

A Legacy of Good Food and Family



Located at 2210 10th St., Delgado's Mexican Restaurant is a quiet treasure for the Great Bend community, and it began with the help of a few good friends, family, and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. Terri and Beaver Delgado, owners, recently spoke about the history of their family's restaurants in Great Bend over the years, where they are located at today, and how being a Chamber member has benefited their business over the years.

"Mom and Dad started feeding Great Bend in 1967 and it has continued on with other family businesses, clear up to the opening of what is now Delgado's Mexican Restaurant in October of 1994," recalls Beaver Delgado, owner.

Beaver's parents, Pancho and Alberta Delgado, owned Panchos, a staple in Great Bend for 30 years. Growing up in the business, Beaver spent many years working for his parents up until its closure. From there, he and Terri worked at Kiowa Kitchen, owned by Frank and Gwini Delgado, another iconic Mexican restaurant in

Great Bend.

Continuing in his parent's footsteps, Beaver and Terri purchased their current location and created a place for people to come and hear music while enjoying a cold beverage in what Beaver calls "a little beer joint."

Taking over the business meant Beaver could combine his love for music with a love for good food. Beaver's band entertained crowds and when he wasn't doing that, he was cooking food.

The main catalysts to moving away from a traditional bar into their own restaurant business was two Great Bend couples, including a "Chamber gal." Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sheets, along with Karen Naylor (former Chamber staff) and her husband often came by to have a few beers and burritos. According to Beaver, "They just loved it." Within a few weeks, Karen Naylor (being a connector for the community at the time) brought two more couples just to have more of the food Beaver was preparing, especially the pork chili.

Beaver remembers feeding this returning crowd and the rest is history, as they say. "You know from there... those

four mouths got a fork (of pork chili) put in them. That's all it took. Word of mouth. And that's what happened. And it pretty much turned into a restaurant right then."

Changing the name from 10th Street to Delgado's Mexican Restaurant meant more people could enjoy the burritos, hot chips, and famous pork chili. When asked about what was unique about their restaurant, residents of Great Bend would not be surprised. "No one does pork chili like us, and our chips are always served hot," the couple added.

Diners will never find their fresh corn and flour chips sitting under a heat lamp.

Delgado's catering can feed small groups of 10 people up to large groups of 300. Terri Delgado went on to speak about catering to larger groups including the farm show. "Farm show organizers have hired Delgado's since they started having the Great Bend Farm & Ranch

Expo to bring a taco bar out to thank all the volunteers of the event."

Their catering options affordable and they do all the set-up and tear down making it an easy solution when feeding a group.

Asked how the chamber has benefited Delgado's, Beaver said, "I would say we've benefited through the chamber quite a bit through support and catering jobs," Terri can often be found delivering fresh food to the chamber board room for any number of board meetings and other non-profit meetings held at the Sunflower Center. Delgado's also participated in the #BartonStrong campaign during the pandemic in 2020 as shuttered business.

Hours of operations are Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, and then from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. However, they offer catering seven days a week! For more information on Delgado's Mexican Restaurant, find them on Facebook or call 620-793-3786.

