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Blue Bell Creameries

First Vice Chair
Dr. John Turner
Blinn College District

Second Vice Chair
Aaron Gonzalez
Padgett Hearing Aid Center

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& Title Co.*

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Brenham ISD

Immediate Past Chair
Jay Schroeder
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Bureau Insurance*

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

Katie Burch
*PLANNORTH
Architectural Co.*

Susan Cates
City of Brenham

Jim Chisolm
Texas Star Winery

Johanna Fatheree
*RE/MAX
Bluebonnet Properties*

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

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

Darron Smith
Brenham National Bank

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BREHAM, TEXAS

Chamber Says Farewell to Retiring Directors



Six outstanding volunteers will retire as Chamber board members this month. They have been closely involved with the mission and success of the Chamber since January 2019. The retiring directors (as pictured) include:

Johanna Fatheree of RE/MAX Bluebonnet Properties, **Aaron Gonzalez** of Padgett Hearing Aid Center, **Dr. Eric Alford** of Baylor Scott & White – The Brenham Clinic, **Paul Aschenbeck** of Brenham ISD, **Katie Burch** of PLANNORTH Architectural Co., and **Dr. John Harris** of Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church.

Also pictured is **Joe Robertson** of Blue Bell Creameries. He served as Board Chair for 2021 and will remain on the board in 2022 as Immediate Past Chair.

These volunteer leaders have been valuable members of committees and projects over the past three years. They will be greatly missed from the board of directors, but we know they will always remain strong members of the Chamber and our local business community.

Please join us in thanking them for their years of service to the Chamber membership the next time you see them!

2021 Man, Woman of Year Nominations Now Being Accepted

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to start thinking about who deserves the honor of being selected for the 2021 Man and Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Awards.

This is a long-standing tradition of the Washington County Chamber, recognizing the achievements of two extra-special individuals each year. The 2020 recipients were Jennifer Eckermann and Kevin Deraemus.

The 2022 Banquet will be held on January 25th. Prior to the banquet, the immediate Past Chairman of the Chamber Board will convene a committee comprised of past award recipi-

ents to review all nominations and vote on the candidates for the current year.

If you know someone you would like to nominate for this honor, please fill out a nomination form. It includes the judging criteria. You may contact the Chamber to have a form emailed to you or download the form online at BrenhamTexas.com under "News & Events." Completed nomination forms are due to the Chamber by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7.

Winners are only selected from nominations received. Please note that prior nominations (submissions from prior years) may be considered if resubmitted by the Jan. 7 deadline.

Nominations Sought for the 2021 'Business of the Year'

The Washington County Chamber is now accepting nominations for "Small Business of the Year" in Washington County for 2021.

There are two categories: one for businesses with 1-25 employees and one for 26-100 employees. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 7.

If you are aware of a local business that you feel is deserving, please nominate them. Criteria for this prestigious award include:

- The business participates in multiple ways in the community and makes lasting contributions to the growth and well-being of the community.
- The business has displayed

evidence of high professional and business standards.

- The business sets an example of leadership for others to follow, within its industry and its workforce.

- This business is locally owned/operated.

While you're thinking about it, please consider nominating your own business. Nobody knows your business better than you.

A form is available to pick up at the Washington County Chamber office (314 S. Austin Street, Brenham) and it is also online at brenhamtexas.com under "News & Events." For more information, call (979) 836-3695.

Ribbon Cuttings



Improvements

Jerry Wilson Park

900 E Alamo St, Brenham



New Member

Southern Fox

Owner: Kasia Chovanec
202 W. Alamo Street, Brenham



New Member

Brenham Boutique

114 E. Alamo St., Brenham

New Members

BREHAM BOUTIQUE

Manager: Margo Knust
114 E. Alamo Street
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 979-551-9128

CHAPELTON VINEYARDS-LYN RANCH, LLC

Owner: Kurt Lyn
14858 Whitman Road
Washington, Texas 77880
Phone: 979-353-0246
www.chapeltonvineyards.com

KENNEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HALL

President: Maggie Thuesen
444 Hall Road (Physical Address)
PO Box 25 (Mailing Address)
Kenney, Texas 77452
Phone: 979-877-4617

MR. GATTI'S PIZZA

Owners: Mark Schulte, Kenny & Erica Farmer
2855 HWY 290W
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 979-353-2222

PORTABLE BUILDINGS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Owner: Liz Jacob
10050 HWY 36N
Brenham, Texas 77833.
Phone: 979-836-7225
www.portablebuildingsofcentraltexas.com

THE SOUTHERN FOX

Owner: Kasia Chovanec
202 West Alamo
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 979-353-5739
www.shopthesouthernfox.com

TREES OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Owner: Liz Jacob
10050 HWY 36N
Brenham, Texas 77833
Phone: 979-836-7225
www.treesofcentraltexas.com



Networking Happy Hour
Thursday, Dec. 9
5-7 p.m.

Hosted at Must Be Heaven
107 W. Alamo St., 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, or visit online: www.Facebook.com/YPOwashingtoncounty



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

314 S. Austin St. | 979-836-3695

Brenham, Texas 77833

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ray.weiss@thrivent.com
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Brenham, TX 77833




Edward Jones

Rachel Eckert Nordt
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GROUP BUYING POWER
Chamber members can now get major savings on credit card payment processing.
Learn about our new member benefit program.



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www.infintechllc.com

New Chamber Leaders Elected

All Chamber members received their annual ballot in October to elect new directors to the Chamber Board. Members voted to elect seven new board members, and they will serve a three-year term. A nominating committee assigned by the Chairman of the Board developed the list of candidates. The five newly elected directors to serve in 2022-24 include:

Blake Barnes

*Baylor Scott & White
Medical Center, Brenham*

Blake Barnes is a native Texan and grew up in the northeastern part of Texas. Blake currently serves as the Director of Operations for the Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Brenham. Upon completing his graduate work, Blake joined the team at Baylor Scott and White in 2015 and has held progressive leadership roles throughout his time with the organization. Blake transitioned to his current role in June of 2020 and is responsible for the operational performance and strategic advancement of multiple service lines in alignment with the organization's mission. Blake is a graduate of Austin College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and non-profit organization and policy studies. He also holds a master's degree in health care administration from Trinity University. Outside of work, Blake and his wife enjoy traveling, spending time with their dogs, exploring the local towns. Blake is a graduate of Leadership Washington County.

Eric Benitez

Cedar Frame Real Estate

Eric is a commercial real estate agent who also specializes in farm, ranch, and investment properties. He is a Director for the South Central Board of Realtors, a graduate of the Washington County Leadership Program, Graduate of the Realtor Institute, Blinn College Alumni, & Graduate of Sam Houston State University. He brings over a decade's worth of experience in real estate transactions and market knowledge and now owns a real estate investment company. Eric graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Finance & Business Administration from Sam Houston State University and started his career in banking and eventually into ag and commercial lending. As a full-time Realtor® today, Eric provides his clients with the added benefit of his financial knowledge and network, and approaches their experiences with the understanding of someone who has been in their shoes. With their best interests in mind, he provides quality service with his tireless work ethic and ability to communicate effectively. Eric and his family attend Christ Lutheran Church and enjoys cooking, being outdoors, and watching the Dallas Cowboys and is a proud supporter of the Cubs!

Dr. Tylor Chaplin

Brenham ISD

Dr. Tylor Chaplin has served in public education for 25 years; he has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, campus principal and superintendent, and currently is the superintendent of schools in Brenham ISD. He is the 25th



superintendent to lead the 145-year-old school district. Growing up in Stephenville, TX, Tylor earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise and Sports Studies and Masters Degree in Education Administration from Tarleton State University. In 2018, he earned his Doctor of Education Leadership from Lamar University. Dr. Chaplin came to Brenham from Burkburnett ISD where he served as superintendent for 5 years, was the Burkburnett Chamber of Commerce Citizen of The Year in 2019 and a Top 5 Finalist for the TASB Texas Superintendent of the Year. He is a member of Rotary Club of Washington County and a graduate of Leader-

ship Washington County. Tylor and his wife, Anita, are excited to be a part of the Brenham community and he looks forward to strengthening relationships with students, parents and community members in an effort to continually improve the education of students in Brenham ISD. His wife, Anita, is teaching first grade students in Sealy ISD and they have two daughters, Alexa, a PreK teacher with Fort Bend ISD and Cate, a graduate of Texas A&M who works in real estate in College Station. Dr. Chaplin loves to be outdoors, do woodworking, and spend time with his family.

ELECTED *continued on page 4*

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



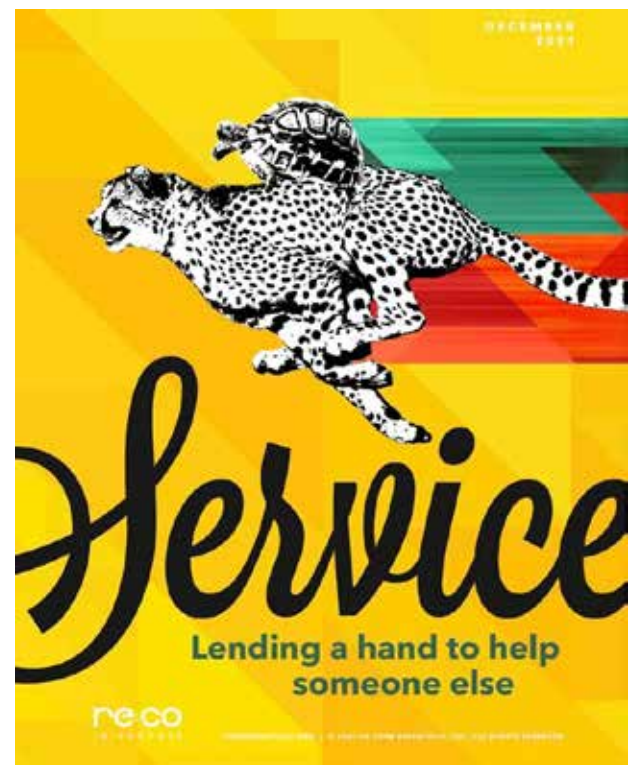
Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



— www.facebook.com/washingtoncountychamber —



**Thank
you to
Kruse
Village
for
hosting a
successful
Connect
after 5 in
December**



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 Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who have signed up so far to 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
- Bank of Brenham
- Blue Bell Creameries
- Boys & Girls Club of Washington County
- Brand It Graphix
- Brenham Iron Works, LLC
- Brenham National Bank
- Brenham State Supported Living Center
- BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings
- Burton Chamber of Commerce
- Citizens State Bank
- City of Brenham
- Creatively Yours
- Germania Insurance
- Independence Coffee Co.
- Mandy Allen at Better Homes & Garden Real Estate Hometown
- PlanNorth Architectural Co.
- Seidel Schroeder
- The Banner Press
- Thielemann Construction Co., L.P. & Stegent-Thielemann Plumbing
- Unity Theatre
- Washington County Landscapes

We are now signing up our Partners for P.E.A.C.E. for the 2021-22 school year. Please contact Shae Janner for more information at shae@brenhamtexas.com or call 979-836-3695.

Elected

Continued from page 3

Jolene Curtis

Texas Farm Credit

Jolene is the Chief Operating Officer of Texas Farm Credit. She began her career with Texas Farm Credit in Brenham in 2004 as a loan officer and served in several different roles before transitioning to her current role of COO in 2016. As COO, Jolene is responsible for TFC's home mortgage division, crop insurance division, as well as the Association's marketing, human resources, loan servicing, and training and development functions. Jolene is a 1999 graduate of Texas A&M University-Kingsville where she received her degree in Agricultural Business. Prior to joining Farm Credit, she worked for Dow Agro-Sciences, where she was employed as a chemical sales representative and market research manager. Jolene also serves as Treasurer for the Volunteer Services Council for the Brenham State Supported Living Center. Jolene, along with her husband, Jamey, and two boys Evan and Kyle, love living in Brenham and being a member of this community. They enjoy hunting, fishing, and playing sports during their free time.

Carlos Garcia

Mariachis Mexican Restaurant

Carlos proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1998-2002. Upon returning home, he attended Blinn College and then went on to Texas State

University to pursue a degree in Communications. After a tragic accident with his father, Carlos returned to Brenham to help his mother run the family business. Mariachis Mexican Restaurant has been in operation in Brenham since 1995. Carlos and his wife Yanira have two daughters, Bianca and Alexa. Carlos is a member of the American Legion and CCA. He enjoys watching the Green Bay Packers with his family. In his spare time, he also enjoys fishing, golfing and traveling. Carlos believes that everyone in a small town plays a major part in its overall success and looks forward to doing his part.

Becky Ogg

Germania Insurance

Becky serves as the Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Germania Insurance. She joined Germania Insurance in 2011 after practicing real estate, finance and bankruptcy law at Locke Lord in Houston for several years. Becky and her husband, Michael, have been happily married for 15 years. Michael is the principal at Alton Elementary School in Brenham. They have two daughters who bring utter joy to their lives: Shelby (11) and Cora (6). Becky graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, and she then attended South Texas College of Law where she earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence. Becky is a member of the Washington County Bar

Association where she currently serves as the Association's Secretary. In addition, she recently completed her role as an advisory board member of Rectify, a private company focused on providing an automated platform to promote data privacy and secure redaction. She and her family attend First Baptist Church in Brenham. She also volunteers and assists with the Bleiberville VFD fundraiser; Becky grew up in Bleiberville. Becky enjoys spending time with her family and friends, swimming, traveling the Texas coast, watching movies, playing with her canine children (Bella and Gretchen), and just spending time outdoors among God's creation. Becky and her family consider themselves truly blessed to be living in Washington County, raising their kids in a loving, close-knit community where everyone is valued and looks out for one another.

Matt Wamble

Burton ISD

Matt currently serves as the High School Principal in Burton ISD with 20 years of experience working in the amazing field of education. He has been married to his wonderful wife Lori for 19 years and has three daughters (Hannah 15, Peyton 13 and Elise 8). Before moving to Washington County four years ago, Matt and his family resided in Sugarland, TX where he and his wife worked as administrators in Fort Bend ISD. In Fort Bend, Matt spent his early years as

a coach and teacher at the junior high and high school levels, and later served as an assistant principal at Willowridge HS and John Foster Dulles HS. Additionally, Matt spent two years in Brenham ISD as a campus administrator and four years working in Houston ISD as an academic coordinator for athletics at Cesar Chavez High School. Matt received his BS in Exercise Sports Science with a minor in Education from Texas State University in 2001; and later obtained his Masters from the University of St. Thomas in Educational Leadership. In his spare time Matt enjoys watching his daughters participate in various sports, and spending quality time with friends and family. Matt is a graduate of Leadership Washington County.

As of January 2022 the remainder of the Chamber Board will include: Dr. John Turner, Blinn College District; Susan Cates, City of Brenham Economic Development; Michelle Panko, Barking Ranch Pet Resort and Brenham Veterinary Hospital; Roger Ross, Coldwell Banker; Jeffrey Sadler, Del Sol Food Co.; Dan Blalock, Brenham Abstract & Title Co.; James "Jim" Chisolm, Texas Star Winery; Kara Matheney, Washington County AgriLife Extension Service; Shay Morrow, QuestSpecialty Corporation; and Darron Smith, Brenham National Bank

Executive officers to serve in 2022 will be elected by the Board at the December board retreat.

Working for YOU.

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

WALK-INS

Chamber of Commerce

Nov. 2021 — 385

WEBSITE

www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors

Total Pages

Nov. 2021 — 6,023

Nov. 2021 — 11,997

Get Noticed

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

If you are looking for a new opportunity to advertise, just call Jane Hinze 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, typical-

ly about an upcoming 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.

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.

Justin Colley

Brenham Chrysler Jeep Dodge

Kyler Crenshaw

Capital Farm Credit

Darlene Denman

First Baptist Church School

Joyce Dickschat

Brenham National Bank

Shelby Dollar

Bank of Brenham

Tammy Jaster

City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Candace Lubojasky

Candace Lubojasky | Real Estate & Design

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

Matt Wellmann

Wellmann Insurance

Kristie Wensel

Brenham State Supported Living Center

Barbara Wilganowski

Spherion Staffing



The class steps into various roles as they try to conduct a plan for a mock disaster that has occurred in town.



Adonna Saunders looks at a city map to help determine the course of action for emergency crews and evacuations.

Leadership Learns Emergency Management in County

The December session of Leadership Washington County began at the Brenham Fire Department.

The class heard from Interim Fire Chief Roger Williams and Brian Scheffer, assistant fire chief. Attendees were then able to see first-hand how emergency situations are communicated and executed from the command center downtown through a mock disaster drill at the department's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

One participant said, "Its eye opening to me of all of the parties involved during a disaster. I have a new found respect for our firemen, and the local government involved."

They were then given a tour of the department and got to try out some of the equipment, including a trip up in the

bucket of the ladder truck. The Brenham Fire Department has been operating since 1867.

The group then traveled to the Brenham State Supported Living Center for lunch, a presentation and then a tour of the facility grounds. Christy Shelton (LWC Class of 2021) Community Relations Director at BSSLC, toured everyone across the outstanding campus. The group visited one of the residential cottages and the wheelchair fabrication shop.

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.



Those who were willing were able to take a ride up the ladder.



BFD Captain Tank Nienstedt gives a tour of the station.



Christina Marinis takes a seat in one of the wheelchairs that the BSSLC fabrication shop makes for their residents.

What's Happening in December

Thursdays

Thirsty Thursdays Tacos & Trivia

The taproom is open from 3-9pm on Thursdays with trivia from 6pm to close. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Every Tuesday & Thursday

CG Group Fitness Classes

CG is a group fitness program both in-person and online across the nation. Unlimited access to ALL workouts nationwide with your membership, giving the flexibility you need to stay consistent. Small group training for all fitness levels. 5:30-6:30pm, Cub Stadium main entrance. Membership fees vary from \$59-\$89/mo. 979-551-3042, email michelle.rigsbycpt@gmail.com.

Dec 9

YPO Networking Happy Hour

Network with the Young Professionals of Washington County at Must Be Heaven in Downtown Brenham, 5:30-7:30.

Dec 10

Groundbreaking at Texas Cotton Gin Museum

Groundbreaking event to celebrate improvements. Light refreshments will be served. Soon, work will begin on the Oliver Whitener Pavilion, parking lot expansion and a revamp of the Legacy Brick Pathway. 307 N. Main St., Burton, 1:30pm (texascottonginmuseum.org).

Fridays

Friday Vibes

Live music, beer, and bites at Brazos Valley Brewery. Taproom is open from noon to 10pm every Friday. Family and dog friendly. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Dec 10-11, 17-18

Ledbetter Volunteer Fire Department Christmas Lane of Lights

2021 Christmas Lane of Lights. Fridays and Saturdays until Dec. 18; 6-9pm.

Dec 11

Burton Christmas Market & More

Presented by the Burton Heritage Society and the Burton Chamber., 12-4pm. For details call the Texas Cotton Gin Museum at 979-289-3378 (burtonheritagesociety.org or burtontexas.org).

Saturdays

Exhibit - The Day at the Fair

This exhibit celebrates the oldest county fair in Texas. The Bus Depot Gallery is open every Saturday from 10 to 4 and other days by appointment. Many small groups, both local and from out of town, regularly make appointments to visit during the week (brenhamheritagemuseum.org).

Sound on Stage Saturdays

Brazos Valley Brewery and Taproom is open Saturday from 12pm-10pm with live music every Saturday from 6pm-9pm and all day on a beer release day. Playground for the kiddos and lots of outside seating for the doggos. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Dec 11

Christmas at Winedale

Crafts and folklife demonstrations, music and theater performances, a petting zoo, food and beverages, and more. This event is free. 12-4pm, 3738 FM 2714, Round Top (tricia.blakistone@austin.edu).

SAVE THE DATE

January 25

Washington County Chamber and
Brenham EDF Annual Banquet & Awards

April 28

8th Annual Administrative
Professionals' Appreciation Luncheon

April 29

2nd Annual Chamber
Classic Golf Tournament

August

Tailgate 2022

Dec 11

The Nutcracker Ballet

Round Top Festival Institute will once again present Tchaikovsky's holiday classic ballet, The Nutcracker. This year's production celebrates the 13th annual performance danced by Ovation Ballet Company, a youth ballet company in residency at Dancers Workshop in Austin. The legendary ballet will be one show only at the Round Top Festival Institute Concert Hall, 4-6:30pm, 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top. \$40 adults, \$20 students (festivalhill.org, 979-249-3129).

Dec 11-12

Bethlehem in Independence Live Nativity Scene

Live Nativity Scene in Downtown Independence, 6-8pm, Independence School House, 9325 FM 390 E (979-836-4211 or 832-473-2930).

Dec 12

"Great Big Holiday Bake-Off" Concert

The Brenham Children's Chorus ensembles will present "The Great Big Holiday Bake-Off" musical and traditional Christmas selections at the Blinn College Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center. Tickets will be available online and at the door (brenhamchildrenschorus.com).

Sundays

Sunday Funday at Brazos Valley Brewery

Open 12pm-7pm serving Big "A" Pretzels and Nachos and rotating Food Trucks. Playground for the kiddos and lots of outside seating for the doggos. Live Music for amazing Texas Artists from 3-6pm. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Dec 13

Toys For Tots with First Responders

Light up a Child's Christmas with First Responders. Please come out and donate new, unwrapped gifts for ages 17 and under. Emergency vehicles will be on location during the Toy Drive to view. Brenham Fireman's Training Center, 4-8pm.

Dec 16

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring David Lewis, Briana Adams, and The Bluebonnet Opry House Band. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show Starts at 7:30 p.m. Grill is open for great tasting food. Silver Wings Ballroom, 4100 Hwy. 105, Brenham. Tickets \$7 at the door (friendsofbluebonnetopry.com).

Dec 18

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 (WhereTexasBecameTexas.org).

Dec 21

BVH Senor Discount Day

Brenham Veterinary Hospital offers a senior discount day on the third Tuesday of each month. Pet owners over age 50 save 15% on wellness exams, wellness vaccines, spays and neuters. By appointment only, please call 979-836-2472 to schedule. Small animals only, does not apply to large animals - cattle, horses, llamas, donkeys etc. (brenhamvethospital.com).

Dec 25

Merry Christmas

The Chamber wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Dec 28

Barn Cat / Stray Cat Discount Spay & Neuter Day

Brenham Veterinary Hospital, last Monday of each month. By appointment 979-836-2472 (brenhamvethospital.com).

January Highlights

Jan 1

Happy New Year

The Chamber wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous new year!

Jan 3-7

BVH Dental Discount Week

For pet owners over age 50 - first full week of each month. Save 15% on dental cleanings done during dental week. Must have free dental consultation before cleaning can be scheduled (brenhamvethospital.com, 979-836-2472).

Jan 8

Nominations due

2021 Man and Woman of the Year and 2021 Business of the Year nominations are due to the Chamber by 5 p.m.



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

**Email WashCoYPO@gmail.com
to find out details.**

Washington County businesses have access to PACE financing

Washington County businesses have access to PACE financing – a tool for making property more energy and water efficient without harming the organization's cash flow. Not enough businesses are aware of the program. Here's what your business or nonprofit organization should know:

With the help of Property Assessed Clean Energy (TX-PACE), Texas property owners have invested over \$182 million statewide in energy and water-saving measures with immediate positive cash flow and no out-of-pocket expenses. Washington County created the program in 2020 to give local businesses a competitive advantage and to save local energy and water. No tax dollars or staff time are required.

What is PACE?

TX-PACE is a proven financial tool which allows property owners to upgrade facility infrastructure with little or no capital outlay. Businesses and nonprofits lower their operating costs and rely on resulting savings to pay for eligible water conservation, energy efficiency, resiliency, and distributed generation projects. Owners gain access to private, affordable, long-term financing that is not available through traditional funding avenues. TX-PACE is a market-based, bottom-line initiative that allows property owners/developers to benefit from fixed-rate, non-recourse financing that is transferrable and cannot accelerate.

Why PACE?

For the average business owner, the goal is simple: reduce cost to increase profits and use that profit elsewhere to continue to grow your business. TX-PACE helps commercial and nonprofit property owners obtain the affordable long-term financing necessary to slash energy and water consumption, substantially lowering operating costs to the benefit of the building owners and their tenants. TX-PACE has financed retrofits and adaptive reuse of a wide range of facilities, including historic office buildings, a cotton gin, and a mercantile warehouse with projects ranging from \$70 thousand to \$24 million.

TX-PACE offers an immense opportunity for investment in green, resilient, sustainable, and healthy buildings that increase net operating capital, generate higher internal rates of return, and significantly improve asset value without using core capital. Developers recognize the benefit that PACE offers as a



BEFORE



AFTER

BARFIELD HOTEL

lower-cost capital stack alternative in lieu of higher-cost mezzanine financing and/or preferred equity.

Often the available capital is insufficient or too costly to justify the initial investment in high-performance energy and water-saving measures. Omitting these measures to cut costs condemns the facility to unnecessarily high operating costs, resource waste, unhealthy interior space, and environmental damage over the building's life. Combining historic tax credits and other incentives with the TX-PACE program enables property owners to finance quality retrofits and adaptive reuse of vacant or underutilized buildings. Without TX-PACE, these projects often lack justification for the expense of bringing these buildings back to life.

Many small Texas towns are blessed with new and historic buildings that require significant investment to maintain and small businesses without the capital to maintain them. For many local businesses, the ability to lower operating expense can mean the difference between success and a cash flow crisis. The problem is how to find a source of capital to make the improvements without draining company cash flow.

Growing Local Businesses with PACE

Now that businesses have an affordable, common-sense path to address deferred maintenance and upgrades, their deci-

sion to move forward creates economy throughout the community. HVAC and mechanical suppliers, plumbers, roofers, electricians, architects, and engineers have new customers and larger job orders that strengthen these businesses and create local jobs.

ELGIN GENERAL STORE

The Elgin General Store, Bastrop County's first TX-PACE project demonstrates that small town businesses do have access to capital to address deferred maintenance without a cash flow crunch. Successful entrepreneur and owner, David Glass, had already updated the store's lighting, but sought additional facility upgrades. "Energy savings and electrical outages are a big problem when you're in the retail business. I need reliable power to operate my sales terminals as well as credit card processing," noted Glass. When he learned about the ability to use the TX-PACE program to finance a solar array on the roof of his general store without draining capital, Mr. Glass became an advocate for Bastrop County's TX-PACE program. Using TX-PACE to install solar allowed Mr. Glass to upgrade his property while lowering operating expenses. This \$120,000 project also benefited from a \$31,000 USDA REAP grant and \$38,000 in utility incentives. This project was the first PACE project financed by a local bank.

BARFIELD HOTEL

The City of Amarillo's TX-PACE program revitalized and repurposed a dilapidated 10-story brick office tower built in 1926 along the new Route 66 into a boutique hotel, revitalizing not only the historic building, but also a key section of downtown Amarillo. The property sat vacant for 25 years as developers tried multiple times to finance the purchase and redevelop the building. The \$7 million PACE project made the project a reality.

Rehabilitating a historic building can be a costly venture. Property owners are often forced to "value engineer" renovations by cutting energy and water efficiency. TX-PACE financing is a great fit for historic rehabilitation projects and works especially well with historic tax credits in the capital stack, giving the owner a low-cost alternative to more expensive options like mezzanine debt or equity. Amarillo Mayor Ginger Nelson added, "It is fitting that the first PACE project in downtown Amarillo represents a significant part of the city's history – the Barfield Building. This is another major step in the rebirth of downtown Amarillo. The city's history is being preserved by this project, while at the same time providing a new and exciting aspect to a growing and progressive downtown area."

510 COLLECTIVE

Waco has benefited from 5 PACE projects under the McLennan County PACE program including the 510 Collective, a project that combined three "main street" buildings, including a historic theater, into an office complex. This demonstrates that PACE financing works for historic downtown retail buildings.

The Washington County PACE program is administered at no cost to the County by Texas PACE Authority (TPA), a nonprofit organization established exclusively to operate PACE programs for local governments across Texas, and now administers PACE programs for 69 Texas cities and counties. TPA offers the highest levels of service, transparency, and ethics at the lowest cost possible. TPA-run PACE programs are revenue neutral to each local government they serve.

To learn more about Washington County PACE and TPA visit www.texaspaceauthority.org/washington-county or contact Admin@TexasPACEAuthority.org / 1-855-738-PACE (7223)