

**The  
Chamber**



# VOI.CE.

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

***Volunteers. Opportunities. Involvement. Community. Events.***

***January 2016***



Huntsville - Where A Warm Welcome Awaits

***Member Spotlight...***



***Welcome New  
Members:***

- The Pizza Parlor
- 1836 Steakhouse

*See page 6*

***Business Expo &  
Taste of  
Huntsville Info***

***See page 3***

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

**CAROL'S CORNER**



Carol Smith

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. 2016 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; the 1836 Steak House is now open; Potato Shack is relocating next to HEB and you will 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 21 & 22 with Bart Davis (Davis Construction Management) presiding as the 2016 Board Chair. It is exciting to work with Bart and the board as they are all strong leaders and are committed to helping make this community the best it can be. Bart 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 mem-

bership. 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 Robert Pate and the phenomenal job he did in the leading the Chamber during 2015. Under Robert'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 new event (Diva Night), and hosted a wonderful celebration at the annual Gala...so, a heartfelt thanks to Robert for his direction and leadership during the 81st 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 2016. 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** Chamber President/CEO,  
Carol Smith

**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.

**Member Spotlight...**

**Bayes Achievement Center (BAC)** is a private school and residential center for special needs students with behavioral difficulties. Executive Director, Daniel Bayes

said, "We serve students from all over Texas and students from out-of-state as well. Our students enjoy a rich and varied educational experience that includes horticulture, animal therapy, music therapy, weekly field trips, and community outings."

Their Mission Statement reads; At Bayes Achievement Center we exist to help the children and young people who are most in need have the best life possible.

"Over 20 years ago when my Dad, Mitch Bayes started BAC his heart was for the special needs

students with the most Bayes Achievement Center

severe behavioral difficulties. During his decades as a special education teacher he saw this group as a group falling through the cracks. It was these kids and their families that my dad started BAC to serve. From the beginning he was determined to take the most difficult cases and never turn a student away who needed him. Along with this he determined never to kick a student out for any behavior. In 20 years we've never turned a student away for behavioral reasons and never expelled a student from our program. Instead we've helped hundreds of students overcome their behavioral issues and be successful in school sometimes for the first time in their lives."

We asked Daniel why they felt it was important to join the chamber of Commerce. Daniel said, "I grew up in Huntsville and went to SHSU. Although I've lived around the US and abroad, Huntsville will always be home for me. The town and community holds a special place in my heart; so many of my good memories are here. I see the Chamber of Commerce as a way for me to give back to this community that has given a lot to me. I want to see Huntsville continue to grow and develop both from an educational, business, and cultural perspective, but without losing its small town charm and friendliness. The Chamber of Commerce gives me an opportunity to be part of that development."

Please contact Mr. Daniel Bayes, Executive Director at 936-291-3391. Bayes Achievement Center is located at 7517 State Highway 75 South, Huntsville TX Their website is [www.bayescenter.com](http://www.bayescenter.com) and their email is [controller@bayescenter.com](mailto:controller@bayescenter.com)



**ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

**HUNTSVILLE & WALKER COUNTY ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

	Huntsville	Walker Co.	Texas	U.S.	Huntsville	Walker Co.	Texas	U.S.
Employment	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2015	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2014	Nov. 2014
Total Labor Force	11,422	22,992	13,100,281	157,340,000	11,540	23,169	13,202,845	156,297,000
Total Employed	10,803	21,805	12,506,599	149,766,000	10,940	22,082	12,614,267	147,666,000
Total Unemployed	619	1,187	593,682	7,573,000	600	1,087	588,578	8,630,000
Percent Unemployed	5.4%	5.2%	4.5%	4.8%	5.2%	4.7%	4.5%	5.5%

Huntsville Building Permit Values	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	% Change
Building Residential	468,378	1,022,308	-0.54%
Commercial Building	112,000	20,097,600	-0.99%
Certificate of Compliance	0	0	0
Other	5,573,220	4,591,908	0.21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,153,598</b>	<b>25,711,816</b>	<b>-0.76%</b>

Walker County Sales Tax Payments	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	% Change	2016 YTD	2015 YTD	% Change
Huntsville (1.5%)	570,656.57	574,398.84	-0.65%	570,656.57	574,398.84	-0.65%
New Waverly (1.5%)	43,808.31	37,383.04	17.18%	43,808.31	37,383.04	17.18%
Riverside (1.5%)	10,273.12	9,435.30	8.87%	10,273.12	9,435.30	8.87%
Walker County (.5%)	241,366.28	246,946.98	-2.25%	241,366.28	246,946.98	-2.25%

**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>)

**NUPLISTEN UP LISTEN**

Be sure to look at the Community Calendar on the back of this newsletter for the upcoming activities.



## RECENT MEMBER RENEWALS

Carpet Store	Samaritan Women's Care
PCC-Huntsville	Huntsville Health Care Center
Juice Plus	New Wavo Communication Group
Jack Olsta Co.	Buckner's Jewelry Inc.
Postcards Magazine	Davis-Partin & Associates
MRC Creekside	Rollo Insurance
Elsie Davis	Moak & Moak
Huntsville Physical Medical Institute	Coca Cola
First Financial Bank	Smither, Martin, Henderson
B.J. Atkins, MD	South Comm Publishing & Target Marketing Inc.
Poncho & Sugar Roberts	Sims Dentistry PLLC
Buddy Aber	Waters Construction Company, Inc.
Mary Anne Tyler- Keller Williams Realty	Tom Freeman
Maureen McIntyre	Dr. Scott Logan
Toni Bruner	The Story Team Keller- Williams Realty
Judge William McAdams	Park & Durham Attorneys at Law
Danny Dougherty State Farm	Walker County Federal Credit Union
Harley Rex	Ward Furniture and Flooring
Conroe Outlet Center	Summit Christian Academy
On Pointe Dance Studio	William B Green
Hitchin Post	Scotsman Storage
Just Style'n	New Waverly ISD
Bill Fick Ford	First National Bank
Huntsville Health Care Center	Rainbow International Carpet Care
Dental Health Associates	Walker County Special Utility District
Markham Realty	Overhead Door
Alpha Omega Academy	MaCaffety Electric Co., Inc.
Rolling Brook	Walker County Gas, Inc.
Huntsville Abstract & Title	Mid-South Synergy
Friends of Huntsville State Park	Domino's Pizza
Iron Works Health Club	
Homeland Properties	
HBI Office Solutions, INC	
KSAM 101.7 & 104.9 The Hits	
McCann Financial	

Hats 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.

## Register Now for the Business Expo 2016 & Taste of Huntsville

Make plans to exhibit at the Business Expo 2016 and Taste of Huntsville. It is the perfect opportunity for businesses, new or well established, to display their merchandise and/or services to the public. **Product sales are allowed!** The event is held at the Walker County Fairgrounds and is scheduled for **Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 4:00 – 7:30 p.m.** with booths starting at \$175.

With your registration you receive:

- 8'x10' Professionally draped booth space with table and two chairs (electricity available)
- 2 tickets to the Taste of Huntsville
- Expo posters for your business
- Opportunity to make a presentation from the stage
- Media Coverage

The Business Expo is regarded as the premier opportunity for Chamber members and businesses in Walker County to showcase and promote their products and services, network among fellow business owners, receive leads and referrals, get feedback from prospective customers and make media contacts. There will be a Business Only Hour for 4-5 p.m. Displays run the gamut from simple to sophisticated and a prize will be awarded to the best booth! Any chamber member or Walker County based business is encouraged to register. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

If you are a restaurant, caterer, distributor or grocer sign up for the Taste of Huntsville to serve up samples of your product to hungry attendees. You can reserve your spot with a \$75 refundable deposit. The Taste of Huntsville is open from 5-7:30 p.m.

The Existing Business Council of the chamber spearheads the event which is a part of the Business Services Division of the chamber under the leadership of Vice Chair Michelle Hebert, M.D. Scott Francis of BBVA Compass is chair of the event. For more information contact the Chamber at 936-295-8113.



I want to be a

Presenter

### Help Shape The Future!!

Business leaders from across Walker County are assisting the Chamber in presenting "CHOICES" to 8th grade students in Huntsville ISD January 27 & 28. 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) at the Chamber if you would like to be involved in this program.

# Huntsville Walker County Board of Directors and

**BUILDING A B**

**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

Under the direction of the Board Chairperson, the Executive Committee of the Chamber is organized into 5 major divisions, with a Vice Chair to direct and oversee activities/events and committees:

- Board Chairperson—Bart Davis
- Community Affairs—Lisa Branch
- Business Services—Michelle Hebert
- Membership/Communication—Tammie Nokes
- Community Growth—Scott Francis
- Economic Development/Tourism—Aron Kulhavy

Serving with these Vice-Chairs is:

- Treasurer/Secretary—Carol Sullivan
- Immediate Past Chairperson—Robert Pate

As a complete unit, the Executive Committee also serves as the Long Range Planning Committee. Under each **division** are **Councils** headed by a board member to direct and oversee activities/events and committees within that area.

Each of the **Councils** have multiple **committees** that function to help carry out the activities and events. The following pages reflect detailed information related to each division, council and committee for 2016. **Some Committee Chairs need to be recruited.**

This document is in "draft" format to be used as a resource at the 2016 Board Planning Retreat. It will be revised and updated from input at the Retreat and formally adopted as the "2016 Program of Work" at the January, 2016 Board meeting.

**FIVE important questions for the planning and execution process:**

- What is our mission and purpose? What are we trying to achieve?
- Who are our customers?
- What do our customers value?
- What results do we want? What is the plan to achieve those results?

**Note:**

- The Chamber President, Carol Smith, works hand-in-hand with the Executive Committee, to ensure the final Program of Work is successfully carried out during 2016.
- The four ladies that comprise the Chamber staff: Shannon Higbie, Lydia Montgomery, Laura Green & Gwen Lucas all function as a team to assist in carrying out the Program of Work. Each Committee within the Program of Work is assigned at least one of these individuals as a "Chamber Staff Liaison" to assist events/activities, and are fully supported by the remaining staff team.

"Individual **commitment** to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi

**2016 Chairman of the Board**  
**Bart Davis — Davis**  
**Construction**



## **Community Affairs Division**

**Lisa Branch**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of community events such as Fair on the Square, the Chamber's various involvement with the educational entities throughout Walker County, Prayer on the Square and the Senior Citizen Health Fair, 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 40th 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

## **Health & Wellness Fair Committee**

**Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

- **Committee Purpose:** Plan & execute an annual health fair. Note: The first annual health fair for senior citizens was held November 9, 2011 at First Baptist Church Family Life Center.
- **Health Fair Purpose:** to provide a networking/marketing venue for health providers from across Walker County to focus on services for all citizens. It provides opportunities for coordinating topics, programs or speakers to help the seniors & others with medical questions/governmental help/seniors concerns in general.

**Council for Education/Workforce Alliance**—to oversee & assist with the following committees

Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith

- **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.

## **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.

**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

## **Businesses Services Division**

**Michelle Hebert**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of member events such as Diva Night, existing business events such as Trade Expo, leadership development such as 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, 2013 & 2014 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.

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

**Business Expo(#29) & Taste of Huntsville Committee**

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

- **Committee Purpose:** Planning & executing the annual Business 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.

**Council for Leadership Development**—to oversee & assist with the following

**Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith**

- **Council 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.

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

**Business Training Committee**

**Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/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

## **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

# Walker County Chamber of Commerce 2016 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**

### **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.

### **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

### **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

**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.

### **Membership/Communications Division continued**

#### **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.

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.

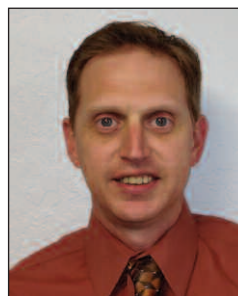
### **Business After Hours—Chamber Staff Liaison—Laura Green/Carol Smith**

• **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”.

### **Economic Development/Tourism Division Aron Kulhavy**

**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.

### **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

### **Community Growth Division Scott Francis**

**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 and Helicopter Golf Ball Drop 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.

**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.

## **SUPPORTING COMMITTEE & COUNCIL:**

### **Finance Committee**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of the budget planning/execution process

#### **Finance Committee**

#### **Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

• **Committee Purpose:** Establish and monitor the financial goals and objectives of the organization and report to the board on a monthly basis

• **Budget Purpose:** to provide sound financial framework for the chamber's activities/purposes

• **Involvement Includes:** Facilitate annual financial audits for the Chamber by a local CPA, etc.

### **Past Chairman's Council**

**Responsibility:** the direction and oversight of the nominating process, and to work with other past Chairs from time to time. It also includes serving in an “advisory” role to the Board. Conduct round table discussions of the “Think Tank” of past chairmen in order to utilize their experience and expertise for the good of the organization

### **Nominating Committee**

#### **Chamber Staff Liaison—Carol Smith**

• **Committee Purpose:** Carry out election and nomination procedures for directors

• **Purpose of Nomination Process:** to fulfill directions in by-laws for selection of board members, etc.

• **Involvement Includes:** working with group of past chairs to identify and confirm interested and qualified individuals that have an interest in serving on the Chamber Board; working w/staff to develop & execute a ballot to the membership

### **Other Key Activities:**

1. Tuesday Leads Group—Chamber Staff Liaison, Gwen Lucas
2. Thursday Leads Groups—Chamber Staff Liaison, Shannon Higbie

### **Mission Statement**

We provide opportunities to foster the economic development of businesses of Walker County.

“When you make a **commitment** to a relationship, you invest your attention and energy in it more profoundly because you now experience **ownership** of that relationship.” – Barbara De Angelis

“Unless **commitment** is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans.” – Peter Drucker

“Without **involvement**, there is no commitment. Mark it down, asterisk it, circle it, underline it.” --Stephen Covey



# Chairman's Welcome from Bart Davis

First, I would like to thank everyone in our community for having confidence in me to do my part in directing the Huntsville/Walker County Chamber of Commerce for 2016. I don't know about you, but I have never been more proud or excited to be a resident of Walker County than I am today. These are exciting times for Huntsville and Walker County and as a 5th generation resident, I want to make sure I do everything I can to insure future generations have the same opportunity to succeed HERE. It is important the Chamber continues to build upon the momentum we have gained the last few years.



Bart Davis

Looking back, growing up in Huntsville was something I will always be grateful for. Although, as a high school student, I would have argued that fact. There were a few times, living in a small town came back to bite me. After the birth of our second child in 2007, we realized, as much as we loved everything Houston had to offer, it wasn't where we wanted to raise our family. Our family business in Huntsville was growing and after many discussions with my family, a lot of sleepless nights and a lot of prayer, we decided to make the move back.

At first, my wife didn't understand the concept, "everyone knows everyone and everything about everyone", but we wanted to live in a place where the term "community" means more than just an address. We wanted to live where it takes 2 hours to get out of the grocery store because you know nearly everyone there. We wanted to live somewhere where our children are loved and cared for by everyone we know because that's what neighbors do. We wanted to live in a community where we feel safe and our family feels safe. We wanted to live where family means more than the people sitting at the dinner table. We wanted to live where a business has the opportunity to succeed and grow. This is Huntsville. This is OUR community.

As I said before, we are living in very exciting times in Huntsville. Growth in our community is happening all around us. With this growth comes tremendous responsibility to manage and promote our success and the Chamber of Commerce needs to be leading that charge. We have a responsibility as an organization to continue to show everything Huntsville and Walker County has to offer. How many other communities have a State Park, a University, a Hospital District and TDCJ all within walking distance from each other? As great as we all think our community is at this moment, it can be so much better. But this requires us to work together. The City, The County, SHSU, TDCJ, all our schools, our businesses and the Chamber of Commerce have to work together to promote and manage our growth to ensure what happens next in our community will have a positive impact for all residents, not just a few. We have all heard this before but I believe this to never be truer than now. We, as a community, have the opportunity to make Huntsville and Walker County a truly unique place to live and as Chairman of the Board, I intend to continue to put the Chamber of Commerce at the forefront. Every business, big and small, plays a vital role in the success of our community.

As a small businesses owner, I know how important it is for our community to grow but I also understand how important it is to promote the businesses we already have. The Chamber of Commerce offers many avenues for local businesses to show what they offer whether it be through small business breakfasts, business after hours, ribbon cuttings or any of the many events we offer. You can only get out of the chamber what you put in. Just paying your dues is not enough. Get involved. Have a voice. By all means, share your opinion. The Chamber of Commerce is here for the businesses and the community of Walker County. We are here to serve our members by promoting what you have to offer. Each member of the Chamber of Commerce is key to all of our success so we all must play a role.

From myself, the Chamber Board and the wonderful staff at the Huntsville/Walker County Chamber of Commerce, thank you again for your support and we look forward to a fantastic 2016.

Bart Davis  
Chairman of the Board

## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS IN DECEMBER

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:**

**The Pizza Parlor**-The Pizza Parlor of New Waverly, Texas is serving up fresh homemade authentically Italian Pizza and Pastas. Also, on the menu are a variety of tasty salads, breadsticks, and meatball subs. Dine In or Take Out, the choice is yours. Stop by 361 Gibbs St. or give them a call at 936-344-7700

**1836 Steakhouse**-The 1836 Steakhouse is a full-service steakhouse offering hand-cut steaks, seafood, pasta dishes, prepared in-house desserts, and a full bar menu. Reservations and walk-ins welcome. Hours of operation are Tues.-Sat. 5 pm-10 pm; Sunday 11 am-3 pm. Come by and visit at 2641 11th St. or call 936-755-8150

## Ribbon Cutting



Community Service Credit Union

**Community Service Credit Union**- The newest location at 2526 Montgomery Rd. celebrated their ribbon cutting ceremony with Chamber Members and Ambassadors on December 17, 2015. Whether you want to open an account, apply for a loan, or check out their percentage rates, give them a call at 936-295-3980, or visit their website at [www.cscutx.com](http://www.cscutx.com)

		<h3>Seminar Schedule</h3> <p>January - March, 2016</p>	
<p><b>Happy New Year!</b></p> <p><b>FIRST STEP</b> To Starting Your Own Business Wed., Jan. 27th 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm SBDC Computer Lab *No Fee*</p> <p>Please register and reserve your spot at <a href="http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net">http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net</a></p>		<p><b>Adobe Photoshop</b></p> <p><b>Introduction - Tues. Feb. 16th 6-8pm</b> Intro to Photoshop will cover basic principles for editing and enhancing photos, basic photo terminology navigating Photoshop, editing topics such as resizing and rotating and red eye removal, using the history brush and how to select different areas of a photo. Layers and text will also be explained and displayed as well as brushes. You will also be shown how each of these tools can be put together in one giant project.</p>	
<p><b>QuickBooks Online Basics</b></p> <p>Wed, March 23rd 8:30am - 11:30am; 1:00pm - 4:00pm Location: SHSU SBDC Computer Lab Fee: \$60</p> <p><b>Key Topics:</b> Bookkeeping basics, General navigation within QuickBooks applications * Create a company and meaningful Chart of Accounts * Customers and vendors * Accounts receivable * Managing bank accounts * Adding entries, Job estimates, Billing and invoicing, Receiving payments * Purchase orders, Paying bills and printing checks, Accounts Payable * Understanding financial reports, budgeting and planning.</p>		<p><b>Advanced - Tues. Feb. 23rd - 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. In this course we will go over the following topics: 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></p> <p>Please register and reserve your spot at : <a href="http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net">http://samhoustonstateuniversity.sbdcnetwork.net</a></p>	

# SAVE THE DATE

## MARCH 3, 2016

# BUSINESS EXPO and TASTE OF HUNTSVILLE

# Small Business Breakfast

Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce

Ron Gunnels is the owner of **Gunnels & Son Services, LLC**, a company that rents restrooms, light towers compressors and generators daily, 24 hours a day. Ron also supplies oil field equipment rentals and construction sites. Having a special event? With their Executive restroom trailer your wedding, graduation or special parties will provide bathroom facilities with the comforts of home.

They are located at 638 Ave M, Huntsville TX and can be reached by phone at 936-577-1152 or email [ron@gunnelsandson.com](mailto:ron@gunnelsandson.com). He joined the Chamber of Commerce to support the community and make new contacts.



Pictured is: Ron Gunnels

## Youth Leadership Institute Gets Monthly Training

The Youth Leadership Institute of the Chamber is composed of 11th grade students from across Walker County. These 20 students meet monthly from 10:45 to 2:15 to gain invaluable leadership skills. On January 21 they were treated to a "Dress for Success" presentation provided by Sherry Ingram (K-STAR) and Lori Logan (SBDC) with the assistance of local retailers. After a lunch donated by McKenzie's BBQ, the group received a tour of 1st National Bank and "money management" training.

## What's Happening!

- **CHOICES presentations for 8th grade students at Mance Park Middle School-January 27th & 28th**
- **Small Business Breakfast- February 11, 7:30a.m., sponsored by Dr. Casey Frazier**
- **Business After Hours – January 28th, 5:15p.m. sponsored by Preferred Partners to be held in the Chamber Board Room**
- **Business Expo & Taste of Huntsville- Thursday, March 3**
- **SAVE THE DATE: 13th Annual Shot in the Dark Golf Tournament & Helicopter Golf Ball Drop- Friday, May 6th**

# business after hours

Thanks to **Community Service Credit Union (CSCU)** for sponsoring the Chamber Business After Hours in December. CSCU has two locations to serve their customers; The Main Branch, located at 250 FM 2821 W. Huntsville, TX 77320 and the South Branch 2526 Montgomery Road, Huntsville, TX 77340. The lobbies are open Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm and Friday's 9:00am to 6:00pm. Manned Drive-Thru hours are 7:30am - 6:00pm at the FM 2821 Office and the automated drive up at both locations is available nights and weekends 24x7. You can also reach them at 936-295-3980 or find them on the web at [www.cscutx.com](http://www.cscutx.com).

CSCU's mission is "To be your financial partner for life", while providing personal, business, financial, account services and more. And their Vision Statement is "To be consistently selected as THE trusted source for financial products and services." Has 55 employees pooled together \$10,115 in shares and the Texas Prison Employees Credit Union was chartered on April 6th, 1954. Membership was limited to employees of the Texas Prison System. Over the next 61 years, with many changes, enhancements and evolutions you have the present premier financial institution. In 2008 a second office was opened to better serve the community on the south side of Huntsville and in 2009 CSCU began offering Commercial Accounts and Commercial Lending. 2012 would bring an update to internet banking and bill pay; that was more personable for the members. Also, PopMoney (person to person payments) was introduced, offering members a cheaper, more affordable alternative to wire transfers or mailing checks. Out of town? No sweat, CSCU is a part of the CO-OP Shared Branch network. Access your CSCU account at over 5,000 locations nationwide.



Pictured right to left are: Susan Giroux, Controller, Brandon Williamson, Personal Banker, Mary Dye, Risk Manager, Laura Shotwell, Marketing Director, Shannon Nettles, Account Services Manager, Brenda Hooker, CEO, Carol Sullivan, Senior Loan Officer, Tina McDonald, COO, and Todd Armstrong, VP of Lending

The following 36 members were drawn for the \$500 CASH POT that was given away at our December Chamber Business After Hours. Unlucky for them, they were not there....but lucky for Jimmy Henry whose name was drawn and he was present so he took home the cash!

Affordable Signs  
Amaya's Collision Center  
Beckham & Jones  
Bill Wood Dirt Contractor  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Candyce F. Dixon, CPA, CGMA  
Carbonero Rotisserie  
City of Huntsville  
Congressman Kevin Brady  
Divine Life Change, LLC  
Dr. Dimitrios Mantzoros  
Homeland Properties  
Hospitality House  
Huntsville Family Medicine  
Law Office of Stephanie Allsup Martin  
McCann Financial  
McGee, Miller & Co. LLP  
Montgomery Meadows  
Nancy Gaertner  
New Life Resale Shoppe  
Outlets of Conroe  
Park & Durham Attorneys at Law  
Pregnancy Care Center  
Rainbow International Restoration & Cleaning  
Sara Kelly  
Second Baptist Church

Sheriff Clint McRae  
Southwestern Consolidated Directory  
Summit Christian Academy  
Texan Scuba  
Wharton Insurance  
Texas Alcohol & Drug Testing  
Third Coast Gifts & Gourmet  
Tri-County Behavioral Healthcare  
Walker County LP Gas  
Wiesner, Inc.-Huntsville



# Your 2016 Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce

## 2016 Officers

Bart Davis, Chairman of the Board.....Davis Construction Management  
 Robert Pate, Immediate Past Chair/Nominating .....First Financial Bank  
 Carol Sullivan, Treasurer .....Community Service Credit Union  
 Lisa Branch, Vice Chair Community Affairs .....LearningRx  
 Scott Francis, Vice Chair Community Growth .....BBVA Compass  
 Michelle Hebert, MD, Vice Chair Business Services .....Arbonne, Int. Consultant  
 Aron Kulhavy, Vice Chair Economic Development & Tourism .....City of Huntsville  
 Tammie Nokes, Vice Chair Membership/Communication.....McGilberry Mechanical  
 Carol Smith, President .....Chamber of Commerce

## Directors

Daniel Bayes .....Bayes Achievement Center  
 Brandon Cooper.....Sam Houston State University  
 Jennifer Davis..... First National Bank of Huntsville  
 Sam Donnell.....Rockin' D Services  
 Margaret Gulledege.....Huntsville Memorial Hospital  
 Jimmy Henry .....Walker County Commissioner  
 Ken Holland.....University Heights Baptist Church  
 David Markham.....Markham Realty, Inc.  
 Jacob Paschal .....Haney,Moorman,Paschal, P.C.  
 Marcus Payne..... Citizens National Bank  
 Kristy Vienne.....Sam Houston State University  
 Reginald Watkins .....Praise & Glory Worship Center  
 Trey Wharton.....Wharton Insurance/Investments

## 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

- 26 Preferred Partners, 8:00 a.m. @ Chamber
- 26 Ambassador Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.
- 27 CHOICES-MPMS @ 7:45 a.m.
- 28 CHOICES-MPMS @ 7:45 a.m.
- 28 Business After Hours, 5:15 p.m. sponsored by Preferred Partners

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Preferred Partners, 8:00 a.m. @ Chamber
- 10 Tourism Meeting @ 8:30 a.m.
- 11 Small Business Breakfast, sponsored by Dr. Casey Frazier, 7:30 a.m. @ Golden Corral
- 11 Executive Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m. @ Chamber
- 16 HLI-Education Day
- 18 Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. @ Chamber
- 23 Ambassador Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.
- 25 Business After Hours, 5:15 p.m. sponsored by Magnolia Mey

## Community Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 4-5 6:00 p.m. Auditions "Jake's Women" Huntsville Community Theatre, Old Town Theatre
- 11-12 6:00 p.m. Auditions "The Gondoliers" Huntsville Community Theatre, Old Town Theatre
- 16 7:30 p.m. The Houston Symphony (Charged Event), Gaertner Performing Center
- 21 7:30 p.m. Hall Enescu Complete Piano Works, Concert III, Josu DeSolaun, piano Faculty Concert
- 24 5:00 p.m. Brewers Dinner featuring Perdemales Brewing Company @ The Homestead

### FEBRUARY

- 5-6 SHSU Opera presents "The Elixir of Love", 7:30 p.m. @ Gaertner Performing Arts Center
- 6 6 a.m. Rocky Raccoon 100 Mile Trail Run, Huntsville State Park
- 8 6:00-8:00 p.m. SHSU Jazz Ensemble featuring Jazz Trombonist Bill Watrous @ Houston House of Blues, 1204 Caroline St., Houston, TX 77002
- 13 6 a.m. Rocky Raccoon 100 Mile Trail Run, Huntsville State Park
- 17-20 SHSU Dept. of Theatre & Musical Theatre presents "Cardenio" @ University Erica Starr Theatre
- 19-21 Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m. Sun-2:00 p.m. "Jake's Women, Huntsville Community Theatre, Old Town Theatre
- 23 SHSU Symphonic & Concert Band, 7:30 p.m. @ Gaertner Performing Arts Center
- 26-28 Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m. Sun-2:00 p.m. "Jake's Women, Huntsville Community Theatre, Old Town Theatre
- 27 SHSU Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. @ Gaertner Performing Center