

December 2015

Some people say we have an economic miracle going on here in Texas.

In spite of crashing energy prices, our economic engine keeps rolling along. We now have a diversified economy, so we are no longer totally dependent on the energy industry as we were in the past. This is due to our pro-business atmosphere combined with lower taxes and fewer government regulations and entanglements. It is also due to the serious efforts and accomplishments that have come about due to the state's economic development programs and incentives.

Texas is competing with other states and also with countries around the world to offer the best possible incentives and conditions for companies to do business here – and it's working.

And it's working here in Seguin as well. Our Seguin Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) led by Terry Trevino, and our city staff, led by Doug Faseler have found ways to tap into the resources that the state provides. They have also found creative ways to offer local incentives to companies to locate here or to stay and expand their facilities here. Without these efforts, there would be no Caterpillar, no Continental Automotive and no Siro Group locating here.

A big part of what also makes the "Seguin Miracle" happen is the cooperation that we enjoy here with all the local governmental entities. The City Council and staff, the SEDC, our county government, and our two school districts all came together to make so many of these deals happen. We also have great partnerships with the City of Schertz to provide our bountiful water source, and the CTTC/Alamo Colleges to help train our workforce. We also have a unique city/county partnership that provides first-class medical care at GRMC.

Our "Seguin Miracle", and our ability to work together is not going unnoticed in the rest of the state. In October, Doug Faseler and I were asked to give a presentation on our cooperative efforts to a gathering of over 150 people from around the state. This took place at the Texas Municipal League's economic development conference in Bastrop. I was honored to substitute for Terry on that day, since she was at another conference doing the real work of recruiting businesses.

I realized several things at that conference – 1. There is a real "buzz" around the state about what is happening in our town. I've spoken and written of this before, but the buzz is even more apparent now. 2. The cooperation between entities that I mentioned above is rare in most communities. We are very fortunate to have this cooperation here. 3. We have some incredibly talented and competent people on our city staff and on SEDC that bring it all together.

What this economic "miracle" boils down to is that jobs are being created here. When jobs are created, people build wealth and have disposable income. When people have disposable income, new retail, restaurants, and entertainment facilities can be

supported. With more wealth created, tax revenues increase and bring about better schools, better parks, better streets, and improve city services. Quality of life improves.

All you have to do is drive around town and see the proof of what I'm talking about. Good things are happening all over town, and it's not by accident. Good, talented people are working hard every day to develop our economy, bring jobs to our community and make it a better place for everyone.

Speaking of miracles... And since this is the Christmas Season, I think it's only fitting that our first thoughts this time of year should be directed to the real Miracle that took place in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. As we rush from place to place shopping and making merry, please remember that Miracle, and keep it close to your heart now and throughout the year. Merry Christmas!

Gosh, I love this town!