local economic goals.

The construction of this new facility will result in the employment of approximately 100 full-time employees. Queenstown Park will be located at the Corner of Las Milpas and I Rd. in Pharr.

On behalf of the Pharr EDC Board of Directors and Pharr EDC team, we congratulate Joaquin Spamer, CIL President, his family, and entire CIL team! May the next 30 years continue to be prosperous, successful, and full of continued growth - We THANK YOU for choosing Pharr for your place of business.



Pharr EDC obtains leadership and guidance through its board of directors, which represents an array of successful industry professionals who volunteer their expertise to ensure that the Pharr EDC meets the highest standard of excellence.



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Chairman



**COMMISSIONER**  
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Vice Chairman



**Reynaldo Perez**  
Secretary



**Mario Lizcano**  
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**COMMISSIONER**  
**Ramiro Caballero, M.D.**  
Board Member



**Efrain Matamoros**  
Board Member



**Marty Moore**  
Board Member

## 3rd Quarter • July, August, and September 2022

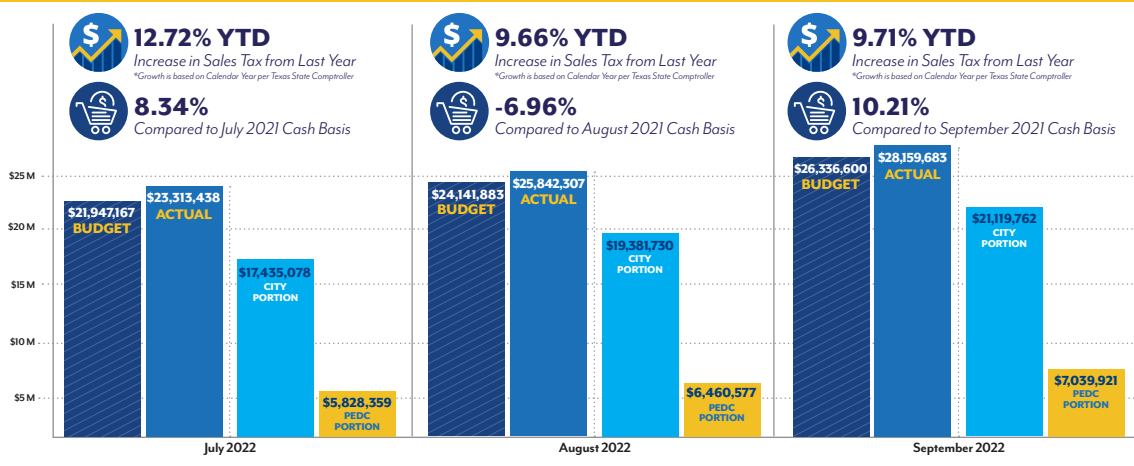
The City of Pharr has continued its economic trend towards growth and development in the months of July, August, and September of 2022. Throughout this 3rd quarter, Pharr has welcomed new businesses to the community, secured new economic development projects, expanded workforce opportunities, and continued to grow its sales tax collections.

The City of Pharr reported a strong Civilian Labor Force of 32,384 at the end of the second quarter compared to the same time last year (32,147) and unemployment rates of 8.7% (July 2022), 8.2% (August 2022), and 6.9% (September 2022) a great improvement from the same months in 2021.

The City of Pharr remains committed to improving citizens' quality of life and is focused on continuing the positive financial and economic growth it has experienced over this third quarter. We are proud to welcome so many new businesses and economic development projects to our Pharr community!

## PHARR SALES TAX COLLECTIONS

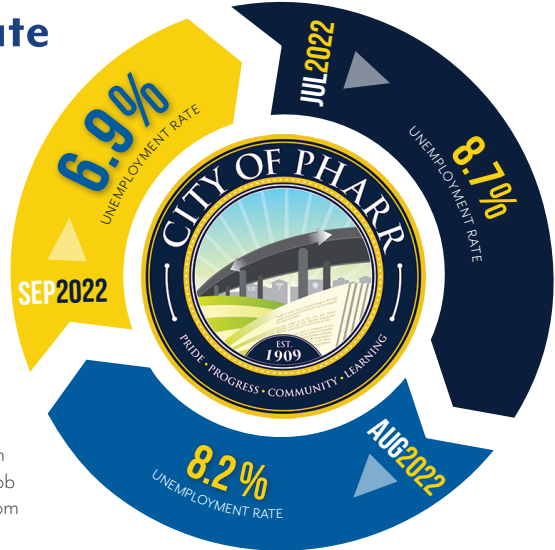
### 3rd Quarter • July, August, & September



## Pharr Unemployment Rate Sees Dramatic Decline Over 3rd Quarter

**New Businesses. Job Creation. Economic Development.**

The Pharr EDC is committed to workforce development and retention! Through our strategic partnerships, and job hiring events and fairs, we are committed to helping our area residents get connected with the proper resources that aid in job attainment and growth. More importantly, we are focused on enhancing entrepreneurship and business growth in our city by hosting workshops, providing skills and resource trainings, and partnering with our state and federal partners to enhance job opportunities through job fairs. We are proud to connect our local businesses with employees from our area who are qualified, skilled, and ready to work!



The Pharr Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is the primary economic development agency for the City of Pharr.



In Pharr, our goal is to facilitate business attraction and retention, local investments, tourism development, and marketing strategy for our city. By fostering long-term relationships with government officials, industry leaders, and stakeholders in our community, the Pharr EDC examines potential opportunities to develop key industries and promote future economic growth. We also support community development and promote Pharr's thriving economy and superior quality of life.

### OUR MISSION

To promote and enhance economic opportunities by working with business and industry partners to bring corporate, government and community stakeholders together in projects and initiatives that promote economic growth, increased investment, attract and retain businesses, facilitate workforce development and training opportunities, while advancing the quality of life for all Pharr residents.

### OUR VISION

The Pharr Economic Development Corporation aims to continue making Pharr competitive as a regional economic driver by fostering opportunities for economic vitality and by continuing to actively recruit business and industry to expand its economic base, create more investment and higher-paying jobs, and provide better economic opportunities to enhance the quality of life for Pharr families.

## 2022 PHARR EDC FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC



On Saturday, July 9, 2022, we hosted our first annual PEDC Foundation Golf Classic Tournament. It was a wonderful day with a great turnout! Fifty-eights (58) teams of colleagues from the business community participated in our event which teed off to a great start with music, prizes, and more. Congratulations to our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners!

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, business partners, and community who have been integral supporters of our PEDC Foundation Scholarship Program. Thanks in part to their generous sponsorships, we have raised thousands of dollars to continue to support our local students as they pursue a higher education.

On behalf of our PEDC Foundation Board President, Victor Perez, and myself, your PEDC Foundation Director, we want to thank you, our valued sponsors, for your joint efforts in making this event possible. We would also like to extend our appreciation to all PEDC Foundation Board Members, PEDC staff, and volunteers that were integral in making this inaugural Golf Classic Scholarship Tournament a great success!

Sincerely,

*Lilvette Santos*

- Lilvette Santos, PEDC Foundation Director



# Pharr EDC Foundation Golf Classic Fundraiser

The Pharr EDC Foundation Director and Board Members THANK all sponsors and participants for making this event possible and for their commitment towards higher education for our Pharr community.

For more information on the Pharr EDC Foundation, contact Lilvette Santos, Director, at (956) 402-4332.



## Pharr EDC Foundation



Pharr EDC



1215 S. Cage Blvd.  
Pharr, TX 78577



Foundation website: <http://pharredc.com/foundation/>



(956) 402-4332

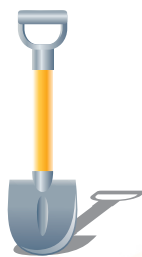
## Pharr EDC Foundation Begins Check Disbursements for 2022-2023



The Pharr EDC Foundation has awarded over 140 scholarships, each at \$2,000 (\$1,000 per semester) for the 2022-2023 academic year and the first installment has been disbursed. Our team wishes all students continued luck and congratulate them on finishing their first semester! The Pharr EDC Foundation is committed to helping Pharr students achieve their educational and career dreams by helping them pay for college at all levels, whether it is for a trade or technical degree or a four-year university. Contact us for more information.



# GROUNDBREAKINGS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



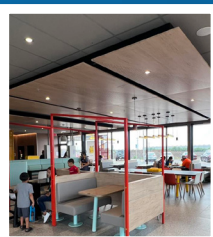
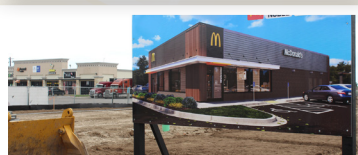
## May 3, 2022 McDonald's Groundbreaking

Dicker & Jackson, Pharr, TX

The Pharr EDC celebrated the official groundbreaking of the newest McDonald's location in the City of Pharr in May 2022!

McDonald's opened their first RGV location in our great city of Pharr back in 1974. More than 45 years later, it has become one of the most popular American fast-food chains in the area. Mr. Del Barrio, now an Owner/Operator, was part of that initial McDonald's crew and continues to expand McDonald's footprint in our region.

This new state of the art facility will become the third location in the city of Pharr and will provide over one-hundred part-time and full-time employment opportunities for our community as they begin their workforce journey. We continue to welcome the McFamily into our Pharr Family with open arms!



## McDonald's NOW OPEN

7501 S Jackson Rd., Pharr, TX

McDonald's in South Pharr is ready to serve you!

Best known for their famous French Fries and Big Macs, McDonald's also offers a great variety of breakfast and lunch favorites. Dine-in and take-out options available.



**Pharr**  
Economic Development  
Corporation



# Holiday Social

## 12.15.2022 | 6 PM

Pharr EDC | 1215 S. Cage Blvd., Pharr, TX

Music | Food | Holiday Treats



RSVP  
**956.402.4332**

\*Open to Pharr Businesses and Partners

## COMING SOON!

## SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS



Stay tuned for details.

## STMA Monthly Meeting - September



The Pharr EDC joined members of the South Texas Manufacturers Association (STMA) for their monthly meeting to engage with industry representatives.

Janie Cavazos, Property and Business Development Manager, provided a small recap on current projects:

- Capote International Business Park will be expanding its footprint a total of 320,000 SFT.
- DEKAL Industrial Park will have a footprint of 1 Million SFT
- Interlink has acquired 80,000 SFT within Capote Industrial Park
- Industrial Warehouse Summit in Pharr will consist of several series (coming soon)

To learn more about STMA, visit: <https://stma-tx.org>

## RGV Focus Fall Retreat



The Pharr EDC and the Pharr EDC Foundation are proud to support our community partners. We were proud to partner alongside RGV FOCUS to host their Fall Retreat in our great City of Pharr.

This event brought education, business, and community leaders together for an overview of challenges impacting Rio Grande Valley students as well as current successes.

Become part of the change and get involved, visit: [www.edtx.org/rgv-focus/home](http://www.edtx.org/rgv-focus/home)

## Pharr EDC Recognized as Investment Partner of the Year at VIDA'S Annual Gala



It was an evening of great comradship as the Pharr Economic Development Corporation was recognized as Investment Partner of the Year during the Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement's (VIDA) Annual Gala. We had the opportunity to share the limelight alongside Senator Eddie Lucio, TWC Commissioner Julian Alvarez, and Weslaco EDC.

This annual contribution would not be possible without the support and shared vision of Pharr EDC President & CEO, Victor Perez, and the Pharr EDC Board of Directors to promote service organizations that help transform the lives of our residents and facilitate access to continued education, career guidance, case management, and financial assistance.

From January to March of this year alone, almost forty Pharr residents were receiving direct services from VIDA to ensure retention of our local talent.

Meet Adela Tann, Pharr resident, and read about her success story: <https://www.vidacareers.org/success-stories/>

Learn more about VIDA and their mission: <https://www.vidacareers.org/philosophy-mission-history/>

Check out their program eligibility and see if you qualify: <https://www.vidacareers.org/apply-now/>

## 6th Annual Apprenticeship Texas Conference



Our Pharr EDC team joined local and state entities at the 6th Annual Apprenticeship Texas Conference hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

We had the pleasure of hearing from Julian Alvarez III, TWC Commissioner Representing Labor, and other speaker/panelists from both public and private sectors. Attendees received insights on apprenticeship programs and partnerships, structures, strategies, and benefits.

These initiatives help individuals overcome job placement obstacles by receiving direct training by companies that need skilled labor specific to them. If you're interested in getting involved, let us know!

## 2022 COSTEP Regional Economic Development Forum



The Pharr EDC was proud to join community stakeholders at the Regional Economic Development Forum hosted by The Council for South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP) to engage in conversation and professional development on current regional standings and areas of opportunities.

By working together, we continue to support our region's prosperity.

## Business Development Fund of Texas



The Business Development Fund certified by the Small Business Administration is dedicated to promoting economic development by assisting the growth and expansion of the small business community.

The Pharr EDC team met with Representatives from the organization to discuss collaborative efforts to promote their funding opportunities for businesses development and expansions in our community.

Learn more about their program at [www.bdfoftexas.com](http://www.bdfoftexas.com).



**Pharr**  
Economic Development  
Corporation



# WORKFORCE

## South Pharr Job Fair

Through economic development, one of our goals is to facilitate employment opportunities for our community, while also assisting our local businesses fill vacant positions that help maintain their operations.

Over 125 individuals had the opportunity to connect with a variety of companies and speak directly with employers, submit applications, secure interviews, and receive employment offers.

Events such as these would not have been possible without our partners at Workforce Solutions that continue to support our efforts, the assistance of the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and all the participating employers. Thank you for your support and participation.

More job fairs Coming Soon – Stay Tuned.

## Pharr EDC hosts Teacher through Externship Program

Through a collaborative partnership with Workforce Solutions and RGV LEAD - Rio Grande Valley Linking Economic and Academic Development, the Pharr EDC participated in the Texas Workforce Commission Externship for Teacher's Program 2022. This three-day initiative provides a local educator the opportunity to shadow industry professionals to promote and develop effective workforce practices by making the connection between academic skills and the workplace.

Mr. Julio Navarro, a Pharr resident, and Donna ISD High School Educator was hosted at the Pharr EDC to learn about workplace practices and policies within our profession. He participated in several activities that included a groundbreaking, economics conference, learning the different facets of EDC and partner site visits. Through this experience, Mr. Navarro will be able to implement an industry related project within his classroom curriculum for student instruction.

"I'm really glad I got to experience what the EDC is all about, from helping businesses, personnel hiring to connecting students with internships and job opportunities – the reach of the Pharr EDC team was great! I'm really happy that I have this new insight that I'm bringing back to the classroom to share and improve my classes, Thank you!" – Julio C. Navarro

## Summer 2022 Vanguard Academy Internship Program

In July, the Pharr EDC successfully concluded the Summer 2022 Vanguard Academy Internship Program. This opportunity was made possible through an awarded grant by the Texas Education Agency, focused on providing students paid occupational experiences for one month.

Through this partnership, we were able to place six incoming junior and senior students at three different Pharr locations that provided direct work-based training to help them gain knowledge and learn about best practices in the workplace.

We'd like to recognize all participating employers for the time and effort dedicated in providing a safe and professional setting to the students during the duration of this program: Trancasa, Food Bank RGV INC, and Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center.

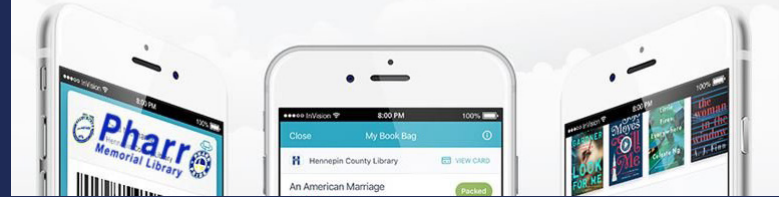
Thank you for working with us to provide local students with internship experiences that will help mold them into young professionals.

# CITY UPDATES



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Easily accessible, virtual library card | Dynamic reading history with interactive receipts | Library due date alerts and helpful to-do list



## Books at Your Fingertips

*Read whatever you like, whenever you like!*

The Pharr Memorial cloudLibrary is our newest service that allows you to check out eBooks and Audiobooks from home and on the go, but with interactive features that make it easier for you to keep up with your Library!



SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS EBOOKS



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\*(for residential)

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Commercial Service Available



TEAMPHARR.NET is the City of Pharr's solution to closing the digital divide. The City of Pharr is now offering blazing fast fiber internet and the next generation of WiFi technology that better connects all of the devices in your home or business. Expertly installed by a certified technician and includes our CommandIQ/TeamPharr.net App with enhanced parental controls and network security. Fast, reliable and bundled to give you more for less money.

Sign up today or learn more about our services at:  
<https://pharr-tx.gov/teampharr-net/>

## TeamPharr.Net City of Pharr's Fiber Internet Services



We wish you many birthday blessings and thank you for all that you do for our Pharr business community!

- Lilvette Santos, Pharr EDC Foundation Director - September 8th
- Juanita Cavazos, Property & Business Development Mgr. - July 29th
- Karina Lopez, Economic Development Mgr. - July 24th



## Seven7Brew Coffee

1101 S. Jackson Rd., Pharr, TX

The Arkansas based coffee shop Seven7Brew coffee concept, known for its trendy drinks, high-energy service and social media videos, will be opening its first drive-through location in the Rio Grande Valley here in Pharr. Learn more and apply for a job today by visiting <https://7brew.com>

**COMING SOON!**

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**The Pharr EDC is proud to work with international partners to promote the City of Pharr and expand economic development opportunities.**

## TMEC Reforma Laboral



On September 13th, the Consejo Binacional Para El Fomento Economico De Reynosa (COBIFER) hosted their Informational Workshop, "T-MEC Reforma Laboral" which provided an insight on labor Rights pertaining to commercial treaties. Myrta Tijerina, International Relations Manager, joined TMEC officials, Consul from Guatemala in McAllen, Ma. Del Rosario Ovando Castro, and other guests.

## Expo Proveedores Index Reynosa 2022



The "Expo Proveedores Index Reynosa 2022" brought manufacturing product and service providers together for business development and networking. Myrta Tijerina, International Relations Manager, attended on behalf of the Pharr EDC to promote our community to over eighty companies in attendance.

## Index Reynosa General Manager's Meeting



Myrta Tijerina, International Relations Manager, attended Index Reynosa's General Manager's meeting in September to hear from representatives and educational partners in the manufacturing industry to learn about their latest trends.

Learn more about INDEX Reynosa: <http://indexreynosa.org.mx/>

## COBIFER Monthly Meeting



Myrta Tijerina, Pharr EDC's International Relations Mgr., had the opportunity to attend the Consejo Binacional Para el Fomento Económico de Reynosa's (COBIFER) monthly meeting and hear from special guest, Carlos Garcia, Secretary of Economic Development for the State of Tamaulipas, as he presented the state's executive report on economic development.

In recognition of his accomplishments, various economic development leaders, business and chamber representatives joined Mr. Carlos Garcia during a farewell breakfast in celebration of his years of service. On behalf of Victor Perez, President/CEO, and the Pharr EDC team - We wish Mr. Garcia the best in all his future endeavors!

COBIFER is the "Consejo Binacional Para el Fomento Económico de Reynosa". Learn more about the organization: <https://cobifer.com.mx/>

# BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

### FOUND IN PHARR

## Nippon Express

500 Capote Central Ste. 200,  
Pharr, Texas  
(956) 283-1817



Nippon Express is a global logistics company that provides customized solutions for the total optimization of supply chains, helping their customers address everyday challenges.

Thank you, Rick, and Dalia, for the opportunity to connect and build relationships.



Left: Business Retention & Expansion Outreach:  
Myrta Tijerina (Pharr EDC), Luisa Fernanda (STC)

### FOUND IN PHARR

## Red Sun Farms - Greenhouse Vegetables



10201 S Jackson Rd, Pharr, TX 78577  
(956) 278-7292

Red Sun Farms is one of the largest high-tech greenhouse companies in North America to own and operate farms in Canada, Mexico, and the United States with direct access to distribution centers, ensuring freshness to your table.

Thank you, Lili, for the opportunity to connect and build relationships.



Left: Business Retention & Expansion Outreach:  
Myrta Tijerina (Pharr EDC), Luisa Fernanda (STC)

### FOUND IN PHARR

## Trancasa

100 S Austin Dr, Pharr, TX 78577  
(956) 702-4167



Trancasa is an international organization specializing in ground transportation services for over 25 years. With 400 transport units and 1000 semi-trucks equipped with satellite tracking, representatives can provide real-time shipment updates and monitoring to meet all supply chain needs. Trancasa offers freight forwarding services and solutions for all shipment needs.

Thank you, Carlos, Diana, and Sheyla, for the opportunity to connect and build relationships.



Left: Business Retention & Expansion Outreach:  
Myrta Tijerina (Pharr EDC), Luisa Fernanda (STC)



## Fundacion Index Reynosa 2022 Golf Tournament

The Pharr EDC team took hole #3 at the annual RAMMAC golf tournament to promote the organization's services. This fundraiser brings local and area companies together in Reynosa that provide better quality of life opportunities for its communities. This foundation was created under INDEX Reynosa, the maquiladora trade association.



## Commodities Integrated Logistics' 30th Anniversary Celebration



We were thrilled to join Commodities Integrated Logistics 30th Anniversary celebration with three days of consecutive events that included a mixer, convention, banquet, and golf tournament. Sending our heartiest congratulations to Joaquin Spamer, CIL President, his family, and entire CIL team! May the next 30 years continue to be prosperous, successful, and full of continued growth!

## Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce Mixer at Topgolf

It was great connecting with local business and community Members during the GPCC's monthly mixer at Topgolf.

We encourage you to increase your networking opportunities to create new ideas, collaborations, and identify potential clients and partners.

Topgolf provides great packages for all types of gatherings, contact them for more information (956) 588-2156.



## Emerson Celebrates an Accident-Free Workplace for Two Consecutive Years

800 E. Capote Central, Pharr, TX • (956) 283-2900

With many pressures in the workplace, safety continues to be a top priority for companies to maintain efficient production, while also ensuring workers return home safe.

Our Pharr EDC team had the honor of attending Emerson's celebratory event, recognizing their employees for an accident-free workplace for two consecutive years.

Congratulations to Norberto Gonzalez, Director of Operations, and his support staff for creating and maintaining a safe atmosphere for their employees.



## BTX Global Logistics Ribbon Cutting

5117 N. Cage Blvd., Pharr, TX  
(956) 513-0015 • www.btxglobal.com



BTX Global joins the growing market of logistics in our community. They specialize in worldwide shipping and logistics services with the latest in technology. Their new facility is strategically located to provide a timely and cost-effective service.

Congratulations to the BTX Global Logistics team on your grand opening celebration with the GPCC and THANK YOU for choosing Pharr for your place of business!

# RIBBON CUTTINGS

## Agape Family Practice Ribbon Cutting

1519 S. Jackson Rd. Ste. 2 • Pharr, TX • (956) 269-9764 • www.agapefamilypractice.com

Healthcare is one of the faster growing industries in the region. Agape Family practice specializes in patient care to ensure the overall health and well-being of your family. New patient opportunities are available, call and schedule your next consultation.

Congratulations Kimberly Belgium, APRN, FNP-C and the entire Agape team on your grand opening celebration with the GPCC and THANK YOU for choosing Pharr for your place of business!



## iWings Ribbon Cutting

100 E. Delta St., Ste #1 • Pharr, TX • (956) 601-0329 • www.iwingstx.com

Check out the new wing spot in town! iWings specializes in their famous baked wings and delicious fall off the bone ribs.

Congratulations Mr. Pulido, Mr. Salazar and the entire iWings team on your grand opening celebration with the GPCC and THANK YOU for choosing Pharr for your place of business!

