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Shay Morrow
QuestSpecialty Corporation

First Vice Chair
Becky Ogg
Germania Insurance

Second Vice Chair
Shane Nelson
Bluebonnet Abstract & Title

Treasurer
Dan Blalock
Brenham Abstract & Title Co.

Secretary
Jolene Curtis
Texas Farm Credit

Immediate Past Chair
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Blinn College District

Blake Barnes
*Baylor Scott & White
Medical Center*

Eric Benitez
Cedar Frame Real Estate

Dr. Tylor Chaplin
Brenham ISD

Justin Colley
BIG Brannon Industrial Group

Jim Chisolm
Texas Star Winery

Gary Durrenberger
Bank of Brenham

Carlos Garcia
Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant

Kara Mathenev
*Washington County AgriLife
Extension Service*

Lete Phillips
Lete Phillips Exercise Program

Darron Smith
Brenham National Bank

Chris Ann Stroech
Washington County Landscapes

Stephanie Wehring
*Boys & Girls Club of
Washington County*

Chamber/EDF Annual Banquet Awards and Highlights on February 2, 2023

Washington County businesses, elected officials, and residents gathered to honor the woman, man, businesses and non-profit of the year Thursday evening during the annual Washington County Chamber of Commerce & EDF Banquet at Fireman's Training Center in Brenham. BIG Brannon Industrial Group, Brenham National Bank, and Citizens State Bank were highlighted event sponsors.

The evening began with a social hour. Brice Milliorn with Edward Jones Financial, served as the Emcee for the program. He welcomed the guests attending. Boy Scout Troop #742 presented the colors and said the pledge. Chaplain Merritt Johnston with Baylor Scott & White Health gave the invocation. St. Peter's Episcopal Church Choir sang the National Anthem. The meal was catered by Nathan's BBQ.

Rick Figueroa was introduced as the Keynote Speaker. His inspirational message talked about the differences between successful people and significant people, how to not forget the past while avoiding being anchored by it, and the importance of holding to principles even in times of adversity.

Jamie Rankin, President & CEO of the Washington County Chamber, welcomed the attendees. She thanked the Chamber Staff - Sarah Hansen, Jane Hinze, Shae Janner, and Dawn Konieczny. "These ladies make up a dedicated Chamber Team, and I am proud to serve our members alongside them," said Rankin. She recognized the Chamber members and appreciation of their support. "A business that supports our community through Chamber membership ensures that businesses and non-profits within our community can come together to seek support," said Rankin. "Their investment into the Chamber allows the Chamber to support and promote business, develop our workforce, and advocate for quality of life".

The awards portion of the program began with Past Chairman of the EDF Board, Tee Dippel of Brenham National Bank, recognizing retired EDF Director Catherine Kenjura. "During my time on the EDF Board, no one worked harder than Catherine. She always put our community first. We sincerely thank Catherine for her leadership on the board and her service to our community", said Dippel. The 16 Board Members and Executive Officers were also recognized.

Past Chairman of the Chamber Board, Joe Robertson with Blue Bell Creameries, recognized retired Chamber Directors: Susan Cates, Michelle Panko, Roger Ross, Jeff Sadler and Dr. John Turner. "I want to thank each of these directors for their commitment and support of the Chamber. Through their service, they give voice to their business," said Robertson. The 2023 Board of Directors were introduced.

Robertson called upon Rankin to announce the 2022 Board Member of the Year. Darron Smith, with Brenham National Bank was awarded the 2022 Board Member of the Year. "Darron goes above and beyond in his service as a board member. We are appreciative to have him as part of the team and look forward to having him serve another year on the board with us," said Rankin.

Since 2014, the Chamber has sought nominations and presented the Small Business of the Year award in Washington County. There are two categories of awards: Small Business with 1 to 25 employees and those with 26 to 100 employees. Businesses must be locally owned and operated, set an example of leadership for others to follow, display high professional and business standards, and participate in multiple ways in the community to make lasting contributions to the growth and well-being of Washington County.

The 2023 Chairman of the Chamber Board, Shay Morrow of Quest Specialty announced Brenham Quality Meat Market as the 2022 Small Business of the Year. Brooks Lubojasky accepted the award and thanked the community for nominating them. The 2022 Business of the Year was named Citizens State Bank. Cory Flencher, Executive Vice President at Citizens accepted the award and offered his words of gratitude. The 2022 Non-Profit of the Year was named Brenham Pregnancy Center. Melissa Lasater, Executive Director of the Brenham Pregnancy Center accepted the award and offered her sincere appreciation of the award.

"With Jamie's leadership, she recognized the need for a Non-Profit of

the Year Award to showcase how valuable they are in Washington County. This year she has introduced this award for the very first time," said Morrow. The selection process was based on the organizations impact on the community, its leadership example, its impact beyond the community, and its level of high standards.

Jane Hinze, staff liaison to the Chamber Blue Blazers announced the exiting Blue Blazer Officers, incoming officers, and recognized all current Blue Blazers. She presented Carl Prihoda the 2022 Blue Blazer of the Year award. "Carl is someone we can always count on to not only get the job done, but do it with excellence and pride," said Hinze. In 2022, the Chamber welcomed 86 new members and held 56 ribbon cutting ceremonies. The Blue Blazers are instrumental in the Chamber membership and retention.

2021's Woman of the Year, Joy Fuchs introduced Alana Winkelmann as the 2022 Woman of the Year. "Alana truly exemplifies the term 'servant-heart', thrives in helping others, and gives herself to all", said Fuchs. Winkelmann has served in numerous leadership roles with local Girl Scouts, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. She has been president of the Fortnightly Club of Brenham and Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library Board. She is also a member of the Brenham Maifest Hall of Fame for her work as a seamstress, creating royal attire such as gowns and trains. Winkelmann said she is proud to call Brenham home.

2019's Man of the Year, Charlie Matejowsky, introduced Ray Weiss as the 2022 Man of the Year. "This man is about as Washington County as you get, who cares about his community, is willing to help anybody, and is just a damn good guy," said Matejowsky. Weiss is currently a financial advisor for Thrivent, where is also a member of the Thrivent Hall of Fame and a 2023 inductee into the Thrivent Hall of Legends. He has been involved with the Chamber, Salem Lutheran Church, Brenham ISD School Board, Washington County Fair Board, Baylor Scott & White Foundation, and Hospice Brazos Valley Endowment Board. In addition, he has served as a firefighter and chief of the Salem Volunteer Fire Department as well as a firefighter in the Brenham Fire Department. "I want to thank my family for allowing him to make a difference in the lives of people across Washington County," said Weiss.

"If you take one thing away from this event, let it be that your Chamber organization is committed to being a good steward of your investment by supporting business, workforce, and quality of life," said Rankin. "We are your commerce leader - our vision is clear in 2023 and we are here to serve".



Pictured are retiring board members (L to R) Joe Robertson of Blue Bell Creameries, Roger Ross of Coldwell Banker Properties Unlimited, Michelle Panko of Barking Ranch Pet Resort, Susan Cates of Brenham Washington County Economic Development and Jeff Sadler of BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings. Also pictured is Chamber President Jamie Rankin. Not pictured is Dr. John Turner of Blinn College District.

2022 Man and Woman of the Year



2022 Man and Woman of the Year Ray Weiss and Alana Winkelmann



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



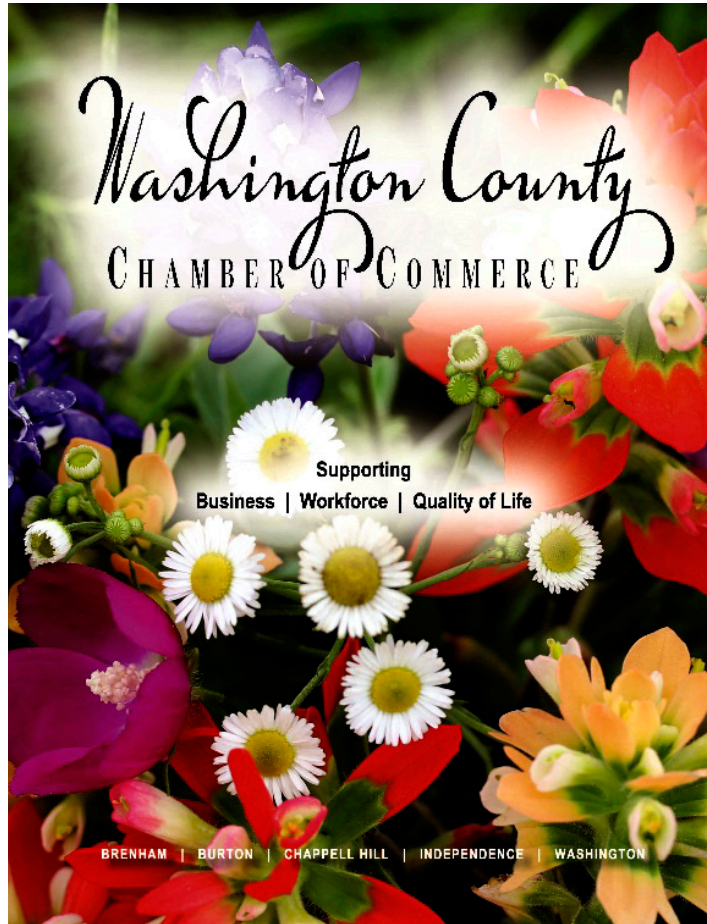
WE PROUDLY SUPPORT
BRENHAM ISD AND BURTON ISD

A Partner for P.E.A.C.E. (Public Education Ambassador for Community Engagement) is encouraged to share the monthly value and promote that value within the company so that possible employees and customers will see that you also support public education. It is in hopes that the adults who see these values at their workplace will share with the children in their lives who are also seeing this at school. These Core Essential Values are taught at both Brenham and Burton ISDs.

Thank you to these Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who have signed up so far to continue to make this program a success in Washington County. They help reinforce the *Core Essential Values* students are learning in local public schools at their businesses and through their employee interactions:

Ant Street Inn • Associated Credit Union of Texas • Bank of Brenham • Blue Bell Creameries
Boys & Girls Club of Washington County • Brand It Graphix • Brenham National Bank
Brenham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center • Brenham Veterinary Hospital • Citizens State Bank
Floyd's Wine Lounge • Germania Insurance • Kruse Village • Schleider Furniture & Mattress Company
Seidel Schroeder • Thielemann Construction Co., L.P. & Stegent Thielemann Plumbing
Unity Theatre • Washington County Landscapes

Annual Magazine



The 2023 Washington County Chamber of Commerce Annual Magazine and Membership Directory has been published! Members will receive one copy by mail this month. If you would like additional copies, give us a call, send us an email, or stop by the Chamber.



Jamie RankinPresident
 Jane Hinze.....Member Services Manager
 Shae Janner.....Business Programs Manager
 Dawn Konieczny.....Communications Coordinator
 Sarah Hansen.....Financial Coordinator



SAVE THE DATES

FEB 27	WASHINGTON COUNTY DAY AT THE CAPITOL
MAR 29	STATE OF HEALTH CARE Forum & Luncheon
APR 24	ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION LUNCHEON Guest Speaker Tara Royer Steele
APR 28	3RD ANNUAL CHAMBER CLASSIC Golf Tournament
AUG 24	TAILGATE 2023 Community Pep Rally & Fundraiser



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GROUP BUYING POWER

Chamber members can now get major savings on credit card payment processing. Learn about our new member benefit program.



Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • will.watson@infintechllc.com

www.infintechllc.com

— 2022 —
Small Business of the Year



Brenham Quality Meat Market

— 2022 —
Non-profit of the Year



Brenham Pregnancy Center

— 2022 —
Board Member of the Year



Darron Smith

— 2022 —
Business of the Year



Citizens State Bank

— 2022 —
Blue Blazer of the Year



Carl Prihoda

STAY LOCAL  **PLAY LOCAL**

Shop Local. Eat Local. Spend Local. Enjoy Local.
KEEP OUR LOCAL ECONOMY STRONG!

 Since 1917
Washington County Chamber
 BrenhamTexas.com

Thank you to our 2023 Chairman's Circle members...



Thank you to our 2023 Presidential Level members...



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 9

YPO Networking Happy Hour

Join in networking with the Young Professionals Organization of Washington County at Board and Brush Brenham, 115 W. Alamo St., Downtown Brenham.

Thursdays

Thirsty Thursdays Tacos & Trivia

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

Thursday - Saturday

Music at Grapevine on Main

Music from 6-9pm on the deck under the trees, with an always present cool breeze. Wagyu burgers, Artisan thin-crust pizzas, charcuterie boards and other light bite menu items available. 5120 Main St., Chappell Hill.

Thursdays - Sundays

Chapelton Vineyards Wine Tastings & Tours

Taste & Tour the newest winery in Washington County. Open Friday-Sunday 11am-5pm. Reservations recommended, but not required. Tour included in purchase of a tasting flight. Charcuterie & cheese plates available for purchase; 14858 Whitman Rd., Washington (chapeltonvineyards.com).

Feb 9-26

Unity Theatre presents "The Mousetrap"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday showtimes. 300 Church St., Brenham. Visit online for more information or call 979-830-8358 (unitybrenham.org).

Feb 10

Ribbon Cutting - Emerge Naturally by Emaleigh

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting for this new Member, 2542 Ryan St., Brenham, 10am.

Fridays

Friday Vibes

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

Feb 11

Joy the Potter

Hosted by CNS (Community of NALC Lutheran Church Sisterhood). Rachel Norris will give a pottery demonstration while sharing her inspiring testimony. Lunch and beverages to follow while they last. Brenham Presbyterian Church, 900 S. Jackson St., Brenham, 10:30am-12pm.

Saturdays

Sound on Stage Saturdays

Brazos Valley Brewery and Taproom is open Saturday from 12pm-10pm with live music every Saturday from 6pm-9pm and all day on a beer release day. Playground for the

kiddos and lots of outside seating for the doggos. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com)

Feb 11

The American Song

A tribute to Dick Smith. Festival Institute Library Benefit & Concert, Round Top Festival Hill, 248 Jaster Rd., Round Top, 2-4pm (festivalhill.org).

Feb 11

Chapelton Vineyards Valentine's Chocolate & Wine Pairing Class

Chapelton Vineyards is partnering with Thomas Craft Confections, from Brenham, to bring you a Chocolate and Wine Pairing Class, Saturday, February 11th from 4pm-6pm. Tickets are \$125 per couple/group of two. Includes four hand crafted chocolates and four Chapelton wines for each person to taste during the class; one bottle of wine and a box of Craft Confections per couple to take home; educational wine and chocolate experience with the experts (chapeltonvineyards.com).

Feb 11

Faith Academy of Bellville Night of Knights Gala

Silent, live and dessert auctions. Austin County Expo Center, 1076 Hwy. 159 E., Bellville, 5-11pm.

Sundays

Sunday Funday at Brazos Valley Brewery

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

Feb 14

Brenham Elks Lodge Sweetheart Bunco Night

Second Tuesday of every month. \$5 to play and bring a gift. Men are welcome to join in on the fun. You are welcome to bring a finger food item. Brenham Elks Lodge, 400 E. Germania St., Brenham, 6:30-9pm. For more information call 979-836-2261 after 5pm.

Wednesdays

Hop Day Wednesday

Open 3pm to 9pm with Dapper Bear Food Truck from 4pm to 9pm serving their famous crabcakes and other seafood goodies. Family and pet friendly with plenty of outside seating and playground. 206 S. Jackson St., Brenham (brazosvalleybrewery.com).

Feb 16

Connect After 4 - Margaret E. Blizzard Senior Activity Center

This event invites you to come enjoy some great networking, delicious food and refreshments!

Bring plenty of business cards to share with other members, 4-6pm, Margaret E. Blizzard

Senior Activity Center, 1301 E. Tom Green St., Brenham.

Feb 16

Friends of Bluebonnet Opry

Featuring The Bluebonnet Opry House Band. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Show Starts at 7:30 p.m. Grill is open for great tasting food. Silver Wings Ballroom, 4100 Hwy. 105, Brenham. Tickets \$8 at the door (friendsofbluebonnetopry.com).

Feb 16-19

Blinn College Theatre - Vinegar Tom

Created in association with a British feminist theatre, this powerful work tells the story of two farm women who are named as witches by a man whom they have spurned romantically. The connection between the fear of female empowerment and England's 17th century witch hysteria is shown to be at the root of many societal issues. Theatre Arts at Blinn College, W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center, 600 Blinn Blvd., Brenham, 7-9pm (blinn.edu/boxoffice).

Feb 17-18

Chili When It's Chilly Cook Off

All proceeds benefit Boot Campaign. Jellystone Park Camp Resort, Waller (chiliwhenitschilly.org).

Feb 18-20

Lifeguard Training Classes

Held at the Blue Bell Aquatic Center, 1800 E. Tom Green St., Brenham. Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday, 9am-5pm, Monday, 1-5pm.

Feb 18

Living History Saturday

Travel back in time to where a nation was born in 1836. On the third Saturday of each month, staff and volunteers dress in period clothing to bring to life the people and events of Old Washington for a unique opportunity for the entire family to discover various aspects of life during the Republic of Texas. The program features family activities including writing with a quill pen, signing a copy of the Texas

Feb 20-24

Fortnightly Club Annual Book Sale

Annual Used Book Sale at the Washington County Fairgrounds sponsored by The Fortnightly Club benefiting the Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library. Admission: Monday 9am-1pm = \$10 After 1 pm Monday - Sat = \$1; free parking, no entry fee for children. Washington County Expo, 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd.

Feb 21

BVH Senior Discount Day

Brenham Veterinary Hospital offers a senior discount day on the third Tuesday of each month. Pet owners over age 50 save 15% on wellness exams, wellness vaccines, spays and neuters. By appointment only, please

call 979-836-2472 to schedule. Small animals only, does not apply to large animals - cattle, horses, llamas, donkeys etc. (brenhamvethospital.com).

Feb 21

Ribbon Cutting - Announcement of Lifetime Learning Washington County Read

Announcement of 2023 Washington County Read by Lifetime Learning. Nancy Carol Roberts Memorial Library Meeting Room, 100 Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Brenham, 1pm.

Feb 21

A Song for All Seasons

The Blinn College Department of Music presents: Visiting Vocal Artist Ms. Mandi Barrus, mezzo-soprano. She will sing a song for each month of the year representing many different languages, artistic periods, and compositional styles. Finke Recital Hall C.F. Schmidt Building, 800 College Avenue, Brenham, 7pm. Free tickets available at the Blinn College Box Office.

Feb 22

Community Health Fair

Margaret E. Blizzard Senior Activity Center, 1301 E. Tom Green St., Brenham, 9:30-11:30am

Feb 23

Ribbon Cutting - The Kenjura Law Firm, PLLC

Join us for a Ribbon Cutting for a New Member, The Kenjura Law Firm, PLLC, 303 N. Park St., Brenham, 4pm.

Feb 23

Adam's Angels 20th Anniversary Celebration

Thank you donors, community & family friends for your support over the past 20 years. Come and go appreciation celebration, Kenjura Tile Training Center, 102 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, 4:30-6:30pm.

Feb 24-26, March 3-5

Winedale Quilt Exhibit

This display highlights the collective work of quilt guilds, family and friend networks, communities of shared interests, culture, or place, and quilting groups that commune regularly or once in a lifetime. For more information, or to volunteer to staff the exhibit, e-mail tricia.blakistone@austin.utexas.edu or call 979-278-3530.

Feb 24

A Bernstein Bash

The Blinn College Vocal & Choral Department presents a night of music and narrations celebrating the inestimable American musician, Leonard Bernstein. Finke Recital Hall C.F. Schmidt Building, 800 College Ave., Brenham. Tickets available at the Blinn College Box Office.

EVENTS Continued on page 6

EVENTS Continued from page 5

Feb 25
Chili Cookoff
 Chili, beans, chef choice and bloody Mary contest. Nicholson Lake Road RV Park, 4200 Nicholson Lake Rd., Chappell Hill. Call 979-337-4411.

Feb 25-26
Texas Independence Day Celebration
 This annual two-day celebration features live music, food, traditional crafts, living history presentations, firing demonstrations, historical encampments and commemorative programs. Washington on the Brazos, 10am-3pm, 23400 Park Rd., Washington (wheretexasbecametexas.org).

March Highlights

Mar 1
Connect After 4 - Texas Farm Credit
 This event invites you to come enjoy some great networking, delicious food and refreshments! Bring plenty of business cards to share with other members, 4-6pm, Texas Farm Credit, 1301 Hwy. 290 E., Brenham.

Mar 2-4
2023 Annual Spring Open Collection Days
 City residents only must present proof of residence and ID upon arrival. Non-hazardous materials only. 8am-5pm, Citizens Collection Station, 2009 Old Chappell Hill Rd., Brenham. For more information, call 979-922-5958.

Mar 2
Chappell Hill Chamber Business After Hours
 Hosted by Chappell Hill Bank at The Rock

Store, 5070 Main St., Chappell Hill. Come meet and greet and share your business cards with other members.

Mar 3
First Fridays Farmer & Artisan Market
 Join us on the First Friday of each month (excluding January) from 3-7pm for the Brenham Farmer & Artisan Market featuring fresh foods, homemade products and more all right on the Courthouse square in the heart of Downtown Brenham, 3-7pm (downtown-brenham.com).

Mar 4
Education Pillar Summit
 Texas Leadership Summit stands for faith while building for the future. Pillar will focus on key components at this education event, with dynamic speakers to help grow and inform you as a leader. The Barnhill Center, 111 W. Main St., Brenham, 9am-4pm. There is limited seating available for this event (texas-leadershipsummit.org).

Mar 9
Ribbon Cutting - Antique Rose Emporium
 Join us for a Ribbon Cutting at Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Brenham, 4pm.



Stats – from the month of: January 2023

Walk-In's

Chamber of Commerce 346

Website – www.BrenhamTexas.com

Unique Visitors 5,136

Total Pages 11,996

Washington County Blue Blazers

The Blue Blazers is a club with 20-25 members and more than 50 years of tradition. They support the mission of the Washington County Chamber. The volunteers in the club act as official greeters and hosts of our community. Their activities include monthly meetings, greeting at Chamber functions, recruiting new Chamber members, and conducting ribbon cuttings and grand openings.

Justin Colley
BIG — Brannon Industrial Group

Joyce Dickschat
Brenham National Bank

Melissa Duckworth
Thielemann Construction

Brianna Edmunds
PLANNORTH Architectural Co.

Brooke Huckert
ValuePoint Wealth Management

Tammy Jaster
City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Genna Lechler
Brand It Graphix

Lauren Maass
Germania Insurance

Kristie Marth
Brenham Iron Works

Courtney Mason
Brenham ISD

Rachel Nordt
Edward Jones

Pita Pangan
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Linda Pipes
Retired-School Teacher

Carl Prihoda
Citizens State Bank

Teresa Rosales
Brenham Washington County Economic Development

Jeffrey Sadler
BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings

Christy Schlottmann
Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

Chris Ann Stroech
Washington County Landscapes
Amy Supak
Kruse Village

Kristie Wensel
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Barbara Wilganowski
Spherion Staffing

“Chamberversary” Celebration Visits

The Blue Blazers have begun celebrating our member’s “Chamberversaries” by surprising them with Celebration Visits and thanking them for their investment.



Korth & Linke Welding
45 years



Brenham Housing Authority
20 years



WCT Outdoors
15 years



Burton Heritage Society
15 years



Kmieciak Construction
5 years



Connect After 4

Washington County's Favorite Networking Event

Sponsored by

Margaret E. Blizzard
Senior Activity Center
1301 E. Tom Green St., Brenham

Thursday, February 16
4–6 p.m.

Unwind after work and expand your network!
Meet other Chamber members and generate new business contacts. Enjoy food and drinks, learn what's new in the community, and exchange business cards and brochures.

Free for Chamber members and employees!

Beverages sponsored by Mike Hopkins Distributing.



Chamber 101

Thursday, February 16

8:30 a.m.

Chamber Conference Room
314 S. Austin St.

You are invited to attend this informative session where you will learn how to take advantage of all the benefits of your membership. You will also be able to meet and network with other members.

Come promote your business while learning about how the Chamber works!

This is a FREE session, but there is limited seating. Please RSVP by contacting Jane Hinze at the Chamber office at (979) 836-3695 or jane@brenhamtexas.com.

We look forward to seeing you!

Get Noticed

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

If you are looking for a new opportunity to advertise, just call Jane Hinze at 836-3695.

Another great way to promote your organization is through targeted emails. The Chamber will forward your "e-message" to all members, as long as it meets certain criteria. For non-profits, it should not have a strong-sell for sponsorships or donations. The message should be newsworthy, typically about an upcoming event. For regular business, it should also be about upcoming special events, as long as there is no purchase required for the reader to experience the event.

E-messages are sent a maximum of once per quarter per member during each calendar year.