

*The
Chamber*



VOICE

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

January 2018



Youth Leadership 2018

Member Spotlight...



Welcome New Members:

- Tayler Made Massage
(@ The FaceMaker Salon)
- TASY Academy

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 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. 2018 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. Sears opened before Thanksgiving; HEB is going strong 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 to be featured in the center section of The Voice. The chamber board's annual retreat of the new year was held recently on January 18 & 19 with Scott Francis (Edward Jones) presiding as the 2018 Board Chair. It is exciting to work with Scott and the board as they are all strong leaders and are committed to helping make this community the best it can be. Scott 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 Carol Sullivan and the phenomenal job she did in the leading the Chamber during 2017. Under Carol'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 Carol for her direction and leadership during the 83rd 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 tenth 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, 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 2018. 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, Carol Smith, **YOUR** President/CEO

Member Spotlight...



Cyclone Graffix is your local vehicle wrap experts! Owner Robert Weiss shared, "We will work with you to design a wrap that is different and will turn heads! We want your wrap to "Get Noticed" so you get new business!"

Not only do they offer Custom Car Wraps and Commercial Fleet Wraps but they also are extremely knowledgeable and creative with Custom Decals, Custom Banners, T-Shirts, Business Cards, and signs of all shapes and sizes. Owners Robert and Shelli Weiss together have over 30 years design experience which includes company branding as well as design marketing, advertising and graphics. Robert stated, "We are your local vehicle wrap experts providing custom designs and installation of fleet wraps or personal wraps - full/partial or accents. But our creativity doesn't stop there, we also do banners from large to small, decals from one to thousands, custom T-Shirts, store displays, backlit, indoor/outdoor, floor and window graphics, business cards, trade show products custom made for you and so much more!"

Jason Miller from Texan EMS, was one of their many happy customers sharing, "I wanna give Robert Weiss at Cyclone Graffix Car Wraps a big thank you for wrapping a truck for Texan EMS! He and his team did an amazing job and I highly recommend Cyclone Graffix Car Wraps if you are wanting any vehicle wrapped for either personal or business. These guys are first class the whole way! Thanks again!"

Cyclone Graffix is "OPEN" from 9:00 am till 5:00 pm, Monday thru Friday. If they are there during the weekend, stop on by as they will gladly answer all your questions. You can also find them on the web at www.cyclonegraffix.com, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cyclonegraffixcarwraps/> and by phone at 936-439-6711.



RECENT MEMBER RENEWALS

On Pointe Dance Company

Elsie Davis

A Space Place

Huntsville Lanes

Iron Works Health Club

East Texas TV

Crossfit Fortem

1836 Steakhouse

First Financial Bank

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.**

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.

Ribbon Cutting



Learning Rx

Learning Rx- Employees, Chamber Members, and Ambassadors helped celebrate the Ribbon Cutting at their new location, 1719 11th St., Suite 103 on December 19, 2017. Learning Rx offers different training skills for children and adults who are struggling with learning, reading, remembering, paying attention, and more for all ages from 2-102. For more information, contact them at 936-295-4579.

HUNTSVILLE & WALKER COUNTY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Employment	Huntsville Nov. 2017	Walker Co. Nov. 2017	Texas Nov. 2017	U.S. Nov. 2017	Huntsville Nov. 2016	Walker Co. Nov. 2016	Texas Nov. 2016	U.S. Nov. 2016
Total Labor Force	11,697	23,434	13,501,846	160,466,000	11,859	23,775	13,371,089	159,451,000
Total Employed	11,163	22,504	13,002,576	154,180,000	11,203	22,585	12,771,219	152,385,000
Total Unemployed	534	930	499,270	6,286,000	656	1,190	599,870	7,066,000
Percent Unemployed	4.6%	4.0%	3.7%	3.9%	5.5%	5.0%	4.5%	4.4%

Huntsville Building Permit Values	Dec. 2017	Dec. 2016	% Change
Building Residential	623,378	708,002	-11.95%
Commercial Building	151,000	15,034,250	-98.0%
Certificate of Compliance	-0-	-0-	-0-
Other	7,347,377	13,776,306	-46.6%
TOTAL	8,121,755	29,518,558	-72.4%

Walker County Sales Tax Payments	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2017	% Change	2018 YTD	2017 YTD	% Change
Huntsville (1.5%)	675,392.37	604,657.51	11.69%	675,392.37	604,657.51	11.69%
New Waverly (1.5%)	55,967.32	33,300.20	68.06%	55,967.32	33,300.20	68.06%
Riverside (1.5%)	10,761.20	7,455.26	44.34%	10,761.20	7,455.26	44.34%
Walker County (.5%)	290,351.62	260,836.98	11.31%	290,351.62	260,836.98	11.31%

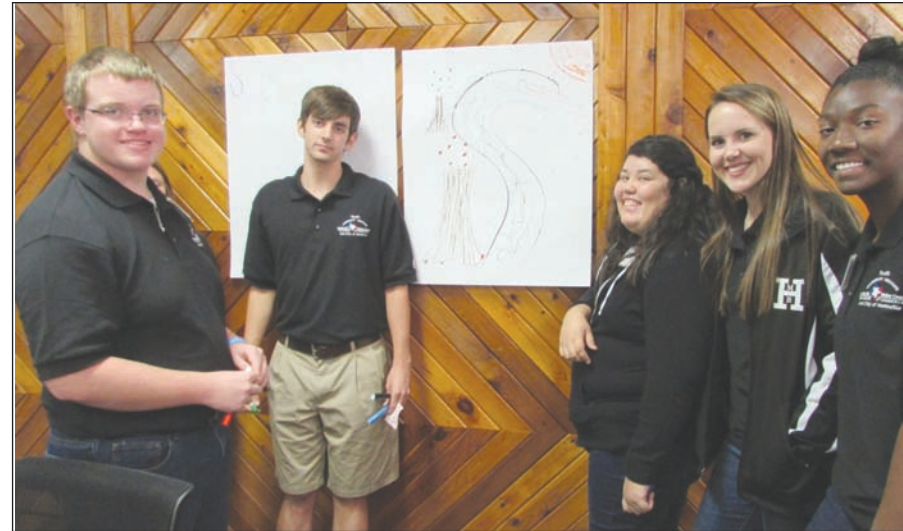
Sources

Employment: Texas Workforce Commission (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>)

2018 Youth Lead



Youth Leadership Class on the Deck @ Chamber



Youth Leadership working on a variety of drawings



Youth Leadership group participating with FFA Officers



Youth Leadership Class working at the Chamber



Youth Leadership Class having lunch (Schlotzsky's) at the Chamber

Leadership Program



Youth Leadership working in small groups.



Youth Leadership Group



Youth Leadership working on the deck at Chamber



Business & Community Expo 2018 and Taste of Huntsville will be held on March 1, 2018 at the Walker County Fairgrounds. Booth spaces and sponsorship opportunities are available. Call the chamber today to reserve your space or visit our website homepage for a link to register through Event Brite. The event will feature a "businesses only" hour from 3:30 to 4:30 and is open to the general public from 4:30 to 7:30.

What's Happening!

****Next month's breakfast-Thursday, February 8 sponsored by Barbwire Barbie Boutique at Farmhouse Cafe, located at 1004 14th Street. Doors open at 7:30AM & Program begins at 8:00. Cost is \$8 for members.

- **Business After Hours-February 22 at Cyclone Graffix, located at 2703 Sam Houston Ave.**
- **Thursday, March 1st-The Business & Community Expo and Taste of Huntsville-REGISTRATION UNDERWAY**
- **Stay Tuned -Friday, May 18th -15th Annual Shot in the Dark Night Golf Tournament at Raven Nest Golf Club**

WELCOME OUR NEW DECEMBER MEMBERS

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:**

Taylor Made Massage (@ The FaceMaker Salon)- Joined the Chamber on December 12, 2017. For more information you may contact Kristal Rabb at 936-295-3800, or stop by the FaceMaker at 1105 12th Street. Her hours are Monday 9:00am-3:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am-5:00pm, and Friday 9:00am-6:00 pm, and also alternate Saturdays.

TASY Academy- Provides childcare and pre-school service to children under 12 years old. They aim to enhance the children's social, emotional, physical and cognitive needs through research based curriculum. They offer well trained professionals to help support their mission and care principles while providing top quality care for the children. For more information, call 936-755-8039, or stop by their location at 291 Hwy. 75N.

NUPLISTEN UPLISTE

- GROJ Sale for KSAM, Saturday, February 3rd at the Walker County Fairgrounds.
- Huntsville Health Care Center is planning a Garage Sale/Vendor Fair. If you would like to set up a booth the cost will be \$50 for both dates of March 16th & 17th, 2018. Times will be 9:30AM - 3:30PM. Donations for the garage sale are welcome. Proceeds will be used for our Quality of Life Program. Please contact Robin Smith at hhadmissions@hsmtx.com for an application.



Seminar Schedule Spring 2018



WE MOVED!!!

SHSU University Plaza - 1 Financial Plaza
Suite 300
Hwy 30, next to West Hill Mall

Make an appointment to come see us or register for a training!

Adobe Photoshop



Introduction - Tues. Feb. 20th 6-8pm

Basic principles for editing and enhancing photos; basic; how to navigate Photoshop; editing topics; red eye removal; history brush and how to select different areas of a photo. Students will also be shown how each of these tools can be put together in one giant project.

Intermediate - Tues. Mar. 27th 6-8pm

This course will build on the principles learned in Introduction to Photoshop. Topics covered in this course include: clone stamp tool, working with layers, advanced text options and effects.

Location: SHSU SBDC Computer Lab

Fee: \$20 each class Please register and reserve your spot at:

<http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net>

We can customize a training course for your Business!
Please contact us for details. **936-294-3737**

Upcoming Events

Hub Show - March
SBA Topics—March, May & September
Sales Tax Seminar - April
Celebration Luncheon—May
IRS Practitioner Seminar—August

Check our website for details and to register:

www.samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net

Facility Rental

Our Meeting/Computer Learning Center facilities can be rented by the day or by the hour. The Computer Learning Center is equipped with desks and Dell OptiPlex workstations featuring flat screen monitors for maximum workspace. Our computers are loaded with the latest software and have high-speed Internet access. We can also customize a training course for your Business. Please contact us for details.

Visit our website at: www.samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net
for upcoming Training opportunities and Seminars.

Small Business Breakfast

Huntsville-Walker County
Chamber of Commerce

Thanks to **SHSU Athletics** for sponsoring the January Small Business Breakfast! Assistant Athletics Director Kyle Barnard shared, "Whether you are creating new consumer relationships or strengthening current ones, our goal is to assist you by uniquely tailoring and implementing a partnership designed with specific elements that take advantage of the appeal of Sam Houston State University Athletics. Each package is tailor-made to fit your objectives and budget; and our execution of that package will provide your business with greater value and equity. There are few marketing platforms that possess the impact and influence of college athletics. Our team will work with you to capture all the passion, loyalty and excitement of college sports and deliver a seamless plan for activation. We will assist you to reach your target audience, develop top-of-mind awareness and build customer loyalty."

"As a corporate partner your brand will receive unparalleled access to our loyal fan base. We will thoroughly integrate our brands by establishing your company as an integral part of the Bearkat game day experience. Our promotional and messaging vehicles serve as a powerful point of differentiation that lets the market know that you are associated with Sam Houston Athletics. The execution of an integrated plan will allow your message to truly resonate with fans. Please review our menu above for specific elements we can implement to drive your message into the heart of your market."

For information on how SHSU Athletics can help your business succeed by partnering with Sam Houston State University Athletics please contact Kyle Barnard at 936-294-4132 or barnardk@shsu.edu



Pictured are: Assistant Athletic Director for Development Nick Olsson, Assistant Athletic Director for Tickets Mickal Terry and Assistant Athletic Director Kyle Barnard

business after hours

Thanks to **Adams Furniture** for sponsoring the December Chamber Business After Hours. As a family owned and operated furniture store for over 25 years, Jack and Debbie Townley of Adams Furniture offer customers a friendly and knowledgeable sales staff dedicated to customer satisfaction. The Townley's shared, "Born and raised in Huntsville and graduates of Sam Houston State University, we have built our company by providing our customers with great values in furniture and mattresses and hometown relationships from our family to yours. We offer a broad selection of brand name furniture at affordable prices to fit the style, comfort and budget that is just right for you. Come and visit our showroom and you will find a wide selection, including Serta Mattresses, our La-Z-Boy Comfort Studio, living room furniture, recliners, dining room furniture, bedroom furniture, leather, home entertainment options, and more. We also offer custom order furniture from La-Z-Boy, Best Home Furnishings and Mayo Furniture-you can pick the frame, the fabric, and the finish and get it your way!"

Jack also added.... "We are proud to be your local hometown furniture store!"

Adams Furniture is located at 30 Hwy 75 North. Stop by their location, give them a call at 936-295-1028, or look for them on the web at www.shopatadams.com



Pictured is: Seated left to right is Steven Townley, and Owners Jack and Debbie Townley. Standing are Charles, Miranda, Wanda and James



Also pictured is Paula Armstrong with Global Financial Partners along with 2017 Chamber Chairman Carol Sullivan, Chamber President Carol Smith, Jack & Debbie Townley and Events Manager Laura Green. Global Financial Partners was the WINNER of the \$600 CASH POT! Congratulations!

Your 2018 Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce

2018 Officers

Scott Francis, Chairman of the BoardEdward Jones
 Carol Sullivan, Immediate Past Chairman of the BoardCommunity Service Credit Union
 Glen Andrus, Vice Chair Eco. Dev./TourismHuntsville Rental Center
 Clint Blinka, Business Services DivisionThe Growth Coach of The Woodlands
 Sam Donnell, Community Affairs DivisionRockin' D Services, Inc.
 Dr. Dale Underwood, Education/Workforce DivisionGulf Coast Trades Center
 Dr. Kristy Vienne, Membership/Communications DivisionSam Houston State University
 Trey Wharton, Treasurer/Secretary, 2019 Chair ElectWharton Insurance Network
 Kyle Whisenhunt, Community Growth DivisionFirst Financial Bank
 Ken Holland, Economic Development CouncilUniversity Heights Baptist Church
 Carol Smith, PresidentChamber of Commerce

Directors

Jason Bay, Community Services CouncilFirst Baptist Church
 Sean Carpenter, Community Growth CouncilFirst National Bank Huntsville
 Jack Choate, Communications/Resource CouncilSpecial Prosecutors Unit
 Gus Hernandez, Existing Business CouncilState Farm Insurance
 Jimmy Henry, Economic Development CouncilWalker County Commissioner
 Mark Holt, Economic Development CouncilJustice of the Peace, Precinct 3
 Tim Hooks, Education CouncilHuntsville ISD
 James Logan, Existing Business CouncilMRC Creekside
 Tracy Stoudt, Member Events CouncilTexas Department of Criminal Justice
 Lee Woodward, Membership Development CouncilCity of Huntsville

Chamber Staff

Carol SmithPresident
 Laura GreenEvents & Communications Manager
 Shannon HigbieOffice Manager
 Gwen LucasReceptionist/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, by mail at PO Box 538-Huntsville, TX 77342, by fax at 295-0571 or by e-mail at 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

- 30 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 30 Ambassador Meeting, 10:30 am @ Chamber

FEBRUARY

- 8 SBB, 7:30 am @ Farmhouse Cafe sponsored by Barbwire Barbie Boutique
 13 Executive Board Meeting, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 13 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Holiday Inn Express
 13 Youth Leadership Institute 10:50 am-2:30pm @ SHSU
 14 Tourism Meeting, 8:30 am @ Chamber
 14 POP Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm @ Chamber
 15 Board Meeting, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 19 Ribbon Cutting for McAlister's Deli @ 10:00 am
 20 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 20 HLI, Education
 22 Thursday LEADS Exchange, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 22 Business After Hours, 5:15-6:15pm sponsored by Cyclone Graffix
 27 Preferred Partners, 8:00 am @ Chamber
 27 Ambassador Meeting, 10:30 am @ Chamber

Community Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 30 6:00pm 2018 Reagan Dinner @ LSC Ballroom at SHSU
 31 HOT Funds Meeting @ Hampton Inn

FEBRUARY

- 2 7:30pm True West @ Huntsville Community Theatre
 3 7:30pm True West @ Huntsville Community Theatre
 3 10:00am-2:00pm Spinning & Weaving Demonstration @ Woodland Home Front Porch
 3 Valentine Workshop @ Wynne Home
 3 8:00am-2:00pm Huntsville's Largest Ever GROJ SALE (Get Rid of Junk Sale) @ Walker County Fairgrounds
 4 2:00pm True West @ Huntsville Community Theatre
 6 First Grade Field Trip @ Wynne Home
 8 First Grade Field Trip @ Wynne Home
 9-10 7:30pm True West @ Huntsville Community Theatre
 10 Black History Reception and Program @ Wynne Home
 10 10:00am-2:00pm Woodworking Demonstration @ Guerrant Cabin
 11 2:00pm True West @ Huntsville Community Theatre
 13 11:00am -1:00pm Empty Bowls @ Wynne Home
 16 Tour-Pearl Arts Center
 17 Black History: Naomi Carrier Presentations @ Wynne Home
 17 10:00am-2:00pm Kick Wheel Pottery Making Demonstration @ Raven's Pottery Shed
 24 10:00am-2:00pm Blacksmithing Demonstration @ Joshua's Forge