WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RENHAM, TEXAS

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Carlos Garcia Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant

Clay Gillentine Brenham Independent School District

Al Patel Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Formula Blue

Lete Phillips Lete Phillips Exercise Program

Chris Ann Stroech
Washington County Landscapes

Stephanie Wehring Sterling Estate Solutions

## Leadership Washington County explores Economic Development and Tourism



The Leadership Class spent the day immersed in all things economy, tourism and business development. Washington County is well known for its history, rolling hills of wildflowers and a thriving hub of economic development and community growth.

The day started with one such beacon of success, BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings. Del Sol CEO Scott Eckert led the tour and told the story of how BRIANNAS journey began in 1982 in Austin, Texas, with a simple yet revolutionary idea – to craft premium salad dressings that tantalize the taste buds. Combining the names of founders Brian and Mariann, the brand quickly rose to prominence, celebrating its 40th anniversary as a top-selling dressing worldwide. The class was treated to a crouton tasting and a bottle of dressing or marinade of their choice.

The group headed west for a stop at the next two businesses: Independence Coffee and BENCOR. Christi and Ragan Bond, owners of Independence Coffee shared fresh cups of coffee as they reminisced about their modest beginnings. Founded in 2003, the company has burgeoned into a powerhouse, roasting over a million pounds of Arabica beans annually. Their commitment to quality, sustainability, and community shines through, from their employee and customer loyalty, to investing in compostable K-cups.

On the technological frontier, BENCOR, LLC, epitomizes precision and efficiency. Specializing in circuit board manufacturing and box builds, the company's growth trajectory is evident, with expansions and plans for further development. Joe Schaefer and Toby Pickerill spoke about their diverse client base spanning agriculture, oil, medical, and aeronautics, exemplifying Washington County's prowess in advanced manufacturing.

The class headed back to Brenham for lunch at Morriss Hall, where they joined Jennifer Eckermann, Director of Tourism for Brenham. She emphasized the pivotal role of storytelling in promoting the county's attractions. Through digital marketing, social media engagement, and strategic partnerships, the Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) ensures that visitors experience the full spectrum of Washington County's offerings. "It all starts with a visit."

Washington County also has vibrant hospitality and tourism sectors. From the historic charm of B&B's to the allure of live music and cultural events, the region beckons visitors yearround. Keith Hankins, owner of Ant Street underscored the cyclical nature of tourism, with festivals and attractions drawing crowds, especially

during peak seasons like spring.

No tour of Washington County's economic landscape would be complete without visiting Blue Bell Creameries. Since its inception in 1907, Blue Bell has been a cornerstone of the community, churning out beloved ice cream flavors that evoke nostalgia and delight. With a commitment to quality and innovation, the company continues to thrive, introducing new flavors and expanding its reach while staying true to its roots.

The day finished up with Teresa Rosales, Director of Economic and Community Development for the

City of Brenham. With a focus on business attraction, retention, and entrepreneur-

ship, Rosales and her team strive for sustainable growth, leveraging the county's assets while preserving its unique character. From the boardrooms to the quaint storefronts of downtown Brenham, the Leadership class left with the story of this vibrant region full of resilience, adaptation, and boundless potential.

## Chamber to Host Forum on State of the Community March 19th

Residents and stakeholders eagerly await the upcoming State of the Community forum, hosted by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th, at the Washington County Expo.

Set in Brenham/Washington County's dynamic economic scene, this forum offers attendees a great chance to listen to what's happening locally. From 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, participants will receive updates on crucial projects and trends shaping the region's future, including employment patterns and key community issues.

Distinguished speakers, comprised of local leaders are poised to share their perspectives on the present state and future trajectory of the community. Among the confirmed speakers are Mayor Atwood Kenjura, Judge John Durrenberger, Kevin Deramus, Clay Gillentine, and Edna

Kennedy, representing various facets of the Brenham/Washington County leadership.

Attendees can anticipate engaging discussions and invaluable networking opportunities, as they gain deeper insights into the opportunities and challenges ahead for the community. As an added bonus, lunch will be provided by Smitty's Cafe and Bakery, ensuring both a culinary and intellectual feast for participants.

About the Washington County Chamber of Commerce: Dedicated to fostering economic growth and prosperity, the Washington County Chamber of Commerce serves as a driving force for positive change and collaboration in the Brenham/Washington County community. Through networking, advocacy, and community events, the Chamber works tirelessly to promote sustainable development and success for businesses and residents alike.





## February Members of the Week







1906 Niebuhr Street (979) 836-7937 www.strand.com



2402 S Day St Ste 3 (979) 203-6310 www.hmwoodfloorsllc.com 1555 Hwy. 36 North (979) 830-9060 www.bigcompany.com 4765 Highway 290 E. (979) 421-8800 www.southtexastack.com

## A New Era for the Lete Phillips Exercise Program

Lete Phillips, originally from Brazil, arrived at the University of Texas-Austin in 1976 to study English for a brief three months. Little did she know, fate had something extraordinary in store for her that day. It was the day she met Kenneth "KP" Phillips, a meeting that would spark a beautiful love story destined for the pages of a book.

Following their marriage in Brazil on September 18, 1976, Lete and KP returned to Brenham in January 1977. In no time, Lete recognized a pressing need for an exercise program catering to individuals in their 40s and beyond. This realization led Lete to commence her fitness training at the Dr. Kenneth Cooper Aerobic Institute in Dallas, Texas, where she developed a holistic program focusing on the integration of body, mind, and soul.

In addition to her training at the Dr. Kenneth Cooper Aerobic Institute, Lete also became a member of IDEA (International Dance Exercise Association), undergoing training with renowned exercise physiologists



Ken Alan and Len Kravitz.

For 47 years, Lete has been dedicated to teaching fitness classes, conducting personal training sessions, and generously volunteering her expertise wherever it is needed,

advocating for the health and wellness of all individuals. Her remarkable journey even led her to train with the Brenham CUBS in 1987, where she made history as the first woman to enter the realm of football, breaking barriers in what was traditionally considered a "man's world." Subsequently, Lete was approached to assist in implementing a mandatory exercise program for the Police Officers under Chief Ken Carnes.

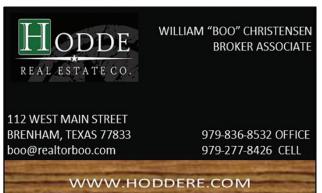
As Lete reflects on her incredible journey, she believes it is time to pass the torch to Amy Lischka, her esteemed head instructor. Amy, who has been teaching at the Studio for 21 years, is poised to carry on the legacy of the Lete Phillips Exercise Program, continuing to offer its wonderful program exclusively for women. The team of trainers, including Melanie Baker, Sarah Flisowski, Sharon Barreras, and Tracye Lassus, eagerly look forward to supporting Amy's leadership and nurturing care at the Studio.



Jamie Rankin ......President & CEO Jane Hinze ......Membership Services Manager Dawn Konieczny ......Communications Coordinator Sarah Hansen ......Financial Coordinator Mandy Beausoleil ......Events & Programs Coordinator



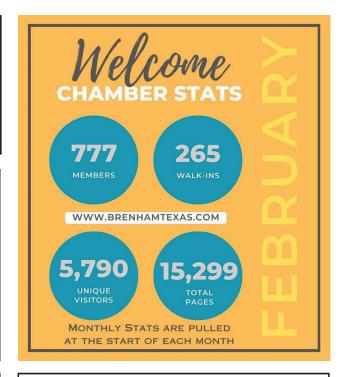






203 S. Jackson St.

Brenham, TX 77833



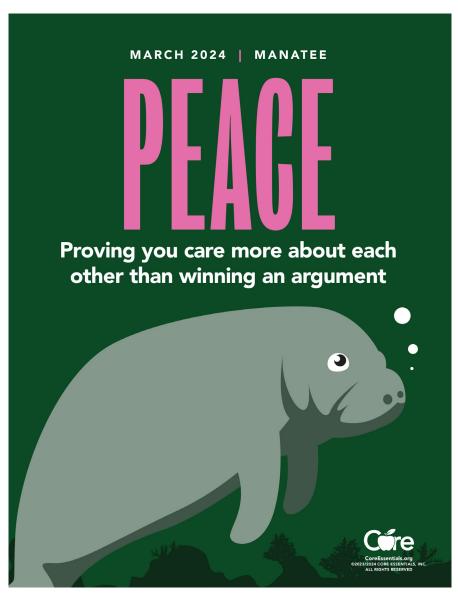
### **GROUP BUYING POWER**

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

www.infintechllc.com



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

Public Education
Ambassadors for Community Engagement

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT

BRENHAM ISD AND BURTON ISD

## 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 hoped 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 2023-2024 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 interaction:

Ant Street Inn • Bank of Brenham • Blue Bell Creameries
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County • Brand It Graphix
Brenham Abstract & Title Company • Brenham Kitchens
Brenham National Bank • Brenham Veterinary Hospital
CASA for Kids of South-Central Texas • Cedar Frame Real Estate
Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum • Citizens State Bank
City of Brenham • Creatively Yours, LLC • Floyd's Lounge
Germania Insurance • Heart & Hand Bodywork
Kona Ice of Bellville/Brenham • Kruse Village
Lete Phillips Exercise Program • Must Be Heaven • Park Place Apartments
Phillips Painting Company • QuestSpecialty Corporation • Seidel Schroeder
Sonic • Thielemann Construction Co. & Stegent-Thielemann Plumbing
Two Peas Organizing Co • Unity Theatre • Washington County Fair
Washington County Landscapes • Whataburger
Contact the Chamber at 979-836-3695 if your business or organization is

interested in being a Partner for P.E.A.C.E. in the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

#### Thank you to our 2024 Chairman's Circle members.































#### Thank you to our 2024 Presidential Level members.































## Welcome New Members

#### **AIRROSTI REHAB CENTERS**

Contact: Dr. Mutz 539 Medical Pkwy Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 800-404-6050 www.airrosti.com Healthcare

#### **BEAR AND OAK WOODWRIGHT**

Contact: Dan Ransdell Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 346-242-6106 www.bearandoak.net

Furniture-Custom Built/Refinishing/Repair

#### **BLUEBONNET LEATHER SHOP**

Contact: Barbee Gonzales Burton, Texas 77835 Phone: 979-803-0444

www.84leather.shop/bluebonnet.com

Jewelry & Accessories

#### **BOBCAT OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY**

Contact: Chris Knight 3526 HWY 290 Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-906-0870

www.bobcatofbrazosvalley.com **Equipment Rental** 

#### **BRENHAM CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

Contact: Stephanie Henderson

PO Box 923

Brenham, Texas 77834

979-400-8918

www.brenhamchildrensmuseum.com

Museums

#### **BRENHAM FLORAL COMPANY**

Contact: Lindsay or Levi Bilbrey

209 S. Market Street Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-836-3566 www.brenhamfloral.com

**Florist** 

#### **BRENHAM NEXT**

Contact: Shelby Smith

PO Box 361

Brenham, Texas 77834 Phone: 979-500-3257 www.brenhamnext.org Youth Development

#### **BRENHAM PRODUCE CO.**

Contact: Rey Salinas 1103 S. Market Street Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-836-3523 Feed Dealer

KOOPER FAMILY WHISKEY COMPANY

Contact: Michelle Kooper

100 West U.S. 290 (Physical Address)

Ledbetter, Texas 78946 Phone: 979-249-7892 www.kooperfamily.com Bar/Wine Bar

#### PANCHO VILLA MEXICAN FOOD LLC

Contact: Alfonso Gonsalez 1501 HWY 290E (Physical Address)

Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-451-9988

Restaurant

#### **ROUND TOP HVAC. INC.**

Contact: Kevin Broadbent

PO Box 64

Round Top, Texas 78954 Phone: 979-530-8691

Air Conditioning & Heating Sales/Service

Commercial Refrigeration

#### STEPP LAW FIRM, PLLC

Contact: Jad J. Stepp 3960 Bluebonnet Blvd. Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-212-3064

Attorneys

#### **SWEET IVY'S CAFÉ**

Contact: Levi Bilbrey 209 S. Market Street Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-551-6280 www.sweetivyscafe.com

Restaurant

#### THE SOUTHERN FOLLY

Contact: Lindsay Martin-Bilbrey 209 S. Market Street Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-551-6280 www.southernfolly.com Entertainment/Recreation

#### TRAILMASTERS CLEARING & MULCHING

Contact: Ken Burch & Steven Smith

PO Box 2369

Brenham, Texas 77833 Phone: 979-251-2736 www.trailmasterstexas.com Land Clearing & Grading

#### TREEHOUSE INVESTMENTS

Contact: Brent & Adrienne Schwartz 739 E. 8th (Mailing Address) Houston, Texas 77007

Phone: 713-240-4757 Real Estate-Investment

## **Washington County** Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 20-25 members and more than 50 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.

Courtney Blalock Hodde Real Estate

**Justin Colley** BIG - Brannon Industrial Group

Joyce Dickschat Brenham National Bank

Jennifer Fleetwood Plinkers Ammo

> **Tiffany Holmes** Keller Williams Realty-Brenham

Whitney Hooks

Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union

**Tiffany Howard** Glamfetti

**Brooke Huckert** 

ValuePoint Wealth Management

**Tammy Jaster** 

City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

> Genna Lechler Brand It Graphix

Lauren Maass Germania Insurance

Kristie Marth Brenham Iron Works

Patricia Minton Argent Court Assisted Living of Brenham

Stephanie Newman

Two Peas Organizing Co. Board and Brush Creative Studio

> Rachel Nordt Edward Jones

Pita Pangan Associated Credit Union of Texas

> **Linda Pipes** Chamber Friend

Carl Prihoda Citizens State Bank

Teresa Rosales

Brenham Washington County Economic Development

Jeff Sadler BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings

**Christy Schlottmann** Christy Schlottmann

Farmers Agency

**Christy Shelton** 

Brenham State Supported Living Center

Chris Ann Stroech

Washington County Landscapes

> **Amy Supak** Kruse Village

Barbara Wilganowski Chamber Friend

## Membership Renewals for January & February

Years of Membership		Years of Membership		Years of Membership	
<b>Washington County Abstract Company</b>	59	Brenham Insurance Center	22	<b>Brazos Valley Council of Government/Workforce</b>	7
RR Donnelley	51	Kountry Boys Sausage	22	Pro-Tech Solutions	7
Medi-Care Equipment Specialties, Inc.	42	Subway Sandwiches & Salads	20	Tippit Dental Group-Brenham	7
Schleider Furniture & Mattress Company	42	Horseshoe Junction Family Fun Park	19	12 Armadillos	6
Volunteer Services Council for Brenham St	42	Ubeo Business Services	19	Chappell Ridge Farm	6
Antique Rose Emporium	40	Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc.	19	Julia Wellmann-Southern District Sotheby'	6
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	40	Hodde Real Estate Company-William "Boo"	19	Brazos Transit District	6
Brenham Banner Press	40	McCaul, Michael-Congressman District 10	19	Cy-Fair Tire	6
Brenham Heating & Air Conditioning Co.	40	J & A Roofing	18	GarzaEMC, LLC	6
Brenham Saddle Shop Inc.	40	Margaret E. Blizzard Senior Activity Cent	17	Moosefeathers Florist	6
TFE Company, Inc.	40	Sonic Drive Inn #2	17	Prasek's Family Smokehouse Sealy	6
Lone Star Southern Grill	39	Borchgardt, Dot	16	NAMI Brazos Valley	5
WCTractor New Holland	39	LaBahia Turn Verein Event Center	16	Velocity Gymnastics	5
Hi-Line Industries II, Inc.	36	Preservation Storage, LLC	16	Capital Farm Credit	4
Phillips Painting Company	35	Republic Servicesa Solid Waste Manageme	15	Computer Accounting & Tax Service	3
Collier Construction LLC	34	Don's Appliance Service	15	Dixie Motel	3
Lete Phillips Exercise Program	34	Downtown Art Gallery, LLC	15	Lifestyle Ranch and Home Group   Compass	3
Market Realty, Inc.	34	Cannery Kitchen & Gift Shop	14	Walberg Patterson Law PLLC	3
Texas Commercial Waste	34	Saddlehorn Winery	14	Hermann Electric LLC	3
Toubin, Leon	34	Buccaneer Food Store	14	Portable Buildings of Central Texas	3
Tegeler Toyota	33	Honest Builders LLC	14	Victorem Performance Nutrition	3
Enterprise Products	32	Prairie Wind Farm	14	AAA Self Storage Brenham	2
Farmers Mutual Aid Assoc. of Washington County	29	Clover & Marak PLLC	13	Lone-Star Roof Systems	2
Unity Theatre	29	Texas Country Title	13	Main Street Uncorked	2
Hermann Furniture Company	28	Stone Hollow Apartments	11	Truth BBQ	2
Hodde Real Estate Company	27	Washington County Insurance Agency	11	Wonderhill Farm	2
Goss Communications, Inc.	27	Ramzinski, Kate-LCRA Representative	10	BRE Longhorns	2
<b>Brenham Activist Association</b>	26	Brenham Family Dental	10	Brenham Quality Meat Market	2
Hospice Brazos Valley	26	Peeka Ranch Alpacas	10	Curtis Wildlife & Agricultural Services,	2
Texas Ranch Life	25	Chappell Hill Moving & Storage	9	Shellback Construction, LLC	2
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County	25	Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited-Roge	9	Wild Ones Baby Boutique	2
Lampe Surveying, Inc.	24	Lauren Concrete	9	Glamfetti	1
Nathan's BBQ LLC	24	Moser Community Media LLC	9	Container Source Storage and Roll-Off	1
Strand Associates, Inc.	24	Felder's Buy N Bye	9	Janna Alsobrook, Independent Health Insurance	1
Culligan of Brenham	24	LJ'S BBQ	8	Ozzy's Junk Removal	1
Edward Jones-Justin Jersey, Financial Adv	24	Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency	8	Premier Events	1
Ehlert, Paul A.	24	The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon The	8	Southwest Resources, Inc.	1
Pooltex American, Inc.	24	The Errand Lady	8	The Kenjura Law Firm, PLLC	1
Voelter, Dr. Donald	24	23 Fitness	7	Vintage Southern Comfort B & B	1
Lillian Farms Bed & Breakfast and Country	23	Amedisys Hospice	7		
Martha's Bloomers	23	Raur Steve	7		

## Ribbon Cuttings



Old 300 Title - Brenham - New Location



905

New Member - Hoity Toity Peacock • Owner, Melody Brooks
905 Hwy 105, Brenham • (979) 533-3250 • www.hoitytoitypeacock.com

## Ribbon Cuttings



25th Anniversary Celebration - Argent Court Assisted Living
2815 Victory Lane, Brenham • (979) 836-8000 • www.argentcourt.com



New Member - Pancho Villa Mexican Food • Owner, Alfonso Gonsalez 1501 HWY 290E Brenham • (979) 451-9988



New Member - Brenham Schoolhouse Hotel • Owners Meagen and Jake Gumm 600 East Alamo Brenham • (979) 451-0593 • www.kozerentals.com



Announcement of the 2024 Read Book Lifetime Learning • Once Upon A Wardrobe
100 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Brenham • (979) 337-7201



New Member - Trailmasters Cleaning & Mulching
Owners Steven Smith and Ken Burch • (979) 251-2736 • www.trailmasterstexas.com



New Furniture Building at Corner Shoppe, Bridge Ministry of Burton Texas 307 North Brazos St., Burton • (979) 337-3370 • www.burtonbridgeministry.org

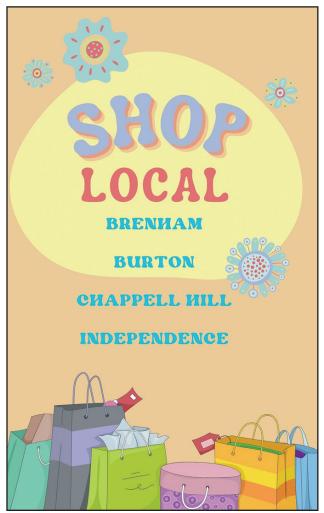


Citizens State Bank - Remodel of Burton Location 515 North Main St., Burton • (979) 289-3151



New Member - 105 Exchange • Owner, Tonya Randio 1005 Hwy 105, Brenham • (832) 768-0105 • www.105Exchange.com











The Chamber Works newsletter is published inside The Banner-Press. Chamber members have the opportunity to advertise in this newspaper. 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, typically about an upcoming event. For regular business, 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.

www.BrenhamTexas.com
Jane@BrenhamTexas.com

