

Quarterly Newsletter

Refugio County COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

January 2017

www.refugiocounty.org

Volume I, Issue I

Welcome

Thank you for reading the first edition of the Refugio County Community Development Foundation (RCCDF) quarterly newsletter. This publication is intended to inform and engage the community regarding projects and issues with which the RCCDF is involved.

Expect the newsletter to contain economic data indicators, existing projects, and area news that may impact businesses within Refugio County.

In this edition, we'll provide details on the new Façade Grant Program being administered by the RCCDF, RESTORE Act projects that were submitted for funding in 2016, the Mission Replica Project, and sales tax data for each community within the County.

Thank you for your interest in creating and sustaining an economic environment for continued growth and prosperity for Refugio County.

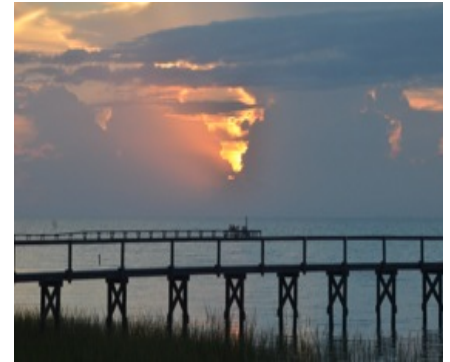
Sincerely,
RCCDF Board of Directors

Mission Replica Project

Refugio has the unique distinction of being the location of the last Spanish Mission to be built in Texas, with construction starting in 1795 and ending around 1809.

Over the years there has been discussion and interest surrounding the idea of erecting a mission replica which would serve to recognize Refugio's rich and storied history, while also offering economic opportunity through the growing segment of historical tourism.

In 2016, through the leadership of Jennifer Ragle and Bart Wales, Los Amigos de Nuestra Señora del Refugio was formed, translated to "Friends of Our Lady of Refugio". This new organization seeks to determine the feasibility of constructing a replica of Nuestra Señora del Refugio Mission.



R.E.S.T.O.R.E. Projects

In early 2016, the RCCDF named a RESTORE Advisory Committee consisting of community leaders, environmental experts, grant writers, engineers, and others.

This Committee's focus was to identify various projects throughout Refugio County which would qualify for RESTORE Act funding through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This funding administered by TCEQ has been made available to affected Gulf States as part of the BP settlement resulting from the Deep Water Horizons oil spill in 2010.

By February, this group worked to hone project concepts and project scopes identifying a total of five projects that will focus to:

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R.E.S.T.O.R.E Projects Cont'd

*Restore, protect, or mitigate damage to our local natural resources and ecosystems

*Develop the workforce and create jobs

*Promote eco-tourism

After much effort from the RESTORE Advisory Committee, the following projects were submitted for funding in the 2016 cycle:

- Bayside Habitat Enhancement Project
- Austwell Coastal Enhancement and Erosion Mitigation Project
- Coastal Needs Master Plan

It is important to note that 2016 is the first round of funding for RESTORE Act monies of this type.

Additionally, there is an anticipation that TCEQ will select projects for funding prior to, or at the commencement of, the next state legislative session, which will begin in January 2017.

Façade Grant Program

The Façade Improvement Grant Program was initiated this year. The grant is a percentage match with a \$5,000 total cap.

The applicant participates up to \$2,500 of improvements and the RCCDF matches up to \$2,500.



First Façade Grant Recipient

The goal of the program is to improve the overall appearance of the business and the community and to make properties more attractive for quality businesses. Applications can be found on the RCCDF website and are accepted and evaluated each. To get more information or to coordinate a meeting to discuss the application process, please call (361) 526-2011.

Local Sales Tax Revenue Data For Public Entities in Refugio County							
Local Entity	Local Rate By Entity	Jan 2017	Jan 2016	% Change	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	% Change
Refugio County	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Town of Refugio	2.00%	\$73,451.56	\$58,613.50	25.31%	\$73,451.56	\$58,613.50	25.31%
Woodsboro	1.00%	\$6,077.62	\$8,417.57	-27.79%	\$6,077.62	\$8,417.57	-27.79%
Bayside	1.00%	\$1,367.33	\$777.66	75.82%	\$1,367.33	\$777.66	75.82%
Austwell	1.00%	\$308.94	\$305.53	1.11%	\$308.94	\$305.53	1.11%
Total	NA	\$81,205.45	\$68,114.26	19.22%	\$81,205.45	\$68,114.26	19.22%
Max Sales Tax in Texas is .825 (8.25 pennies for every dollar) or 8.25%.							
State Sales Tax is .625 (6.25 pennies for every dollar) or 6.25% of the total 8.25% of sales tax charged.							
Local Sales Tax is permitted to be up to .200 (2.00 pennies for every dollar) or 2.00% of the 8.25% of sales tax charged.							
* ALL DATA IN THIS SPREADSHEET IS SOURCED FROM THE TEXAS STATE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE							

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