

*The  
Chamber*



# VOICE

*The Huntsville-  
Walker County  
Chamber of  
Commerce is the  
Heart and Voice of  
Walker County*

*January 2017*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017**

**BUSINESS  
AND OUTDOOR  
EXPO  
2017**

**AND**

**TASTE OF  
HUNTSVILLE**

**PRESENTED BY:**



Come Celebrate our 30th Year of showcasing Huntsville and Walker County area Businesses!! Doors open from 4:30 - 7:30, at the Walker County Fairground, Thursday March 2nd 2017 Tickets ONLY \$5.00 each!! (Children 5 and under are free) Tickets includes, Expo entry, Taste of Huntsville and enters you in a drawing for \$500.00 (Must be present to win.) Registration is open to Chamber members and businesses located in Walker County, Call and reserve your booth today!!!

*Member Spotlight...*



**Welcome New Members:**

- American Cancer Society/Relay for Life
- Cross Fit Fortem
- Cork and Canvas
- Silver Spoon Cafe

*See page 6*

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
Platinum Level  
Investors**

**First  
National  
Bank  
OF HUNTSVILLE**



**FIRST  
FINANCIAL  
BANK**

PRESORT STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HUNTSVILLE TX  
PERMIT NO. 6

**CAROL'S CORNER**



Carol Smith

**HAPPY NEW YEAR-  
FROM YOUR  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE:**

I just love the beginning of a new year!! This time of year typically brings with it the renewed spirit of optimism, great expectations and enthusiasm. 2017 is off to a great start here at the Chamber and we trust it

is for you as well! Many new businesses are locating to

Huntsville and the Chamber is extremely happy!! Economic development is alive and well in the Huntsville area. Community Service Credit Union has a great new building on the south end of town; Sears is well underway; HEB will be coming soon and you see Kroger, Hampton Inn and MANY more that have opened for business along I-45.

You will notice several new things at the Chamber this year...you will see all our Chamber Board members and program of work featured in the center section of this publication. The chamber board's annual retreat of the new year was held recently on January 19 & 20 with Carol Sullivan (Community Service Credit Union) presiding as the 2017 Board Chair. It is exciting to work with Carol and the board as they are all strong leaders and are committed to helping make this community the best it can be. Carol plans to move the board forward this year to greater involvement with tourism and economic development, and

we look forward to continuing visiting and serving our membership. Our members are the heart, soul and voice of this community, and we want to hear from you!

As the board leadership is transferred, it is only fitting that we recognize Bart Davis and the phenomenal job he did in the leading the Chamber during 2016. Under Bart's leadership the Chamber provided great services for its members, held an outstanding marketing event at Business Expo, promoted tourism and the economy with Fair on the Square, continued a tremendous event (Diva Night), and hosted a wonderful celebration at the annual Gala...so, a heartfelt thanks to Bart for his direction and leadership during the 82nd anniversary year!

Daily I am reminded of what an awesome community we live in. I am honored to continue serving the membership as the Chamber President/CEO. Coming up on my eighth anniversary at the Chamber, I have to say these past years have been exciting and fulfilling! The Board, staff and I are all "invested and committed" to continue to build on the strong foundation presently at the chamber and helping move this community forward in a positive manner. Our Chamber staff is the best to be found anywhere!! They are constantly working for the continued betterment of this organization. So, to Shannon, Lydia, Gwen and Laura...you all are the best and the Chamber is so fortunate to have each of you...**GO TEAM!!**

In closing, we extend our very best wishes for 2017. May your new year be filled with happiness and prosperity! Working together is the key to accomplishing goals and dreams of this community!! We are looking forward to a busy and productive year in working with our membership. Please drop by for a cup of coffee soon!

Best Regards, **YOUR** President/CEO, Carol Smith

**Member Spotlight...**

**Sierra Classic Custom Homes** is a full-service, custom homebuilder that has been building stunning, custom homes in the Central Texas and Houston areas since 1989. Sierra Classic Custom Homes provides the tools, knowledge and experience to ensure that the process of building your

new custom home is a smooth one. We have perfected and streamlined our system to ensure an efficient, productive and enjoyable



Sierra Classic Custom Homes experience. We specialize in projects from \$350-750K, but are happy to discuss your project regardless of budget. Whether you choose from our customizable floor plans or arrive with your perfect home already mapped out, we can accommodate your vision. Whichever method you choose, you can be confident that we will make sure each detail is exactly how you envision. Sierra Classic Custom Homes out-performs its competitors by offering a number of benefits:

- Build your plan or ours
- Fixed price contracts
- Full turn-key service including working with all third parties, utility companies, HOAs, cities and counties
- Design Centers in both the Hill Country and in Houston
- Superior standard features
- The comfort of working with a financially stable company
- Consistent, insured subcontractors

The homebuilding process has never been easier or more transparent with our client access portal. All the details of your home can be found quickly and easily on your smart phone and computer.

When asked why it is important to become a Chamber member, Mr. Alston Boyd replied, At Sierra Classic, we understand the importance of being Chamber members because it helps us enhance our value to the community as we expand our work and customer base in Huntsville and Walker County. Being Chamber members allows Sierra Classic to work side by side with area businesses and suppliers as we become locals ourselves.

For more information, contact Alston Boyd or Bill Watson at 281-375-8858, or visit our website [www.SierraClassic.com](http://www.SierraClassic.com)

**The Chamber V.O.I.C.E.** is a monthly publication that highlights people who are the heart of the Chamber, recognizes the countless volunteers who dedicate their time and talents, gives insight to the endless opportunities to network and connect with others, promotes ideas for involvement from businesses and/or organizations that make up the membership, provides communication to the Huntsville-Walker County community, and keeps you abreast of the events within the chamber and our town.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Seminar Schedule</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">January - March, 2017</h3>	
<p><b>FIRST STEP</b> <b>To Starting Your Own Business</b> Tues., Jan. 31st 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm SBDC Computer Lab *No Fee* Please register and reserve your spot at: <a href="http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net">http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net</a></p>	<p><b>Ps Adobe Photoshop</b> <b>Introduction - Tues. Feb. 21st 6-8pm</b> Basic principles for editing and enhancing photos; basic photo terminology; how to navigate Photoshop; editing topics such as resizing and rotating; red eye removal; history brush and how to select different areas of a photo; layers and text will also be explained and displayed as well as brushes. Students will also be shown how each of these tools can be put together in one giant project.</p> <p><b>Advanced - Tues. Feb. 28th 6-8pm</b> This course will build on the principles learned in Introduction to Photoshop. Regardless of the version of Photoshop that you use, there are only a handful of tools you need to do some spectacular work. Topics covered in this course include: clone stamp tool, layers panel, working with layers, layers masks, adjustment layers, layer effects, advanced text options and effects</p> <p><b>Location:</b> SHSU SBDC Computer Lab <b>Fee: \$20 each class</b> Please register and reserve your spot at: <a href="http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net">http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net</a></p>
<p><b>Microsoft Word 2016</b> <b>Intro to Microsoft Word - Tues. Mar. 21st 6-8 pm</b> Attendees will learn how to identify the different parts of the Word 2016 screen, use the Ribbon, File Button, navigate through the document using the mouse and keyboard, document setup, edit a document, formatting text, cut, copy, paste, find and replace, and running Spelling and Grammar check.</p> <p><b>Advanced Microsoft Word - Wed. Mar. 22nd 6-8 pm</b> Attendees will learn advanced features of using Microsoft Word, including advanced formatting of paragraphs and tabs, editing pictures, lists, hyperlinks, manipulating headers and footers as well as mail merge and other advanced features of Microsoft Word 2016. 15 spaces (computers) available <b>Location:</b> SHSU SBDC Computer Lab <b>Fee: \$20 each class</b> Please register and reserve your spot at: <a href="http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net">http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net</a></p>	



# RECENT MEMBER RENEWALS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Entergy                                 | First National Bank                            |
| Schlotsky's                             | Juice Plus                                     |
| McGee, Miller & Co. LLP                 | Huntsville Abstract & Title                    |
| Chemex Modular LLC                      | Trinity River Authority of Texas               |
| A Space Place                           | Citizens National Bank                         |
| Team Pugh-Keller Williams Realty        | Carriage Inn                                   |
| Huntsville Lanes                        | Curtis Montgomery MD                           |
| B & B Properties                        | Ace Self Storage                               |
| Sandra Hanscom                          | Toni Bruner                                    |
| On Pointe Dance Studio                  | Len George                                     |
| Huntsville Church of Christ             | Samuel Walker Houston Museum                   |
| Smile Makers                            | Poncho & Sugar Roberts                         |
| Iron Works Health Club                  | Camp Coyote                                    |
| McGilberry Mechanical Heating & Cooling | Bobby K Marks                                  |
| Elsie Davis                             | Huntsville Physical Medical Institute          |
| Crossin Moving Company                  | Charles Monday, MD                             |
| The Trophy Case                         | Bill Fick Ford                                 |
| 1836 Steakhouse                         | Alpha Omega Academy                            |
| CASA of Walker County                   | Park & Durham Attorneys At Law                 |
| The Pizza Parlor                        | KSAM Radio                                     |
| Mari Realty                             | Brookshire Brothers Fresh Harvest              |
| Buddy Aber Jr.                          | Walker County Fair Association                 |
| Maureen McIntyre                        | Jack Olsta Company                             |
| Buckner's Jewelry Inc.                  | Sammy R. Bryan, D.D.S., P.A.                   |
| Cash and Gold Pawn                      | Mitcham Industries                             |
| Jane Monday                             | HBI Office Solutions                           |
| Josey Lodge                             | Moak & Moak P.C., Attorneys at Law             |
| Element Dental- Huntsville              | North Lakes Pain Consultants- Dr. Stephen Sims |
| Walker County LP Gas Inc.               | Dr. Anise Gopalani                             |
| Walker County Title Company             | Dr. John Williamson                            |
| Scott Logan D.D.S., P.A.                | Ward Furniture                                 |
| Jimmy Henry                             | Walker County Federal Credit Union             |
| Mary Henry                              | Huntsville High School Ex-Student Association  |
| Bill Green                              | Dr. Stephen Means & Associates                 |
| Danny Dougherty State Farm              | Tri County Services                            |
| Huntsville State Park                   | Advantage Specialties                          |
| Homeland Properties                     | Dental Health Associates- Paul G. Kooi, DDS    |
| Huntsville Pediatrics & Adult Medicine  | Dental Health Associates- Deke Neves, DDS      |
| MRC Creekside                           | New Waverly ISD                                |
| McDonald's - 11th Street                | McNease Drugs                                  |
| McDonald's - Sam Houston Ave.           | Dale Story                                     |
| The Care Center of Huntsville           | Hitchin Post Truck Terminal                    |
| Davis - Partin & Associates             | Walker County Special Utility Districts        |
| Domino's Pizza                          | Villages of Huntsville                         |
| YMCA Huntsville                         | McCann Financial                               |
| Community Service Credit Union          | America's SBDC                                 |
| Suddenlink                              |  |
| Bayes Achievement Center                |  |
| Buckner's Jewelry Inc.                  |  |

Hat's off to the following members who recently renewed their Chamber membership. Marketing, advertising and networking are just a few of the benefits of Chamber membership. **We encourage everyone to shop with Chamber members.**

## Ribbon Cuttings



### Sierra Classic Custom Homes

**Sierra Classic Custom Homes-** celebrated their Ribbon Cutting with Chamber Members, and Ambassadors on December 8, 2016. A full-service, custom homebuilder building homes since 1989, they are dedicated to providing customers the tools, knowledge and experience needed to ensure a quality, efficient and enjoyable home building experience. For more information visit [SierraClassic.com](http://SierraClassic.com) or stop by their location at 107 Dedication Trail, Huntsville, TX, or you can call them at 936-577-5787.



### Take 5 Oil Change

**Take 5 Oil Change-** Staff, Friends, Chamber Members, and Ambassadors helped celebrate the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for Take 5 Oil Change on December 16, 2016. The "Take 5 Oil Change" is providing a new direction centered on improving customer experience and the speed of service. A dream come true-with emphasis on changing your oil, not your schedule. They also offer air filters, transmission services, radiator and State Inspections. For more information contact them at 936-436-1300, or stop by their location at 1565 11th St.

## Meet Your Ambassadors

Congratulations to our Ambassador of the Year, Mr. Joe Smith!

The many hours of his time and support throughout the year on the Chambers behalf, is much appreciated. We are grateful to all of our Ambassadors, they truly are a dedicated group of Chamber members.



Joe Smith



# Huntsville Walker County Board of Directors and

## BUILDING A BETTER

**Commitment** is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions; and actions which speak louder than words. It is making the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism. This is common "Desire is the key to motivation, but it's determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your

### 2017 Chairman of the Board **Carol Sullivan — Community Service Credit Union**



### Community Affairs Division **Sam Donnell**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of community events such as Fair on the Square, the Chamber's various involvement with the POP Committee (Promoting Our Positives) along with other community events.



### Council for Community Events

to oversee and assist with the following committees

Fair on the Square Committee

Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** planning & executing the 42nd annual Fair on the Square; first Saturday of October, with an opening dance on the preceding Friday night
- **FOS Purpose:** to market Huntsville/Walker County in addition to bringing tourists into the Huntsville area
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating volunteers, publicity, determining booth map & layout, securing sponsors and vendors, selection of entertainment, set up & clean up after the event, follow up appreciation notes/letters, etc.

### Promoting Our Positive Staff Liaison—Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning and Executing the POP
- **POP Purpose:** to provide opportunities for all Huntsville residents to meet monthly and discuss Huntsville ISD and ways to help make them more positive.
- **Involvement Includes:** Planning and executing various activities to help promote Huntsville ISD

### Businesses Services Division **Kristy Vienne**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of member events such as Diva Night, existing business events such as Business Expo, leadership development such as the Huntsville Leadership Institute, and business training seminars, along with other business-related events.



### Council for Member Events

to oversee & assist with the following

**Diva Night Committee:**

Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning & executing the annual Diva Night event. Note: Magnolia Lakes was site for the 2010 & 2011 Diva Nights; SHSU for 2012 - 2016 for this event typically held late August/early September.
- **Diva Night Purpose:** to provide a fun/upbeat venue for Chamber members to market their goods and services especially designed for ladies of all ages.
- **Involvement Includes:** securing sponsors and vendors, coordinating volunteers, publicity, determining booth map & layout, selection of entertainment and food, set up & clean up after the event, follow up appreciation notes/letters, etc.

**Council for Existing Business**—to oversee & assist with the following

**Business & Outdoor Expo(#30) & Taste of Huntsville  
Committee Chamber Staff Liaison—Lydia Montgomery/Carol  
Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning & executing the annual Business & Outdoor Expo and Taste of Huntsville. BE is typically held on first Thursday of March at the Walker County Fair Grounds.
- **Business Expo Purpose:** to provide a venue for Chamber members to market their goods and services to residents of Huntsville, Walker County & surrounding areas.
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating volunteers, publicity, selection of a theme & decorations, determining booth map & layout, securing sponsors and vendors, recruitment of restaurants for "Taste of Huntsville" to also include Walker County, set up & clean up after the event, follow up appreciation notes/letters, etc.

**Council for Business Training**—to oversee & assist with the following

**Business Training Committee**

Chamber Staff Liaison—Lydia Montgomery/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning & executing one or two business seminars annually and leadership luncheons
- **Event Purpose:** to provide opportunities for chamber members to participate in high-quality business training as well as participate in special community-related luncheons
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating speakers and/or trainers in addition to cost involved and fees to be charged for attendance, publicity, determining location, set up & clean up after the event, follow up appreciation notes/letters, etc.

### Membership/Communications Division **Tammie Nokes**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of member processes and events such as member development/recruitment, communications and Ambassadors. It also includes existing business events such as annual meeting/gala and auctions, networking events, and leadership development.



### Council for Membership

**Development & Recruitment**—to oversee & assist with the following

**Membership Development/Recruitment Committee  
Staff Liaison—Lydia Montgomery/Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning and promoting the Chamber by focusing on recruiting prospective members, while maintaining current members
- **Purpose of Activities:** to encourage prospects, along with existing members, to network and be involved in chamber activities to realize maximum benefits
- **Involvement Includes:** assisting the staff with new & existing business contacts, delivering recruitment packets, serving as a "Buddy" to new members, etc.

### Ambassador Committee:

Staff Liaison—Lydia Montgomery/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning and executing activities for the Ambassadors
- **Purpose of Ambassadors:** to put a "positive face" on the chamber and help promote Huntsville and Walker County. Because of their heavy involvement and commitment to the Chamber, the Ambassadors could easily be considered the "heart" of the Chamber.
- **Involvement Includes:** communication regarding upcoming ribbon cuttings, helping with the special events, luncheons, small business breakfasts, business after hours, membership efforts along with commitment to attendance at the various

events, help with set-up, clean-up, etc.

### Annual Meeting/Gala Committee

Chamber Staff Liaison—Shannon Higbie/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** plans the annual meeting/gala held usually in late November or early December
- **Gala Purpose:** to celebrate members, honor exceptional volunteers/accomplishments of the year
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating volunteers, determining theme & decorations, selection of menu, coordinating with the Silent Auction Committee, clean up after the event, etc.

### Silent & Live Auction Committee

Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** plans & executes the silent and live auctions held at the Annual Gala
- **Purpose of Auctions:** to generate revenue to help fund the annual Dr. Mary Frances Park Scholarship that is given to a Walker County graduating senior who will attend SHSU
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating volunteers, seeking/securing donations; assisting with auction decorations and set-up, along with close out at end of evening including tearing down/clean up of all auction displays, etc.

**Council for Communications/Resources**—to oversee & assist with the following

**The VOICE Newsletter**

Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith & Staff

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning and oversight of monthly newsletter publication
- **Newsletter Purpose:** to provide a high quality communication document that highlights people who are the heart of the Chamber, recognizes the countless volunteers who dedicate their time and talents, gives insight to the endless opportunities to network and connect with others, promotes ideas for involvement from the businesses and/or organizations that make up the membership, and keeps the community abreast of the events within the chamber and the community. Note: The newsletter is printed by the Huntsville Item on the third Monday of each month and is distributed by mail to all members, inserted in the local newspaper on the day of print and is available on the chamber website for everyone to view.
- **Involvement Includes:** assisting with editorial, seeking/securing ads if needed; assisting with distribution, etc..

### The Chamber Directory & Map

Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith

- **Committee Purpose:** assists with planning and execution of the Chamber's membership directory and map
- **Directory/Map Purpose:** to provide a comprehensive database of the chamber membership, including contact information. A Huntsville/Walker County Map is produced approximately every 18 months to provide a quality document to not only area residents, but tourists and potential re-location individuals, families and businesses.
- **Involvement Includes:** assisting with editorial, seeking/securing ads; assisting with distribution, etc.

The Communications Council is also involved with the Chamber's web site, facebook and weekly e-mail blast.

**Council for Networking**—to oversee & assist with the following

**Networking Events: Event Chair**

Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith

**Small Business Breakfast**

- **Committee Purpose:** assists with planning and execution of Small Business Breakfast
- **Event Purpose:** to allow members the opportunity to give a short introduction about themselves and their establishment. Each business receives **one minute** to give a "commercial" about their business. This is also a time of networking for chamber members as well as an opportunity to build business relationships. Note: The breakfasts are held the second Thursday of each month at Golden Corral from 7:30-9:00 a.m.

# Walker County Chamber of Commerce 2017 Program of Work

## BETTER BOARD

...coming through time after time after time, year after year after year. **Commitment** is the stuff character is made of; the power to change only attributed to Abraham Lincoln or Shearson Lehman (American Express) or anon.

**goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek." — Mario Andretti**

• **Involvement Includes:** assisting with announcements and coordination @ the event, etc.

**Business After Hours—Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** assists with planning and execution of Business After Hours
- **Event Purpose:** to provide Chamber members an opportunity to meet informally once a month at local business establishments to visit and share ideas and opinions, socialize, make business contacts, meet new people, and learn more about the business hosting the event. Note: These are held 5:15-6:15 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, except November and December which is typically held on the third Thursday due to the holidays. The Chamber hosts one Business After Hours, typically in June, for "New Member Showcase".
- **Involvement Includes:** assisting with announcements and coordination @ the event, etc

## Economic Development/Tourism Division

### Scott Francis

**Responsibility:** the direction and involvement with economic development of the Huntsville/Walker County area in addition to liaison between the chamber and major entities throughout the area. It includes community growth/development, including agricultural/natural resource events. The Chamber's Tourism division is responsible for the direction and oversight of tourism processes and events.



**Council for Economic Development/Tourism**—to oversee

& assist with the following  
**Economic Development Committee  
Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** to identify opportunities and promote communication for the enhancement and growth of business in Walker County
- **Purpose of Activities:** to market business opportunities and resources, underscoring attractiveness of Huntsville as a place to conduct business, raise a family and as a retirement destination.
- **Involvement Includes:** planning and executing two to three events annually to carry out the mission of this committee, including securing/organizing sponsors, volunteers, publicity, set up/clean up of events, follow up communication, etc.

### Tourism Committee

**Committee Chair—Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** to bring together key individuals and entities to discuss, plan and in some cases execute various tourism-related activities throughout the area. Note: From time-to-time, the meeting location rotates to various tourism-related entities.
- **Purpose of Tourism Activities:** to communicate and promote the rich history and heritage of Huntsville and Walker County; Note: Meeting monthly, at 8:30 a.m. typically on second Wednesdays
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating w/staff on the agenda, meeting time/location, make-up of committee, set up & clean up of meetings, active participation in tourism events, follow up appreciation notes/letters as needed, etc.

## Community Growth Division

### Trey Wharton

**Responsibility:** the direction and involvement in networking events such as Shot In The Dark; also will cross-network with economic and growth of the Huntsville and Walker County area.



## Council for Community Growth

**Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament Committee: Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning & executing the annual Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament event is the focus of the committee. The primary purpose for the event is to provide scholarships for individuals to attend the Huntsville Leadership Institute.
- **Event Purpose:** to provide a fun outdoor event for members to market themselves through sponsorships and to provide an opportunity to promote the Raven Nest Golf Course and to bring tourism to our community.
- **Responsibility Includes:** securing sponsors, coordinating volunteers, recruiting teams, publicity, selection of prizes, organizing helicopter registration, set up & clean up after the event, follow up appreciation notes/letters, etc.

**Council for Natural Resources/Ag**—to oversee & assist

with the following

**Natural Resources/Ag Committee**

**Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** Identifying and promoting Walker County natural and agricultural resources for the enhancement and growth of business.
- **Purpose of Activities:** to market agricultural and natural resources, underscoring attractiveness of Huntsville as a place to conduct business, raise a family and as a retirement destination.
- **Involvement Includes:** planning and executing two to three events annually to carry out the mission of this committee, including securing/organizing sponsors, volunteers, publicity, set up/clean up of events, follow up communication, etc.

## Education and Workforce Division

### Margaret Gulledge

**Responsibility:** the direction and involvement in educational programs as well as workforce areas.



## Council for Huntsville Leadership Institute

**HLI Committee**

**Chamber Staff Liaison--Laura Green and Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** to provide continuity and communication between the Chamber Board and the HLI Board
- **HLI Purpose:** to encourage and foster the development of community leaders from all segments of the Huntsville/Walker County area; the HLI Board is a smaller board within the larger Chamber Board. HLI begins each year in late August and continues through the following May. The board, composed of HLI graduates, is heavily involved in arranging the monthly programs for the current class. HLI class members are introduced to a wide array of businesses, services, programs and key leaders throughout Walker County.
- **HLI Board Involvement Includes:** Planning and executing the leadership institute; participating in monthly meetings to review/set policies and to assist in carrying out the yearly program. Recruitment and selection of class members, arranging for specific programs and speakers, etc.

## Council for Youth Leadership Institute

**YLI Committee**

**Chamber Staff Liaison--Carol Smith/Lydia Montgomery**

- **Committee Purpose:** to plan and execute the Youth Leadership program
- **YLI Purpose:** to encourage and foster the development of future leaders from all segments of Walker County; YLI begins each year in September and runs through May. YLI class members are introduced to a wide array of businesses, services, programs and key leaders throughout Walker County.
- **YLI Involvement Includes:** Planning and executing the YLI

program.

## Council for Teacher Appreciation Committee

**Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** plans & executes a variety of appreciation activities in schools throughout Walker County.
- **Purpose of Activities:** to express to new teachers a sincere appreciation from the business community for the impact they have on the lives of children/students across Walker County.

## Council for Mary Frances Park Scholarship

**Chamber Staff Liaison—Shannon Higbie/Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** to oversee the application and selection process of the Mary Frances Park Scholarship
- **Scholarship Purpose:** awarded annually to a Walker County graduating senior that will be attending SHSU
- **Involvement Includes:** reviewing applications, oversight of the selection, and making the presentation at a Senior Awards program

## Council for CHOICES

- **Committee Purpose:** plans & executes the presentations of Choices to 8th grade students in Huntsville and New Waverly area schools
- **Purpose of CHOICES:** to offer 8th grade students opportunities to explore the importance of making good choices, how it affects them in middle school and into the rest of their lives. The program stresses the importance of good choices in time management, school studies, self discipline, determination and consequences for poor choices.
- **Involvement Includes:** coordinating & training volunteers, coordinating with school administrators for appropriate dates, securing underwriters/sponsors, follow-up evaluations, thank-you notes/letters after the event, etc.

## What's Happening!

- **Small Business Breakfast - February 9, 7:30a.m. at Golden Corral sponsored by Preferred Partners**
- **Business After Hours - THURSDAY, February 23rd, 5:15p.m. sponsored by SHSU Athletics at Johnson Coliseum, enter gate 7**
- **Business & Outdoor Expo & Taste of Huntsville - Thursday, March 2, 4:30-7:30 at the Walker County Fairgrounds**
- **14th Annual Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament - Friday, May 19th Raven Nest Golf Club**
- **DIVA NIGHT - Friday, August 4th LSC Ballroom on SHSU Campus sponsored by Wiesner-Huntsville**



# Youth Leadership Institute



Tyler McCaffety speaks to the Youth Leadership Institute concerning "Dress for Success".



The Youth Leadership visited First National Bank on January 11 to learn about banking, savings and planning for the future.

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER

The following businesses recently joined the Chamber and we extend **A WARM CHAMBER WELCOME**. The information printed was gained from membership applications. For any additions and/or corrections, contact the Chamber as complete membership information is vital to your records with us. **Our most recent new members we welcome:**

**American Cancer Society/Relay for Life** - is a leading contributor to the fight against cancer. They raise funds through Relay for Life to fund patient services, education and research to find a cure. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer. For more information, please contact Beth Anne Rhyne at phone: 405-370-2954, or email [bethanne.rhyne@cancer.org](mailto:bethanne.rhyne@cancer.org), or visit the website at: [www.relayforlife.org/walkercoandshu](http://www.relayforlife.org/walkercoandshu)

**CrossFit Fortem**- provides group fitness classes that are both challenging and effective. Our mission is to help members recognize their full potential, both inside and outside the gym. We promise that each member will feel welcomed and encouraged. Whether you are looking to shed a few pounds, increase strength, or just have a great time, the community at CrossFit Fortem is here to help you achieve your goals. For more information, contact Madison Ward, coach and owner who has a background in personal training, and is a CF-L1 Certified Trainer, and has received a B. S. degree in Sports Management from Texas A&M. Stop by their location at 7040 Hwy. 75 South, or visit their website at [www.crossfitfortem.com](http://www.crossfitfortem.com) or email at [crossfitfortem@gmail.com](mailto:crossfitfortem@gmail.com)

**Cork and Canvas**- Come and explore your creative side in a relaxed and social atmosphere. At Huntsville's own paint and sip studio you will leave with a finished original piece of artwork you will be proud of. Shelli Weiss, your painting instructor is a graduate of SHSU with a minor in Art. These classes are great for team building, birthday parties, date night, girl's night out, sorority events, private events and more! We provide the art supplies and you can bring your own drinks and snacks. Classes are typically Tuesday-Friday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm for ages 13 years old and up. Open some Saturdays for private parties. Register online at [www.corkandcanvas.com](http://www.corkandcanvas.com) or call 936-577-4493.

**Silver Spoon Cafe**- If you are looking for "Gourmet food with a Redneck Flare"! come see Deborah Randolph at the Silver Spoon Cafe. Located at 1654 FM 980 which is 2 miles South of the TDCJ Ellis Unit, they serve breakfast and lunch Monday-Friday, 6 am to 2 pm. For breakfast they offer breakfast tacos, homemade muffins, hot coffee, orange juice and more. Serving up the only grilled bologna and cheese "sammich", and offering some of the best french fries, burgers, and brisket sandwiches in town; everything made to order. Text or call 512-924-7001 your order and leave your name and pickup time, and it will be ready when you arrive.



I want to be a

Presenter

## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE!!

Business leaders from across Walker County assisted the Chamber in presenting "CHOICES" to 8th grade students in Huntsville ISD January 25 & 26. Alpha Omega and Premiere 8th graders will be introduced to this program later this spring. New Waverly ISD presentations were completed this past fall. Interactive and fun, the Choices program is geared to helping young people focus on self discipline and planning for the future. Not only are business leaders preparing themselves as presenters, many are sponsoring this activity. Watch future editions of this newsletter for sponsor recognition and photos of the event. Hats off to everyone involved in this program! Contact Carol Smith ([csmith@chamber.huntsville.tx.us](mailto:csmith@chamber.huntsville.tx.us)) at the Chamber if you would like to be involved in this program.



Lucy Ybarra and Pedro Bermudez from Workforce Solutions present CHOICES at Mance Park Middle School

### ECONOMIC INDICATORS

#### HUNTSVILLE & WALKER COUNTY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Employment	Huntsville	Walker Co.	Texas	U.S.	Huntsville	Walker Co.	Texas	U.S.
	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2016	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015
Total Labor Force	11,654	23,389	13,391,218	159,451,000	11,368	22,838	13,147,382	157,340,000
Total Employed	11,050	22,262	12,824,325	152,385,000	10,755	21,667	12,564,078	149,766,000
Total Unemployed	604	1,127	566,893	7,066,000	613	1,171	583,304	7,573,000
Percent Unemployed	5.2%	4.8%	4.2%	4.4%	5.4%	5.1%	4.4%	4.8%

Huntsville Building Permit Values	December 2016	December 2015	% Change
Building Residential	708,002	468,378	0.51%
Commercial Building	15,034,250	112,000	133.2%
Certificate of Compliance	-0-	-0-	-0-
Other	13,776,3036	5,573,220	1.47%
TOTAL	29,518,558	6,153,598	3.80%

Walker County Sales Tax Payments	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2016	% Change	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	% Change
Huntsville (1.5%)	604,657.51	570,656.57	5.95%	604,657.51	570,656.57	5.95%
New Waverly (1.5%)	33,300.20	43,808.31	-23.98%	33,300.20	43,808.31	-23.98%
Riverside (1.5%)	7,455.26	10,273.12	-27.42%	7,455.26	10,273.12	-27.42%
Walker County (.5%)	604,657.51	570,656.57	5.95%	604,657.51	570,656.57	5.95%

Sources:  
 Employment: Texas Workforce Commission ([www.tracer2.com](http://www.tracer2.com))  
 Bldg. Prmt. Valuations: City of Huntsville  
 Sales Tax Payments: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Window on State Government Web Site (<http://www.window.state.tx.us>)

Small Business  
**Breakfast**  
 Huntsville-Walker County  
 Chamber of Commerce

Thanks to **Gibbs Street Manor** for sponsoring the January Chamber Small Business Breakfast. Gibbs Street Manor is located in New Waverly Texas and is owned and operated by Cheri Wasserman and Ronnie Williams. They provide the following services: Spa services, Painting/crafting with a twist, Gourmet Cooking classes with a cocktail, Horseback riding with a picnic and Luxury RV bus Wine tasting tour! The facility can sleep up to 18 guests and accommodate up to a 150 person event of any kind.

Cheri shared, "Come Stay with us at Gibbs Street Manor, relax and enjoy for the weekend or for a week! We have 6 suites and a Spa House with lots of on-site amenities and on-site activities available for booking to enhance your stay!"

Gibbs Street Manor is also a great place to book your wedding complete with a Southern Country Vintage setting! "Come enjoy your wedding day all weekend with family and friends. We are a one stop shop for brides... you can stay the entire weekend of your wedding and not have to stress about your wedding day. We can sleep up to 18 guests, host Bachelorette parties, rehearsal dinners, ladies brunch in the morning while the girls are getting ready and the Gibbs Staff is setting up for your wedding day. We bring everything to you!"

For more information you can contact Gibbs Street Manor through Facebook. If you would like to request additional information please call Cheri at 832-437-7784.



Co-Owner Ronnie Williams, Assistant Event Coordinator/Florist Selina Wasserman, Assistant Coordinator Jo Ann Castillo



Michelle Hebert WON the \$500 CASH POT at December's Business After Hours, CONGRATS! Pictured along with Michelle are President Carol Smith, Chamber Vice Chair of Community Affairs Lisa Branch, and Chamber Events Manager Laura Green.

**business after**  
**hours**

**In December**

Thanks to **Texas Grand Ranch** for sponsoring and hosting the December Business After Hours. Texas Grand Ranch is located south of Huntsville, west of I-45. Debbie Burkhalter shared, "If you've been dreaming of more space and easy access to I-45, then welcome home to Texas Grand Ranch. We offer savvy homeowners the best of Walker County for an unparalleled value!"

"Every 2- to 5-acre home site for sale in the Texas Grand Ranch community features everything needed to build the home of your dreams. Connections to all public utilities—including individual connections to the community's private central water system and a hookup to the public electrical infrastructure—are fully contained within the purchase price."

Below are some of the many features:

- Shared borders & easy access to Sam Houston National Forest
- Private parks within the community
- Easy financing (incl. special Texas Veterans financing)
- Low taxes (no MUD)
- Total flexibility (Buy now, build later—YOU choose your builder)
- Rolling, forested, horse-friendly terrain
- Protective covenants to guarantee gracious, permanent construction
- Low impact, environmentally conscious design

See for yourself, the opportunity for outdoor fun and wide-open acreage that awaits you. Schedule your visit to see the land for sale at Texas Grand Ranch today, before this unique opportunity is gone forever. Remember... Live Large and Love Your Commute with Premium Home Sites at Texas Grand Ranch Starting at just \$59,900.



Alston Boyd - New Home Sales, Sierra Classic Homes; Andy and Debbie Burkhalter - Texas Grand Ranch; Sam Johnson - President, Huntsville Abstract and Title Company; and The Honorable Mark Holt, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3 of Walker County, Texas

**In January**

Thanks to **Walker County Hardware & Classy Country Corner** for sponsoring and hosting January Business After Hours. Walker County Hardware Inc was established in Huntsville in 1927 and is owned by the Harding family.

Jimmy's Dad, Floyd, originally worked at the store and then purchased it in the early 1940's. Jimmy began working there in 1972. The Harding's son Sean, joined the business after graduating from Huntsville High school and is proudly the 3rd generation in the business.

It is currently in the 4th (and final!) location at 1006 11th street. This location was built in 1972 and originally primarily a hometown hardware store with only 4,500 sq ft. In 2000 the store was expanded to 14,500 sq ft and added many new lines, among them Stihl, Echo, Craftsman, & Nutrena feed and a vastly expanded paint department with the ability to do "color matching".

It was at that time, Judi decided to add a Gift area, starting with just a few gift items. The Gift Department was so well received, Judi expanded it beyond just housewares, gourmet food & home decor, and now currently carries UNODE50 Jewelry, Waxing Poetic, and Les Georgettes. After having a "Name our Gift Department" contest, The Classy Country Corner was born!

The Hardings shared, "The store maintains its goal at providing the best customer service, and we are proud to say we have served this community and generations of customers for 90 years! Our hope is to continue to provide the best service, and pricing, while constantly looking for new and innovative product lines for the store." Stop by their location or visit them on the web at [www.walkercountyhardware.com](http://www.walkercountyhardware.com).



Pictured are Lexie Stoudt, Tracy & Bob Stoudt, Jimmy & Judy Harding, Sandee & Sean Harding and Katie Ellis.

# Your 2017 Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce

## 2017 Officers

Carol Sullivan, Chairman of the Board .....Community Service Credit Union  
 Bart Davis, Immediate Past Chair/Nominating.....Davis Construction Management  
 Ken Holland, Treasurer/Secretary .....University Heights Baptist Church  
 Sam Donnell, Vice Chair Community Affairs .....Rockin' D Services, Inc.  
 Scott Francis, Vice Chair Eco. Dev./Tourism & 2018 Chair Elect ..Edward Jones Investments  
 Dr. Margaret Gullede, Vice Chair Membership Development Huntsville Memorial Hospital  
 Tammie Nokes, Vice Chair Membership/Communication.....McGilberry Mechanical  
 Dr. Kristy Vienne, Vice Chair Business Services.....Sam Houston State University  
 Trey Wharton, Vice Chair Community Growth .....Wharton Insurance Network  
 Carol Smith, President .....Chamber of Commerce

## Directors

Glen Andrus, Community Events Council .....Huntsville Rental Center  
 Jason Bay, Community Services Council .....First Baptist Church  
 Daniel Bayes, Existing Business Council .....Bayes Achievement Center  
 Jack Choate, Communications/Resource Council .....Special Prosecutors Unit  
 Jennifer Davis, Networking Council..... First National Bank of Huntsville  
 Tom Fordyce, Economic Development Council.....Salt Creek Ranch  
 Jimmy Henry, Economic Development Council .....Walker County Commissioner  
 Mark Holt, Economic Development Council.....Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3  
 Tim Hooks, Education Council .....Huntsville ISD  
 James Logan, Existing Business Council.....MRC Creekside  
 Jacob Paschal, Natural Resources/Ag Council.....Haney, Moorman, Paschal, P.C.  
 Marcus Payne, Community Growth Council.....Citizens National Bank  
 Murphy Smith, Community Events Council.....Global Financial Partners  
 Kyle Whisenhunt, Community Growth Council .....First Financial Bank  
 Andrea Wass, Member Events Council.....The Cellar Wine Lounge  
 Lee Woodward, Membership Development Council .....City of Huntsville

## Chamber Staff

Carol Smith.....President  
 Laura Green.....Events & Communications Manager  
 Lydia Montgomery.....Membership Coordinator  
 Shannon Higbie.....Office Manager  
 Gwen Lucas.....Receptionist/Secretary

## OUR MISSION:

*To promote an environment to enhance  
 the economic success of business  
 in Walker County.*

## Contact Us

The Chamber V.O.I.C.E. is the monthly newsletter of the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce. For story ideas, calendar of events, advertising information or any other contributions to this publication, please contact the Chamber at 295-8113 or toll free 877-646-8068, by mail at PO Box 538-Huntsville, TX 77342, by fax at 295-0571 or by e-mail at [chamber@chamber.huntsville.tx.us](mailto:chamber@chamber.huntsville.tx.us). The chamber web site can be viewed at <http://www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us>. The Chamber office, located at 1327 11th Street in Huntsville, is open from 9-5 weekdays. Switchboard from 8:30-5.

## Chamber Calendar

### JANUARY

31 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber

### FEBRUARY

2 Thursday LEADS Group, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 8 Tourism Meeting, 8:30 am @ Chamber  
 8 Youth Leadership, 10:45 am-2:30 pm @ SHSU  
 9 Small Business Breakfast, 7:30 am @ Golden Corral, sponsored by Preferred Partners  
 9 Executive Board, 11:30 am @ Chamber  
 14 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 16 Thursday LEADS Group, 8:00 am @  
 16 Board Meeting, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 21 HLI-Education  
 21 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 23 Thursday LEADS Group, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 23 Business After Hours, 5:15-6:15 pm sponsored by SHSU Athletics @ Johnson Coliseum, enter gate 7  
 24 HLI Board Meeting, Noon  
 28 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber  
 28 Ambassador Meeting @ Chamber, 10:30 am

## Community Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

28 10:00 am- 2:00 pm Blacksmithing Demonstration Joshua's Forge-Museum Grounds

### FEBRUARY

4 10:00 am- 2:00 pm Spinning & Weaving Demonstration Woodland Home Front Porch  
 11 10:00 am- 2:00 pm Woodworking Demonstration Guerrant Cabin-Museum Grounds  
 17 7:30 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre  
 18 7:30 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre  
 18 10:00 am- 2:00 pm Kick Wheel Pottery Demonstration, Raven's Pottery Shed  
 19 2:00 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre  
 24 7:30 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre  
 25 7:30 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre  
 25 10:00 am- 2:00 pm Blacksmithing Demonstration, Joshua's Forge/Museum Grounds  
 26 2:00 pm Death of a Salesman, Huntsville Community Theatre