

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BRENHAM, TEXAS

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

## A Hole-In-One for Chamber!

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



The Inaugural Chamber Classic was hosted by the Washington County Chamber on March 26th at the Brenham Country Club. The weather was perfect and all 36 available team spots were filled. There was also a competition for longest drive, a putting contest, and closest to the pin.

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

The Chamber staff, board, Blue Blazers, and many Chamber member representatives volunteered to help make the day successful.

**Secretary**  
**Paul Aschenbeck**  
*Brenham ISD*

"I am please and excited about the overwhelming community and chamber member support of the Inaugural Chamber Classic! I've volunteered in this capacity a number of times, and cannot say enough about the volunteers, the players, the vendors, and especially the hard work of the tournament committee," said event chairman Dr. John Turner. "This tournament was as polished as one that has been going on for years, and the fact that we had a waiting list gives us a chance for expansion going forward. It was certainly a day to remember for the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and its supporters, and one that should definitely be in your plans next spring!"

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

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

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

HOLE continued on Page 5

**Susan Cates**  
*City of Brenham*

**Jim Chisolm**  
*Texas Star Winery*

## Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Luncheon to be held April 19 at Ant Street Inn

**Johanna Fatheree**  
*RE/MAX Bluebonnet Properties*

In April, people across the nation will be celebrating Administrative Professionals Week. The Chamber is excited to be hosting the seventh annual Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day luncheon on Monday, April 19, at the Ant Street Inn Ballroom in Brenham.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available with a variety of valuable benefits including the option to have an exhibitor table at the event. Contact Shae Janner at shae@brenhamtexas.com if you would like to know more.

This will be a fun and exciting event for you to attend to boost staff morale and celebrate the hard work being done at your businesses.

Join in celebrating those who make our everyday work lives so much easier and more organized. Treat your staff and recognize them at this luncheon to thank them for the extraordinary work they provide.

Special luncheon speaker will be Brenham's own, Carolyn Matejowsky. She is the 2019 Washington County Woman of the Year and is sure to inspire and motivate attendees. Guest will receive a great lunch, gifts for all, plus the chance to win additional door prizes! This is a great way to show your appreciation for those who help make your business successful.

Thank you to Personnel Services for sponsoring this event!

Tickets are \$25 for Chamber members, \$35 for non-members, and \$250 for a Reserved Table for eight.

Call the Chamber at 979-836-3695 or email your reservation request to shae@brenhamtexas.com or purchase tickets online at [www.BrenhamTexas.com/adminproluncheon](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com/adminproluncheon).



Carolyn Matejowsky will be the guest speaker at the seventh annual Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day luncheon on Monday, April 19, at the Ant Street Inn Ballroom in Brenham.

**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*

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

**Darron Smith**  
*Brenham National Bank*



# Ribbon Cuttings



New Locations

## Little Free Libraries

Managed by The Fortnightly Club of Brenham

Jerry Wilson Park, 900 East Alamo Street; Hattie Mae Flowers Park, 700 MLK Drive; Jackson Street Park, 1300 S. Jackson Street



Business Expansion- New Mobile Service

## Appel Ford

Owner: John Hill  
1820 Hwy 290 West, Brenham

**Brenham-Washington County**  
**YPO**  
Young Professionals Organization

Networking Happy Hour  
Thursday, April 22  
5:30 p.m.

Hosted at Las Americas Latin Cuisine  
303 S. St. Charles, Downtown Brenham

Expand your business network and make new friends!

For more information about the Washington County YPO,  
send your contact information to [washcoypo@gmail.com](mailto:washcoypo@gmail.com),  
or visit online: [www.facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty](https://www.facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty)


## Working for YOU.

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

**WALK-INS**  
*Chamber of Commerce*  
March 2021 — 354

**WEBSITE**  
*www.BrenhamTexas.com*

<i>Unique Visitors</i>	<i>Total Pages</i>
March 2021 — 5,416	March 2021 — 12,244



**THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

**Ray L. Weiss, CLU®, FIC, CLTC®**  
Financial Consultant  
Five Star Financial Group  
[ray.weiss@thrivent.com](mailto:ray.weiss@thrivent.com)  
[connect.thrivent.com/ray-weiss](https://connect.thrivent.com/ray-weiss)  
Thrivent Pinnacle Leaders Group  
O 979-836-0693 | 203 S Jackson St  
Brenham, TX 77833



**Rachel Eckert Nordt**  
Financial Advisor

613 South Austin St  
Brenham, TX 77833  
Bus. 979-836-1038 Fax 844-879-3933  
[rachel.nordt@edwardjones.com](mailto:rachel.nordt@edwardjones.com)  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com)

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



**Washington County Chamber**  
BrenhamTexas.com

Wende Ragonis ..... President  
Jane Hinze ..... Member Services Manager  
Shae Janner ..... Business Programs Manager  
Dawn Konieczny ... Communications Coordinator  
Sarah Bryant ..... Financial Coordinator


**314 S. Austin St. | Brenham, TX 77833**  
**979-836-3695 | [www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com)**



**BJ ELECTRIC**

ONE STOP SERVICE COMPANY  
Residential – Commercial  
Electrical - Data Cabling  
Service Calls  
BUS: 1-866-926-6225

TECL 22459 | [www.bjelectricinc.com](http://www.bjelectricinc.com)

**HODDE REAL ESTATE CO.**

WILLIAM "BOO" CHRISTENSEN  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

112 WEST MAIN STREET  
BRENHAM, TEXAS 77833  
[boo@realtorboo.com](mailto:boo@realtorboo.com)

979-836-8532 OFFICE  
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.

**infintech**  
SMARTER PAYMENT PROCESSING  
An i3 Verticals Company

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



# BLUE BLAZERS CLUB SEEKING NEW MEMBER

This local service club is celebrating 50 years of tradition. Members support the mission of the Washington County Chamber, acting as official greeters and hosts of our community. Activities include monthly meetings (first Mondays at noon), greeting at Chamber functions, recruiting new Chamber members, and conducting ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

The club is currently seeking new members. Anyone who is a Chamber member or affiliated with a Chamber member organization and interested in joining is encouraged to contact Jane Hinze at the Chamber office.

Please call 979-836-3695 or stop the Chamber at 314 S. Austin Street in Brenham to complete an application. Details can also be sent via email upon request. Contact [jane@brenhamtexas.com](mailto:jane@brenhamtexas.com).

## "CONNECT AFTER 5"

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER NETWORKING EVENT

SPONSORED BY:

### Texas Farm Credit

1301 Hwy. 290 E., Brenham

Thursday, April 29 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!*

# New Chamber Members

### BLUEBONNET ABSTRACT & TITLE, LLC

Owner: Shane Nelson  
301 E. Main Street  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-353-2553  
[brenham@bluebonnetabstract.com](mailto:brenham@bluebonnetabstract.com)  
[www.bluebonnetabstract.com](http://www.bluebonnetabstract.com)  
Abstract/Title Companies

### LAUREN HAEVISCHER, ASST. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Contact: Lauren Haevischer  
110 South Park Street (Physical Address)  
100 E. Main Street, Box 303 (Mailing Address)  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-277-6247  
[lhaevischer@wacounty.com](mailto:lhaevischer@wacounty.com)  
Chamber Friend

### DAVIS CUSTOM BUILDERS OF TEXAS, LLC

Owners: Mitchell & Aubrey Davis  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-251-4872  
[adavis@davisbuilderstx.com](mailto:adavis@davisbuilderstx.com)  
[www.davisbuilderstx.com](http://www.davisbuilderstx.com)  
Contractors-Construction

### STAR CROSS REALTY, LLC

Contact: Gerald & Candace Schlieff  
& Tina Seeker  
119 W. Commerce Street  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-251-8888  
[tina@starcross.com](mailto:tina@starcross.com)  
[www.starcross.com](http://www.starcross.com)  
Real Estate

### DREAM DENTAL

Owners: Mayur Savaliya & Dr. Devani  
639 Medical Parkway  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-836-5236  
[dreamdentalbrenham@gmail.com](mailto:dreamdentalbrenham@gmail.com)  
[www.dentistinbrenham.com](http://www.dentistinbrenham.com)  
Dentists

### THE PRAIRIE RECOVERY CENTER

Contact: Will Davis  
5808 Wagner Road  
Round Top, Texas 78954  
Phone: 979-836-4975  
[wdavis@ethosbhg.com](mailto:wdavis@ethosbhg.com)  
[www.prairierecovery.com](http://www.prairierecovery.com)  
Rehabilitation Services  
Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services

### JENA BROWN, RDN

Contact: Jena Brown  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-213-7308  
[nutrition@jenabrownrd.com](mailto:nutrition@jenabrownrd.com)  
[www.jenabrownrd.com](http://www.jenabrownrd.com)  
Health/Nutrition/Wellness

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?



## Partners for P.E.A.C.E.



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**
- **Associated Credit Union of Texas**
- **Bank of Brenham**
- **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!*

### WHY PEACE?

A peaceful home, a peaceful school, and a peaceful workplace – sounds nice, right? Imagine the impact of teaching kids to solve problems peacefully, interacting with others while thinking of more than just being right. That can be tough in our current culture, where winning is valued above most anything.

And let's face it - there is no feeling like winning! March Madness, political races, hot-button debates, and reality competition shows all fuel our desire for our side to win. Sometimes, the argument or debate is silly, and other times, there is a lot at stake, and letting it go is not an option. There are certainly moments where we need to take a stand for what is right, respectfully.

But what about those other times? We might win the argument, but have we "won" at preserving a relationship that matters? Perhaps we need to re-frame our goals in some situations. Sure, we could go for the jug-

ular every time and try to land the winning shot...but is that really winning? What if we put the care we have for the other person above our need to come out on top? Contrary to what we see portrayed in everything from politics to reality TV, it really is possible to argue our point respectfully and passionately while maintaining respect for someone who holds another point of view. So the next time you find yourself engaged in an argument – take a breath and ask yourself what's most important. Practicing peace doesn't mean giving in...it just means giving more weight to caring for another person than scoring the win!

### WAYS TO LOOK FOR THIS VALUE/SKILL:

- People who seek a common goal instead of their own agenda
- Employees who seek to solve problems with each other instead of letting them fester
- Team members who can help others find consensus



[facebook.com/washingtoncountychamber](https://www.facebook.com/washingtoncountychamber)

## 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**  
*First Baptist Church School*

**Joyce Dickschat**  
*Brenham National Bank*

**Shelby Dollar**  
*Bank of Brenham*

**Dr. Tina Henderson**  
*Ash and Ash Consulting*

**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*

**Stephanie Wehring**  
*Boys & Girls Club of Washington County*

**Matt Wellmann**  
*Wellmann Insurance*

**Kristie Wensel**  
*Brenham State Supported Living Center*

**Barbara Wilganowski**  
*Spherion Staffing*





**Inaugural Chamber Classic Golf Champion went to the Kountry Boys Sausage team of Michael Branton (not pictured), Shan Conway, Justin Jersey and Carl Baker. Also pictured is Chamber President Wende Ragonis.**



**Third place went to the team from Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc.: Spencer Kunkel, John David Baker, Matt Wellmann and David Wellmann (not pictured).**

# Hole

*Continued from Page 1*

The Chamber would like to thank the following sponsors for their participation:

**GOLD SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSORS**

- American Fire Protection Group, Inc.
- Baylor Scott & White Health
- BIG Brannon Industrial Group
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- Brenham National Bank
- Brenham Orthodontics
- Brenham Veterinary Hospital
- Capital Farm Credit
- CB4 Services, LLC & Deep in the Heart Farms
- Champion Fellowship
- Citizens State Bank
- Dr. John Turner
- K & M Grocery
- Kristen Distributing
- LaRoche-Chev-Cadillac-GMC-Buick
- Padgett Hearing Aid Center
- PLANNORTH Architectural Co.
- Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Woodson Lumber Company

**LUNCH SPONSORS**

- LCRA
- PLANNORTH Architectural Co.

**BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS**

- Brenham Abstract & Title Company
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- Brenham Washington County Economic Development
- Johanna Fatheree – RE/MAX Bluebonnet Properties

**PLAYER CART SPONSORS**

- Germania Insurance
- LJ's BBQ

**TENT SPONSORS**

- Appel Ford
- Associated Credit Union of Texas
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- CB4 Services, LLC & Deep in the Heart Farms
- Southern District Properties Group
- Texas Casual Cottages

- Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies
- The Yard

**HOLE SPONSORS**

- American Fire Protection Group, Inc.
- Baylor Scott & White Health
- Behrens Land Group, Inc.
- BIG Brannon Industrial Group
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- Brazos Valley Brewing Company
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- Brenham Independent School District
- Brenham National Bank
- Brenham Orthodontics
- Brenham Veterinary Hospital
- Brown Water Cigar Bar, LLC
- Capital Farm Credit
- CB4 Services LLC & Deep in the Heart Farms
- Champion Fellowship
- Citizens State Bank
- Dr. John Turner
- Edward Jones-Rachel Eckert Nordt-Financial Advisor
- James Pharaon Creative
- Julie Renken, District Attorney
- K & M Grocery
- Kool Shades Window Tinting
- Kristen Distributing
- LaRoche Chevrolet-Cadillac-GMC-Buick
- Legacy Texas Realty, LLC
- Legacy Waste Services
- Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant
- Mattrezzz Guys
- Modern Air Solutions
- Moorman Tate, LLP
- Padgett Hearing Aid Center
- PLANNORTH Architectural Co
- Pleasant Hill Winery
- Seidel Schroeder
- Shannan Canales
- Tegeler Toyota & Chevrolet
- Terralab | Landscape Architects
- Texas Casual Cottages
- The Gunnery
- Toppers Liquor & Wine
- Tres Chic
- Washington County Abstract
- Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Woodson Lumber Company

**TEAM SPONSORS**

- American Fire Protection Group, Inc.
- Appel Ford
- Bank of Brenham
- Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Brenham
- BIG Brannon Industrial Group
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge
- Brenham National Bank
- Brenham Orthodontics
- Brenham Veterinary Hospital
- Capital Farm Credit
- CB4 Services, LLC & Deep in the Heart Farms
- Champion Fellowship
- Citizens State Bank
- Dr. John Turner
- Gessner Engineering
- Jeff Pedavic, Lowell Ogle, Alan Kunze and Jeff Dewees
- K & M Grocery
- Kountry Boys Sausage
- Kristen Distributing
- LaRoche-Chev-Cadillac-GMC-Buick
- Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant
- Mattrezzz Guys
- Mike Hopkins Distributing
- Padgett Hearing Aid Center
- PLANNORTH Architectural Co.
- Ray Weiss
- Southern District Properties Group
- Terralab / Landscape Architects
- Texas Farm Credit
- Tex-Star Legal Support
- Thielemann Construction
- Van Dyke Rankin Insurance
- Velocity Gymnastics & Cheer
- WCTractor
- Wellmann Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Woodson Lumber Company

**HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS**

- Appel Ford
- Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Proceeds from the Chamber Classic tournament go toward Chamber programs and activities and to help keep membership dues among the lowest level in the state. The Chamber could not have hosted such a successful event without the support of the Chamber Board and all the sponsors listed in this article. Please join us in thanking them for their community spirit by patronizing their businesses.

# March Members of the Month

## The John Fairey Garden

20559 FM 359 Rd, Hempstead  
979-826-3232  
jfgarden.org

*How long have you been in business?*

— 23 years

*What services do you offer?*

— We provide tours of the gardens and a retail plant nursery. The Budding Out Festival is held annually (cancelled this year due to winter storm) and various other events are scheduled during the year.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— The online design magazine Gardenista says that The John Fairey Garden is one of “100 gardens to visit before you die.” It is home to about 1000 species of plants from Mexico, Asia, and the United States showcased in the beautiful landscaped garden designed by the late John Fairey, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, Texas & M University.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— We love the vitality of Washington County and the beautiful highways and byways of the area.

## Germania Insurance

507 Hwy. 290 E., Brenham  
979-836-5224  
GermaniaInsurance.com

*How long have you been in business?*

— For more than 120 years.

*What services do you offer?*

— Germania offers a full range of insurance services—auto, home, liability, and life insurance (Germania Life), plus the financial services of Germania Credit Union, a member-owned credit union.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— Germania is the largest farm mutual insurance association in the state and only insures property (auto and home) in Texas. As a farm mutual we refer to our insureds as members. Germania is unique because our members have a voice in their farm mutual association. Members are able to lend their voices and votes during annual Local Chapter meetings. They reinforce the membership-owned farm mutual concept that sets Germania apart from most other insurers in Texas. Our members are an essential part of the company. We put our members first and value our relationships.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— Germania loves Washington County for a number of reasons: the Texas history, the quintessential small town charm found in the communities, and the local eateries and small businesses. But most of all, we love the community itself and the support it has given us over the years. We also appreciate the opportunities they have provided us to give back to them. Germania buys locally, hires locally, and contributes to local charities and events whenever the opportunity arises.

## Valmont Industries, Inc.

2551 Valmont Dr., Brenham  
979-277-3301  
Valmont.com

*How long have you been in business?*

— The plant in Brenham has been in operation since 1974. It was originally known as American Lighting Standards. Valmont Industries, Inc. has been associated with the plant since 1979.

*What services do you offer?*

— Valmont is a global leader of engineered products and services for infrastructure, and water-conserving irrigation equipment and solutions for agriculture. From lighting and traffic structures to guide the way, to communication towers that keep people connected, to utility structures that power homes and businesses, to irrigation equipment and technology that helps grow the world’s food, we are committed to Conserving Resources. Improving Life®.

Valmont is comprised of four primary business segments: Engineered Support Structures; Utility Support Structures; Coatings and Irrigation.

Valmont manufacture products in over 80 different facilities across 6 continents and do business in over 23 different countries. The Brenham facility produces steel structures for the lighting, traffic, and utility markets.

We are passionate about our products. We pride ourselves on being people of integrity who excel at delivering results. We pursue opportunities for growth by taking products and processes to new markets, developing new products for existing markets, and continually improving across the company to ensure that Valmont solutions are always the global industry leader.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— During the recent pandemic Valmont has been classified an essential manufacturer, supporting criti-

cal infrastructure sectors globally. Valmont has maintained continuous operations in Brenham throughout the pandemic and therefore helped sustain economic stability for the Brenham community.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— Valmont loves the partnership with its citizens and local businesses. Together we all contribute to the wellbeing of our community.

## Strand Associates

1906 Niebuhr St., Brenham  
979-836-7937  
Strand.com

*How long have you been in business?*

— We have been providing exceptional civil and environmental engineering service to our clients since 1946. In 2015, we acquired O’Malley Engineers in Brenham, Texas, to complement and add unique expertise to our repertoire of existing services.

*What services do you offer?*

— We are a full-service engineering firm specializing in civil and municipal engineering; stormwater management; water supply engineering; wastewater treatment and conveyance engineering; transportation engineering; electrical and HVAC engineering; building/facility engineering, architecture, and sustainable design; aviation; natural gas distribution; wetland delineation, mitigation, and restoration; ecosystem study and restoration; GIS and mapping; land development; and construction observation.

*Tell us something unique about your business.*

— Strand is not only local to address all our clients’ needs; we also have 9 other locations in 6 other states to assist the Brenham office in providing national expertise and the best service possible to our clients. In an ongoing commitment to serve our Texas clientele more effectively and efficiently, we completed construction of a new facility in Brenham in 2019. This new office provides extensive workspaces, conference rooms, and production facilities for our growing Texas staff.

*What do you love about Washington County?*

— Washington County has that quintessential, idyllic “small town” feel with big dreams and wonderful people. Seeing Brenham and Washington County grow and evolve is truly a pleasure. We enjoy the people of Washington County the most; they are the definition of southern hospitality. It’s a wonderful place to live and work.

## 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.





# What's Happening in April

Weekends through October

## Antique Carousel Rides at Fireman's Park

Ride a piece of history. Brenham's Antique Carousel at Fireman's Park is open weekends through October, Saturdays 11am-4pm, Sundays 1-4pm. Rides are only \$1 per rider.

April weekends

## Live Music at Home Sweet Farm Biergarten

Live Music at Home Sweet Farm Biergarten, 307 S. Park St., Downtown Brenham. Check their Facebook page for more information ([facebook.com/homesweetfarmmarket](https://facebook.com/homesweetfarmmarket)).

Through May 1

## Casting for CASA-Make A REEL Difference

Nationwide virtual fishing tournament. Family Day to be held May 1 at Lake Somerville Marina. Visit [wespeak4kids.org](http://wespeak4kids.org) for more information.

Thursdays in April

## Tacos & Trivia at Brazos Valley Brewing Co.

The taproom is open from 3-9pm on Thursdays with trivia from 6pm to close. ([brazosvalleybrewery.com](http://brazosvalleybrewery.com)).

April 9

## Evening with Oliva Cigars at Brown Water Cigar Bar

Trent with Oliva Cigars will be showcasing the Oliva Family of Cigars including Serie G, Serie O, Serie V, Gilberto Reserve, Master Blend, Melanio, and Nub with suggested drink pairings. 6-9pm, 200 W. Alamo St., Downtown Brenham ([brownwatercigar.com](http://brownwatercigar.com)).

April 10

## Blue Bell Fun Run

Brenham High School athletes serve as volunteers for the race to benefit numerous winning athletic programs, including baseball, track, cross country, golf, volleyball, football, softball, tennis and more. Mile, 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and Team Events ([bluebellfunrun.com](http://bluebellfunrun.com)).

April 10, 11

The Official Bluebonnet Festival of Texas. The Festival boasts more than 250 juried exhibitors (home décor, gardening, artists, craftsmen, jewelry, clothing, etc.), delicious country-style food, live entertainment and music, and tours of the historic community. Saturday 9-6, Sun 10-5 ([chappellhillmuseum.org](http://chappellhillmuseum.org)).

April 10, 17, 24

## Maifest Remembered 2021

The Brenham Heritage Museum's Bus Depot Gallery on Clinton at Alamo Street is hosting a joyful look back at some milestone years of the city's great festival. Come celebrate a century of colorful memories of floats, costumes, and royalty. The Bus Depot Gallery is open on Saturdays from 10 to 4 or other times by appointment. Just contact the Brenham Heritage Museum for more details. ([brenhamheritagemuseum.org](http://brenhamheritagemuseum.org)).

April 15

## Ribbon Cutting - Splash Pad at Henderson Park

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Celebrating the Splash Pad at Henderson Park, 902 N. Park St., 3:30pm.

April 17

## Annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival

Experience folk life demonstrations, through which history can be experienced first-hand. Non-stop entertainment under the Roy Winkler Family Pavilion and the fun continues with contests for bubble-gum blowing, pie-eating and seed pulling. Kids and young-at-heart can enjoy the children's barnyard, a Kidszone, crafts, antique tractors, engines, farm equipment, vintage cars and more. 9:30am-6pm, 307 N. Main St., Burton ([cottonginmuseum.org](http://cottonginmuseum.org)).

April 17

## Living History Saturday

Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836. On the third Saturday of each month, staff and volunteers dress in period clothing to bring to life the people and events of Old Washington for a unique opportunity for the entire family to discover various aspects of life during the Republic of Texas. The program features family activities including writing with a quill pen, signing a copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence, visiting with militia soldiers or playing early Texas games. Tours of Independence Hall will not be offered these days. Contact Adam Arnold at (936) 878-2214, ext. 228 or [adam.arnold@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:adam.arnold@tpwd.texas.gov) (WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

April 17

## Farmers Market at Washington on the Brazos

4th annual Farmers Market. Local vendors, live music and food vendor on-site. Markets are every 3rd Saturday March-November (excluding August), 10am-2pm,

23400 Park Rd. 12, Washington. Contact Celeste Solomon Doty 936-878-2214 ext. 230 ([wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org)).

April 17

## Burton Slugger Street Dance

Following the 32nd annual Burton Cotton Gin Festival, tunes provided by the Texas Unlimited Band on Main Street in front of the White Horse, 400 N Main St. Event is free and drinks/food can be purchased. 7-11pm. Event hosted by Friends of Burton, Burton Friends & Neighbors and the Burton Chamber of Commerce ([burtontexas.org/street-dance](http://burtontexas.org/street-dance)).

April 19

## Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Luncheon

Featuring Brenham's own inspirational & motivational speaker, Carolyn Matejowsky, 2019 Washington County Woman of the Year. Ant Street In Ballroom, 11:30am-1pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [brenhamtexas.com/adminproluncheon/](http://brenhamtexas.com/adminproluncheon/).

April 20

## Winedale Online Talk: German Dance Halls

Casey Jordan, Executive Director, Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc. "Two Step Your Way Through Time and Discover Texas history in our Historic Dance Halls." Online, 12-1pm. ([tricia.blakistone@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:tricia.blakistone@austin.utexas.edu)).

April 22

## Design Seminar

Spring design seminar at Hermann Furinture. Join Jennifer and her mom, Ms. Patsy, for tips on beautiful tablescape, bar designs, and front door decor for the fun celebrations of upcoming May. 213 W. Alamo St.

April 22

## Ribbon Cutting - Nextlink

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting for our New Member, Nextlink, 2409 Longwood Dr., Brenham, 2pm.

April 22

## YPO Networking Happy Hour

Attend to meet other Young Professionals in Washington County, 5:30pm, Las Americas Latin Cuisine, 301 St. Charles St., Downtown Brenham.

April 26

## Ribbon Cutting - Lifetime Learning Announcement of the 2021 Read Book

Nancy Carol Roberts Library Meeting Room, 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Brenham, 1pm

April 26

## Barn Cat / Stray Cat Discount Spay & Neuter Day

Brenham Veterinary Hospital, last Monday of each month. By Appointment 979-836-2472 ([brenhamvethospital.com](http://brenhamvethospital.com)).

April 29

## Connect After 5 - Texas Farm Credit

Connect After 5 with your fellow Chamber Members. This event invites you to come enjoy some great networking, delicious food and refreshments. Bring plenty of business cards to share with other members. Free for Chamber members and employees. 5-7pm, Texas Farm Credit, 1301 Hwy. 290 E., Brenham.

## May Highlights

May 1

### Annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser for Burton Friends & Neighbors, Inc. The Park Project

Roy Winkler Family Pavilion at the Texas Cotton Gin Museum. (Darrel Kieke, 979-451-3444).

May 4

### Wake Up, Washington County! Networking Breakfast

Come enjoy breakfast and a chance to network with other local businesses and organizations. This is a great way to inform others about your products and services and learn about what's new in the community. Brenham Memorial Chapel. 2300 Stringer St., Brenham, 7:45am

May 7, 8

### Brenham Maifest Celebration

Fireman's Park beginning Friday at 5pm with music, a carnival, festival food and drinks. Don't miss the highlight of the Maifest - the Junior Coronation at 7pm Friday and Senior Coronation 7pm Saturday/ Parade through Downtown Brenham on Saturday morning ([maifest.org](http://maifest.org)).

May 7

### First Fridays Farmer & Artisan Market

First Friday of each month. 3-7pm, featuring fresh foods, homemade products and more all right on the Courthouse square in the heart of Downtown Brenham.

LOOK FOR UPDATES ONLINE @

**BRENHAMTEXAS.COM**

# New Chairman's Circle Member

The Washington County Chamber is proud to welcome Bank of Brenham to the Chairman's Circle.

As the top-tier investor, Chairman's Circle members support the Chamber's mission to promote and grow business in this community. These members receive elite recognition at all signature events as well as the highest level recognition in publications, marketing opportunities and on the Chamber website. Additional benefits of the Chairman's Circle include sponsorships of the Annual Banquet, Leadership Washington County, the annual Board of Directors Planning Retreat, plus invitations to exclusive events with local leaders and elected officials, and much more.

Other Chairman's Circle Members are Baylor Scott & White Health, Blinn College District, Blue Bell, Brenham Abstract and Title, Brenham National Bank, Citizens State Bank, City of Brenham, Germania Insurance, and Van Dyke Rankin Insurance.

Please join us in thanking these companies for their commitment to the Chamber of Commerce as the entity that unifies the spirit of this community and directs it into constructive channels.



Chamber President Wende Ragonis presents the Chairman's Circle plaque to Jim Kruse, president of Bank of Brenham, along with other members of the BoB staff.

## Reasons Buying Locally Benefits You

1. Right now, while this community is wanting to support local law enforcement and first responders, make this a priority in your family. Keep your dollars here.

2. By shopping in Washington County and paying local sales tax, your dollars stay here to fund city and county operations such as roads and bridges, parks, the li-

brary, police and fire departments and more.

3. Local businesses give better support to YOUR community groups. Non-profit groups receive an average of 350% more charitable support from local businesses than they do from non-locally owned businesses.

4. Local businesses make up the largest employer base, giving

more jobs to YOU and YOUR family.

5. YOU get more knowledgeable and friendlier customer service. You get to know your local merchants, and they get to know YOU.

6. Spending \$100 at a local independent business creates a ripple effect of \$45 in additional local economic activity.

7. Shopping locally saves YOU gas and time.

8. Local businesses preserve and enhance the unique character of Washington County. This makes it special for YOU and attractive for others to come spend their money here.

9. Shopping locally allows YOU to stay in better touch with YOUR neighbors and the

local pulse of YOUR community.

10. Local businesses are more likely to utilize local advertising, banks, insurance companies and other local services.

11. Without the sales tax dollars that stay in Brenham and Washington County, YOUR property taxes would have to be approximately 14% higher.

### "Wake Up, Washington County!" Networking Breakfast

**Tuesday, May 4**  
Starts at 7:45 a.m.

Hosted by:  
**Brenham Memorial Chapel**  
2300 Stringer St., Brenham

Enjoy breakfast and a chance to network with other local businesses and organizations. It's a great way to inform them about your products and services and learn what's new in the community.

Everyone gets a chance to give a 30-second commercial about their business/organization. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and brochures for sharing.

## Member Job Openings

### Associated Credit Union of Texas

30-Hr Part-time Member Access Center Rep  
Responsibilities will include maintenance of existing accounts; cross-selling and processing all services and products available through ACUTX; account transfers, histories and inquiries.

### Best Western Inn of Brenham

Housekeeping Staff  
Apply in person at 1503 Hwy. 290 E. No phone calls please.

### Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Lifeguards Wanted  
Apply online at [cityofbrenham.org/employment](http://cityofbrenham.org/employment).

### Brenham Abstract & Title Company

Contract Coordinator  
205 N. Market St., Brenham

### Brenham Country Club

Maintenance Employees  
Part-time Grill Cook/Chef  
Applications may be printed from the website [www.brenhamcc.com](http://www.brenhamcc.com) or picked up in person at 4107 Hwy. 105 E., Brenham.

### Brenham State Supported Living Center

Custodian I  
Food Services Worker I  
Cook II  
Speech Language Pathologist  
Apply online at <https://hrportal.hsc.state.tx.us>

### Sonic Drive Inn #2

All positions.  
Apply at [www.careers.sonicdrivein.com](http://www.careers.sonicdrivein.com)