

**JANUARY  
2021**



# ChamberWorks

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BREHAM, TEXAS

## Chamber/EDF to hold awards luncheon Feb. 16

The Washington County Chamber and the Brenham Economic Development Foundation will recognize their outgoing board members and distribute yearly awards at a special luncheon on Feb. 16.

At the luncheon, the Washington County Chamber will recognize five directors who have ended a three-year term of service on the board: Melissa Duckworth of Thielemann Construction Co., LP & Stegent-Thielemann Plumbing; Wendy Frazier of Associated Credit Union of Texas; Andy Hefferly of Moorman Tate, LLP;

Zelda Moore of EVVAYLOIS Academy of Beauty; and Ash Patel of Best Western Inn. Jay Schroeder of Texas Farm Bureau Insurance will also be recognized for his leadership in 2020.

The Brenham Economic Development Foundation will recognize one outgoing director, Billy Holle of Seidel Schroeder.

The 2020 Man and Woman of the Year and the 2020 Small Businesses of the Year will be notified prior to the event and will be recognized at the luncheon. Last year's recipients were Carolyn and Charlie Mate-

jowsky. The Blue Blazer of the Year will also be announced.

The Chamber will also announce the 2020 Small Business of the year awards. The 2019 Awards went to LJ's BBQ (1-25 employees) and Bluebonnet Electric Member Service Center (26-100 employees).

The luncheon will be invitation only. Stay tuned for more information on how to be a part of the announcements. Awards and announcements will be shared live, so we encourage you to grab take out from your favorite local restaurant and listen in.

**Chairman of the Board**  
**Joe Robertson**  
*Blue Bell Creameries*

**First Vice Chair**  
**Dr. John Turner**  
*Blinn College District*

**Second Vice Chair**  
**Aaron Gonzalez**  
*Padgett Hearing Aid Center*

**Secretary**  
**Dan Blalock**  
*Brenham Abstract  
& Title Co.*

**Immediate Past Chair**  
**Jay Schroeder**  
*Texas Farm  
Bureau Insurance*

**Dr. Eric Alford**  
*Baylor Scott & White  
-The Brenham Clinic*

**Paul Aschenbeck**  
*Brenham ISD*

**Katie Burch**  
*PLANNORTH  
Architectural Co.*

**Susan Cates**  
*City of Brenham*

**Jim Chisolm**  
*Texas Star Winery*

**Johanna Fatheree**  
*RE/MAX*

**Dr. John Harris**  
*Mount Rose  
Missionary Baptist Church*

**Kara Matheney**  
*Washington County  
AgriLife Extension Service*

**Shay Morrow**  
*QuestSpecialty  
Corporation*

**Michelle Panko**  
*Barking Ranch Pet Resort*

**Roger Ross**  
*Coldwell Banker Properties  
Unlimited - Roger Ross*

**Jeffrey Sadler**  
*Del Sol Food Co., Inc.  
- Briannas*

**Darron Smith**  
*Brenham National Bank*

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2020 Small Business of the Year  
Presented to  
???

Stay tuned!

## “CONNECT AFTER 5”

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

## Bank of Brenham & Funky Art Cafe

*Bank of Brenham — 501 S. Austin St.*  
**Thursday, Feb. 4 from 5-7 p.m.**

*Unwind after work and expand your network! Meet other Chamber members and generate new business contacts. Enjoy food and drinks, learn what's new in the community, and exchange business cards and brochures.*

*Free for Chamber members and employees!*

# Ribbon Cutting



New Location

## BENCOR, LLC

Owner: Christine Giese  
4629 U.S. 290 West, Brenham

## Working for YOU.

*As a Chamber member, your promotional information is seen by thousands of people every month.*

### WALK-INS

Chamber of Commerce

Dec. 2020 — 247

### WEBSITE

[www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors

Total Pages

Dec. 2020 — 3,529

Dec. 2020 — 7,956

## Washington County Chamber of Commerce

314 S. Austin Street, Brenham

979-836-3695

[www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com)



**Term ending December 2021**  
From left: Joe Robertson, Blue Bell Creameries; Johanna Fatheree, RE/MAX Bluebonnet Properties; Aaron Gonzalez, Padgett Hearing Aid Center; Dr. Eric Alford, Baylor Scott & White – The Brenham Clinic; Paul Aschenbeck, Brenham ISD; Katie Burch, PLANNORTH Architectural Co.; and Dr. John Harris, Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church.

### Term ending December 2022

From left: Michelle Panko, Brenham Veterinary Hospital/Barking Ranch Pet Resort; Jeffrey Sadler, Del Sol Food Co.; Susan Cates, City of Brenham Economic Development; Roger Ross, Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited; and Dr. John Turner, Blinn College District.

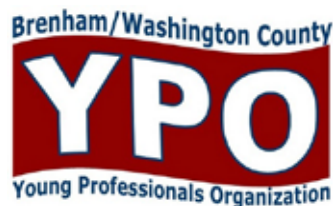


**Term ending December 2023**  
From left: Kara Matheney, Washington County AgriLife Extension Service; Shay Morrow, QuestSpecialty Corporation; (top from left) Dan Blalock, Brenham Abstract & Title Co.; Jim Chisolm, Texas Star Winery; and Darron Smith, Brenham National Bank.



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Thrivent Pinnacle Leaders Group  
O 979-836-0693

203 S Jackson St  
Brenham, TX 77833



Would your business like to host a YPO Networking Happy Hour?

Email [WashCoYPO@gmail.com](mailto:WashCoYPO@gmail.com) to find out details.



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979-277-8426 CELL

[WWW.HODDERE.COM](http://WWW.HODDERE.COM)

## GROUP BUYING POWER

Chamber members can now get major savings on credit card payment processing.  
Learn about our new member benefit program.



Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • [will.watson@infintechllc.com](mailto:will.watson@infintechllc.com)

[www.infintechllc.com](http://www.infintechllc.com)

# Renewing Members

**December 1-31**

H & H Machine Service — 36 years  
H-E-B Brenham Market — 35 years  
Wells Fargo Bank — 35 years  
Max Donuts — 17 years  
The Front Porch — 16 years  
Reeter, Jeff D. — 12 years

Cannery Kitchen & Gift Shop — 10 years  
Hanath, Louis and Joycine — 9 years  
Salem Volunteer Fire Dept — 4 years  
Canion Kountry Bakery — 1 year  
Davs Amusements Inc. — 1 year  
Guild Mortgage — 1 year

## Member Job Openings

### Schleider Furniture & Mattress Company

*Sales/Office Position*  
Health Insurance available, retirement matched. Apply in person at Schleider Furniture, 307 S. Austin St., Brenham

### Subway Sandwiches & Salads

*PT/FT All positions and shifts*  
Apply in person at any of the locations in Brenham after 2:00 p.m. No Phone Calls please.

### Round Top Home Builders

*Part-time office assistant*  
Must have office experience. Apply to info@roundtopbuilders.com.

### Personnel Services

*Quality Assurance Inspector*  
Finishing Process Operator  
Production Worker  
Maintenance Mechanic  
Heavy Equipment Mechanic  
Machine Operator  
Inventory Clerk  
Warehouse Associate  
Apply online at psstaffing.com or visit 2554 Ryan St., Brenham, 979-251-7554.

### Mike Hopkins Distributing Company

*Truck Driver with CDL*  
Mike Hopkins Distributing seeks a driver with a Class A CDL to service area retail locations. Position includes a full range of employee benefits. You can fill out an application by calling 979.836.2022.



## Inaugural Chamber Classic golf tourney to be held March 26

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce will host its inaugural golf fundraising event on Friday, March 26, 2021 at the Brenham County Club.

There are various sponsorship opportunities available for Chamber Members to promote their business or organization. Levels include: Presenting Platinum, Gold Sponsors, Silver Sponsors, Bever-

age Cart Sponsors, Cart Sponsors, Tent Sponsor at each hole, Hole Sponsors, Boxed Lunch Sponsors, Technology Sponsors. Members will be sent more detailed information soon.

Proceeds from this event are used for Washington County Chamber programs and services, so that dues can be kept among the lowest level in the state and nation.

*Thank you to our Chairman's Circle members ...*



*Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...*



**LOOK FOR UPDATES ONLINE @  
BRENHAMTEXAS.COM**

# Would you like to be a P.E.A.C.E. Partner?



## WHY RESPONSIBILITY?

Well, here we are in January! A new year, a fresh start, a new moment.

This month we are highlighting RESPONSIBILITY, which we define as proving you can be trusted with what's expected of you. Responsibility is less about having the correct supplies or checking off a list and more about one's character. Can you be trusted with what's asked or expected of you?

If possible, capitalize on this small distinction this month when you are talking with kids (and adults!). Being responsible with the tasks, responsibilities and expectations that you face now does something important: it shows those who lead you that you can be trusted. That kind of trust

leads to open doors and deeper responsibility later. However, conversations about trust can be a tricky thing right now, since there is so much distrust in the world. This makes the topic even more important. Instilling trustworthiness in our young people and displaying trustworthiness ourselves is a game-changer in building relationships and working together for a stronger community.

Happy New Year!

## WAYS TO LOOK FOR THIS VALUE/SKILL:

- Following through with what is expected
- Offering to help others complete tasks.
- Having conversations about trust, trustworthiness, and honoring commitments.

A Partner for P.E.A.C.E. (Public Education Ambassador for Community Engagement) is encouraged to share the monthly value and promote that value within the company so that possible employees and customers will see that you also support public education. It is in hopes that the adults who see these values at their workplace will share with the children in their lives who are also seeing this at school. These Core Essential Values are taught at both Brenham and Burton ISDs.

Thank you to these dedicated Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who continue to make this program a success in Washington County. They help reinforce the Core Essential Values students are learning in local public schools at their businesses and through their employee interactions:

- Ant Street Inn
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- Brenham National Bank
- City of Brenham
- Creatively Yours
- Germania Insurance
- Glasco & Company Landscaping
- Mandy Allen at Better Homes and Garden Real Estate Hometown
- Personnel Services
- Thielemann Construction Co., L.P. & Stegent-Thielemann Plumbing
- Unity Theatre

*We would love to have more!*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY "ADOPT-A-SIGN" PARTNERS

To ensure the long-term care of the Welcome Sign monuments at the five entry points to Washington County, four landscaping companies from our community have volunteered to oversee their maintenance.

**PLM  
Texas**

**Glasco & Co.  
Landscaping**

**Washington County  
Landscapes**

**Wise  
Landscaping**

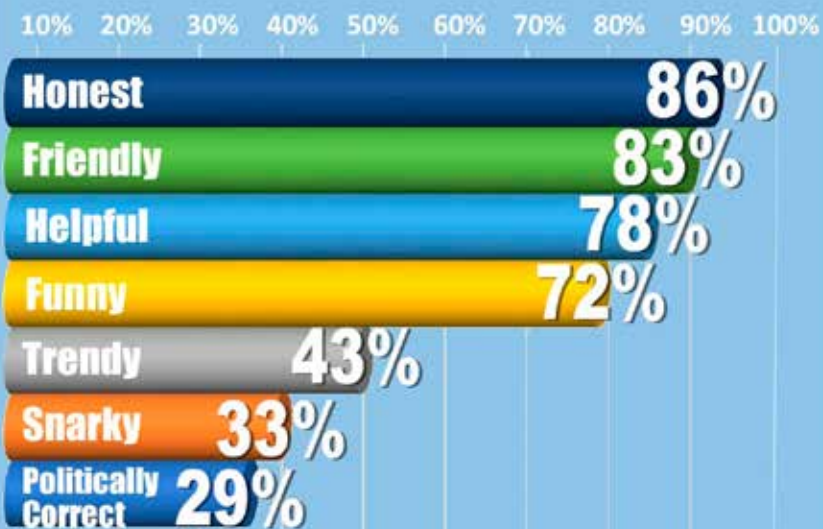
## Get Noticed...

The *ChamberWorks* newsletter is published inside *The Banner-Press* on the second Thursday of the month. Chamber members have the opportunity to advertise in this newsletter. Rates start at only \$25 per month.

Another great way to promote your organization is through targeted emails. The Chamber will forward your "e-message" to all members, as long as it meets certain criteria.

E-messages are sent a maximum of once per quarter per member during each calendar year.

## What do people want brands to be on social media?



Data from Sprout Social

As you can see, there is a sharp drop-off from funny to trendy. Most want you to be honest, helpful and friendly.



*Keeping Our County  
connected*

# Leadership Learns Emergency Management in County

The January session of Leadership Washington County was held at the Brenham Fireman's Training Center. The class heard from Washington County Emergency Management Coordinator Bryan Ruemke, Washington County 9-1-1 Director Kristi Stamnes (LWC Class of 2018), and Assistant Fire Chief Brian Scheffer. While this session usually begins at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located downtown at the Brenham Fire De-

partment, they were still able to see how emergency situations are communicated and executed by participating in a mock disaster drill.

The group rounded up that afternoon by hearing from EMS Director Kevin Deramus. He explained what EMS does, its history and how they transport and care for patients. Other paramedics came in and demonstrated the Lund Hospital Cardiac Arrest System (LUCAS) on a mannequin.

The class also participated in a leadership book review and discussed their plans for the class project, which will be revealed at a later date.

Leadership Washington County is one of the key programs of the Washington County Chamber designed to train and motivate leaders for this community. The next class will form in July. For more details or to view the application form, visit the "Leadership" page on [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com).



Bryan Ruemke explains his roll in Emergency Management.



Executing a plan to keep the town safe in a mock disaster drill.



Kristi Stamnes helps the class work through their rolls in the drill.



Paramedics demonstrate LUCAS on a mannequin.

# December Members of the Month

## Clean Car Custom Detail

603 W. Alamo, Brenham

979-900-0333

CleanCarCustomDetail.com

*How long have you been in business?*

— Since 2011

*What services do you offer?*

— Your new vehicle loses its shine so fast; we seal in the flawless finish so you'll keep that new car feeling for years without ever waxing again.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— We are the only detail shop in Washington County offering ceramic coatings for all surfaces of your vehicle that prevents damage and increases the shine and life of your paint.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— What don't we love about Washing-

ton County! Everyone feels like family. Even though we are not from here we have been welcomed into the community. People are real. Hard work is esteemed. Community is given priority. You know everyone is genuinely rooting for each other's success.

## Home Sweet Farm Biergarten

307 S. Park S., Downtown Brenham

512-773-1411

HomeSweetFarmBrenham.com

*How long have you been in business?*

— 7 Years

*What services do you offer?*

— Craft beer, wine, live music with no cover, and street food in a family friendly environment.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— We have Cicerone certified bar-

tenders with extensive knowledge who have a passion for sharing the best selection of craft beer in the county. We have been referred to as "the destination craft beer bar between Houston and Austin."

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— The sense of community, bluebonnets, Blue Bell, our customers, and the overall pace of life here.

## Topper's Liquor and Wine

2129 S. Market St., Brenham

979-836-7635

facebook.com/toppers.liquor

*How long have you been in business?*

— 30 years

*What services do you offer?*

— We provide alcoholic beverages to many of the bars and restaurants in

Washington County. We also help plan beverage needs for weddings, parties, and other social functions. Because of Coronavirus, we have been offering curbside pickup to anyone that requests it.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— The personal touch. Our customers know they could probably get it cheaper elsewhere, but they keep coming back to us because they know we will go the extra mile.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— What we love most about Washington County is our customers. We know most of them on a first name basis. Unlike a lot of places today, we will stand there and shoot the breeze with them. Our customers know that we care about them as people. They are our friends, neighbors and family members.

## WHY GO TO Connect After 5?

The Chamber's "Connect After 5" networking events have always been outstanding events each month. Chances are if you want to see someone from the local business community, you will find them at "Connect After 5."

Many know the social benefits of attending. Many more are discovering the business benefits of attending. If you are not yet taking advantage of these networking opportunities, you should. Here are some tips for making the most of the opportunity:

- Wear a name tag. If you don't have one from your place of business, the Chamber will have some blanks at the event for you to fill in and wear. Name tags help people to remember your name and the business you represent.

- Bring your business cards. Give one to everyone you meet. This gives people

your direct contact information, so they can do business with you after the event.

- Talk to people. Don't be shy. Initiate conversations with people you don't recognize. Let that be your conversation starter, "Hello, I don't believe we've met." Most people who attend are Chamber members, so you already have something in common. And most will be very willing to tell you about their business, so start by asking them what they do.

- Get to know the host. Meet the business owner(s). Be sure to find the host and say hello. Take the tour of the property, if offered. Thank them for hosting the event.

- Have fun. There is always great food and drinks. Everyone has a good time at the Chamber's after hours events. Make it a point to attend. It may be your most important business meeting of the month.



## Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 15-20 members and more than 40 years of tradition. They support the mission of the Washington County Chamber. The volunteers in the club act as official greeters and hosts of our community. Their activities include monthly meetings, greeting at Chamber functions, recruiting new Chamber members, and conducting ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

### Kyler Crenshaw

Capital Farm Credit

### Darlene Denman

Brenham ISD

### Joyce Dickschat

Brenham National Bank

### Shelby Dollar

Bank of Brenham

### Dr. Tina Henderson

Ash and Ash Consulting

### Mandy Henke

Kruse Village

### Tammy Jaster

City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

### Kristie Marth

Brenham Iron Works

### Rachel Nordt

Edward Jones

### Linda Pipes

Retired-School Teacher

### Carl Prihoda

Citizens State Bank

### Kathy Randermann

KTTX 106.1/KWHI 1280

### Christy Schlottmann

Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

### Brandi Trujillo

Express Employment Professionals

### Stephanie Wehring

Boys & Girls Club of Washington County

### Matt Wellmann

Wellmann Insurance

### Kristie Wensel

Brenham State Supported Living Center

### Barbara Wilganowski

Spherion Staffing

# The Chamber's Mission

*To promote a positive economic impact and quality of life while preserving the natural beauty and rich heritage of Washington*

## Objectives

- To promote our members' businesses and services. To **retain and facilitate growth** for their businesses.
- To coordinate the efforts of local leaders to maintain and strengthen a healthy business climate. *To be the “guardian of the economy.”*
- To implement efficient programs of work and stimulate activities that will encourage the employment of our local human and economic resources.
- To provide leadership and coordinate interested parties in solving community problems and in initiating community action. **To be the “catalyst” for change.**
- To create a broad understanding and appreciation of the great opportunities in Brenham and Washington County, and to promote the advantages and assets of our community.
- To help grow new leaders for the future of our community through Leadership Washington County.





# WHY SHOP LOCALLY

## ~ THE POWER OF CHOICE ~

Every time you make a purchase, you're exercising power of choice. There are lots of places where you can choose to spend your money; at merchants in Washington County, in the "big cities" down the road, even through mail order catalogs or on the Internet. But have you ever stopped to think about the real impact of dollars spent locally, compared to those spent out of the area?

The choice is yours. You have the power to strengthen and enrich your community. When you shop in Washington County, your money re-circulates in our local economy. Every dollar spent locally multiplies itself several times in impact to the local economy, as that dollar moves from person to person. A dollar spent in a local restaurant, for example, becomes income for a restaurant employee. When that employee buys groceries, the dollar becomes income for the grocer, who in turn may spend it to buy clothing or office supplies, or even

a new vehicle – in each case, becoming income for other area businesses and residents. Experts say that every dollar spent locally turns over within the community an average of seven times. So every \$100 spent here at home is actually worth \$700 or more to the local economy – and that's good news for all of us!

Our local businesses, both independents and chains, raise the standard of living in our community. Especially when they take their profits and buy products and services from other local businesses, thus creating more and more tax revenues needed for the community to thrive. Those sales tax dollars go back to our city government and can be used to fund local streets, parks, schools, fire and police protection and to fund economic development efforts. Our local businesses also donate to local charities including churches, softball leagues, arts, cultural and historical events and projects.

Especially important to the community are our independent local businesses - they are unique enterprises that contribute to the character of our community by offering more diverse selections of goods and services. In today's competitive marketplace we all need to make a special effort to frequent them. They bring charm to the local community – a charm missing in newer communities with shiny strip centers and no local flavor. Independent businesses provide meaningful service with a personal touch. It really does matter to them that you are satisfied and will come back again.

Making the decision to BUY LOCAL is a personal commitment to reinvest your purchasing dollars into your own community. A mere 5% shift in purchases back to our local community would have the same impact as bringing a new industry to the area. We are talking about millions of dollars

of local impact. It starts with our own commitment to support our Washington County businesses. And Chamber member businesses are often the very ones that are most supportive of the local community. When you shop online with out-of-state companies, it doesn't contribute a dime to our local economy.

I challenge each of you to make the decision to find and patronize business locally; shop local for services that may not have a store front, such as a CPA, website designer or landscaper. Look for the Chamber plaque and window decal where you do business. You can view a complete list of Chamber member businesses and the categories in which they are listed on our website at BrenhamTexas.com. Encourage your associates, family, and friends to buy locally. You have the power to make a difference! Buy LOCAL Washington County!

## Get Noticed

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If you are looking for a new opportunity to advertise, just call Jane Hinz at 836-3695.

Another great way to promote your organization is through targeted emails. The Chamber will forward your "e-message" to all members, as long as it meets certain criteria. For non-profits, it should not have a strong-sell for sponsorships or donations. The message should be newsworthy, typically about an up-

coming event. For regular businesses, it should also be about upcoming special events, as long as there is no purchase required for the reader to experience the event.

E-messages are sent a maximum of once per quarter per member during each calendar year.