

Chairman of the Board
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
Dr. John Turner

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 Matheny
*Washington County AgriLife
Extension Service*

Lete Phillips
Lete Phillips Exercise Program

Darron Smith
Brenham National Bank

Chris Ann Stroech
Washington County Landscapes

Stephanie Wehring
Sterling Estate Solutions

Exploring Education



LWC Class at Brenham High School

The November session of Leadership Washington County focused on Education, and the class began the day at Brenham High School with a light breakfast made by the Culinary Art Students. The class heard from Brenham ISD Superintendent Clay Gillentine (LWC Class of 2023), who provided a fun-fact game about the district. The class then toured the Audio-Visual Studio and had a very engaging experience of filming a broadcast. They also created yummy desserts in Culinary Arts. The class then watched the Brenham MCJROTC exhibition drill. They are the 2021 National Drill Champions.

The group then visited the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, where Executive Director Shawn Koonce and Program

Director Angelica Gamboa (LWC Class of 2018) led a tour of the club facilities, detailed the volunteer opportunities available, and explained the benefits and programs available for local youth. The club also highlighted their 5-year master plan for updating facilities and programs.

The session culminated on the Blinn College campus. After lunch in the Blinn Student Center, the class heard from representatives from various schools in Washington County, such as: Grace Lutheran School, Legacy Christian School, Citadel Christian School, and Burton ISD. They also heard from Blinn College, Executive Dean Myron Dippel (LWC Class of 2023) who provided a tour of the Blinn Campus to showcase all Blinn has to offer.



Executive Director Shawn Koonce of the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County discusses details about the club to the class.



Blinn College, Executive Dean Myron Dippel (LWC Class of 2023) provides a tour to showcase Blinn's amenities.

Exploring Local History



Barry Brass and class inside Giddings Stone Mansion.



Museum Director Steph Jarvis and class inside the Texas Cotton Gin Museum



Barry Brass and class inside the Brenham Fire Museum



The class touring the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton

The October session of Leadership Washington County included a look at local history.

The day began at the Brenham Fire Museum, with a guided tour by Barry Brass (LWC Class of 2008). The museum was designed to house Samantha, a 1923 fire engine. There are only three left of its kind. There is also a Wall of Honor; a tribute to all the men and women who have served as members of the department since its inception in 1867.

The group then traveled to the Texas Cotton Gin Museum in Burton. Museum Director Steph Jarvis provided a detailed tour and history of cotton. The tour of the museum featured Cotton: From Wagon to Finished Bale which depicts the history of the cotton gin in America. The museum is home to iLady Bi, the largest internal combustion engine of its vintage which still operates. The engine is fired up once a month and is used to gin and bale cotton each year at the annual Cotton Gin Festival.

The class then traveled back to Brenham to enjoy a delicious lunch at the Cannery Kitchen. After lunch, the group joined Mr. Brass at The Barnhill Center at the Historic Simon Theater in Downtown Brenham. The film Step Into The Past

film was presented and reveals why our city was named after Dr. Richard Fox Brenham and features local actors depicting important trailblazers in the history of the city. Two more short films were viewed: German Heritage and Reese Lockett. Mr. Brass educated group on the 1925 Vaudeville Theatre, along with Toubin Park which features a State Archeological Landmark located beneath the Brenham Streets. It is a large system of historic cisterns built in the late 1800s to store rainwater for public firefighting.

The day ended with a tour and history of the Giddings Stone Mansion, also given by Mr. Brass. The mansion's construction was completed in 1870 when J.D. Giddings moved his family from the low-lying area to avoid mosquitoes after the yellow fever epidemic. He chose the location because it is the highest hill in Washington County.

Leadership Washington County is a program of the Washington County Chamber aimed at educating and motivating current and future leaders. Special thanks to the City of Brenham, The Barnhill Center, Texas Cotton Gin Museum, The Cannery Kitchen, and the Giddings-Stone Mansion for helping make this day possible.

Welcome New Members

JOHANNA FATHEREE – SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY
 Contact: Johanna Fatheree
 1108 S. Blue Bell Road (Physical Address)
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-251-6248
Real Estate
 Level of Membership: Basic

M & S CONSTRUCTION
 Contact: Gustavo Mendiola
 Waller, Texas 77484
 Phone: 979-221-7712
Contractors-Construction
 Level of Membership: Basic

RE/MAX BLUEBONNET PROPERTIES-KAY ROB-BINS
 Contact: Kay Robbins
 308 S. St. Charles St.
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-251-7500
www.remax-bluebonnet-properties.com
Real Estate
Real Estate-Land/Farm/Ranch
 Level of Membership: Business Builder

T-MOBILE BRENHAM
 Contact: Manny Villarreal
 910 HWY 290E
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-525-0859
www.tmobile.com
Cellular Phones/Accessories
 Level of Membership: Basic

TAQUERIA EL RORRO
 Contact: Rodolfo Rodriguez
 904 S. Market Street
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 979-421-8264
Restaurants
 Level of Membership: Basic

1F CASH ADVANCE
 Contact: Latoria Williams
 2468 E. Austin St.
 Giddings, Texas 78942
 Phone: 832-397-5906
www.1firstcashadvance.org/locations/2468-e-austin-st-giddings-tx-78942/
Financial Services
 Level of Membership: Basic

FREEDOM FITNESS, LLC
 Contact: Lacy Dorman
 3355 HWY 290 (Physical Address)
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 816-810-6803
www.freedomfitness.training
Personal Training
 Level of Membership: Basic

SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS
 Contact: Leslie Anderson
 2225 N. Loop W.
 Houston, Texas 77008
 Phone: 847-809-7338
www.samhoustonbsa.org
Boy Scouts of America
 Level of Membership: Non-Profit-Basic

SMALL BOOKS
 Contact: Becky Reynolds
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 281-414-9471
Accountants-Certified Public
 Level of Membership: Basic

TWO PEAS ORGANIZING CO.
 Contact: Stephanie Newman
 802 Peachtree Drive
 Brenham, Texas 77833
 Phone: 713-562-2627
www.twopeasorganizing.com
Personal Services
Professional Organizer-Home/Office
 Level of Membership: Business Builder



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY?

CHECK OUT ALL THE LATEST EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE AREA BY SCANNING OUR QR CODE



WWW.BRENHAMTEXAS.COM/EVENTS/CALENDAR

you're invited to

CONNECT after FOUR



WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPONSORED BY:



DAY: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7
 TIME: 4 - 6 PM
 WHERE: KRUSE VILLAGE
 1700 E. STONE STREET
 BRENHAM, TX 77833

BEVERAGES SPONSORED BY MIKE HOPKINS DISTRIBUTING





Jamie RankinPresident
 Jane Hinze.....Member Services Manager
 Dawn Konieczny.....Communications Coordinator
 Sarah Hansen.....Financial Coordinator
 Mandy Beausoleil.....Events & Programs Coordinator

Shop Small Business this Christmas!



Edward Jones



Rachel E Nordt
 Financial Advisor
 613 S Austin St
 Brenham, TX 77833
 979-836-1038

MKT-5894N-A > edwardjones.com

Washington County Chamber of Commerce

SAVE THE DATES

| | |
|-------|--|
| DEC 6 | AG BREAKFAST 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. |
| DEC 7 | CONNECT AFTER 4 Kruse Village 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. |
| FEB 1 | 2024 ANNUAL CHAMBER BANQUET Thursday Feb 1, 2024 5:30-8:30 p.m. |
| FEB | WAKE UP, WASHINGTON COUNTY! First Baptist Church School |
| APR | 4TH ANNUAL CHAMBER CLASSIC Golf Tournament |

HODDE REAL ESTATE CO.

WILLIAM "BOO" CHRISTENSEN
 BROKER ASSOCIATE

112 WEST MAIN STREET
 BRENHAM, TEXAS 77833
 boo@realtorboo.com

979-836-8532 OFFICE
 979-277-8426 CELL

WWW.HODDERE.COM

Five Star Financial Group

Ray L Weiss, CLU®, FIC
 Financial Advisor
ray.weiss@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/five-star-financial-group
Million Dollar Round Table Top of the Table

Office 979-836-0693 | 203 S. Jackson St.
 Brenham, TX 77833



thrivent

GROUP BUYING POWER

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

infintech
 SMARTER PAYMENT PROCESSING
 An i3 Verticals Company

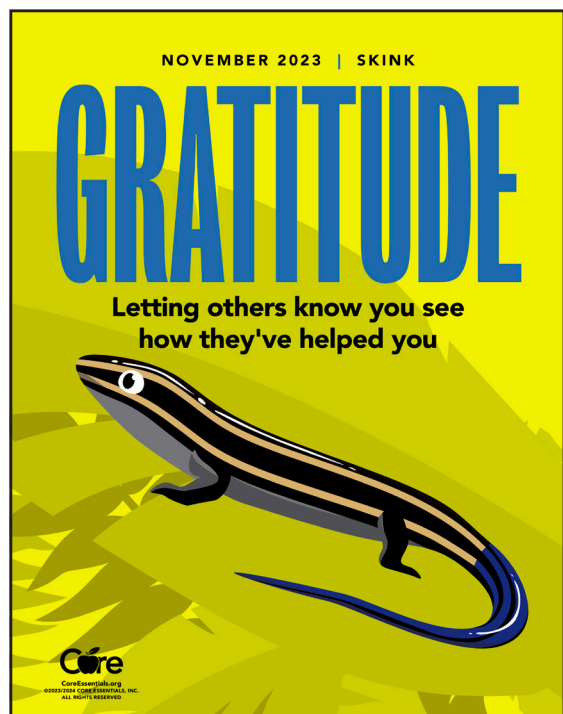
Contact Will Watson at (979) 345-2988 • will.watson@infintechllc.com
www.infintechllc.com



Twenty of our local Washington County non-profits participated in the 5th Annual Brazos Valley Gives.

The Chamber served as a donation hub on the day of giving, Oct. 17th and representatives from each non-profit were invited to come greet drive-by donors.

Brazos Valley Gives raised over \$1.4 Million dollars in this year's campaign.



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



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

Thank you to these 2023-2024 Partners for P.E.A.C.E. who have signed up so far to continue to make this program a success in Washington County. They help reinforce the Core Essential Values students are learning in local public schools at their businesses and through their employee interaction:

- Ant Street Inn • Bank of Brenham • Blue Bell Creameries • Boys & Girls Club of Washington County • Brand It Graphix
 - Brenham Abstract & Title Company • Brenham Kitchens • Brenham National Bank • Brenham Veterinary Hospital
 - CASA for Kids of South-Central Texas • Cedar Frame Real Estate • Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum
 - Citizens State Bank • City of Brenham • Creatively Yours, LLC Floyd's Lounge • Germania Insurance • Heart & Hand Bodywork
 - Kona Ice of Bellville/Brenham • Kruse Village • Lete Phillips Exercise Program • Must Be Heaven • Park Place Apartments
 - Phillips Painting Company • QuestSpecialty Corporation • Seidel Schroeder • Sonic
 - Thielemann Construction Co. & Stegent-Thielemann Plumbing • Two Peas Organizing Co • Unity Theatre • Washington County Fair
 - Washington County Landscapes • Whataburger
- Contact the Chamber at 979-836-3695 if your business or organization is interested in being a Partner for P.E.A.C.E. in the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

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



Thank you to our 2023 Presidential Level members...



Wake Up, Washington County



“Wake Up Washington County” Networking Breakfast was hosted this month by Brenham Memorial Chapel. The room was overflowing with some of Washington County’s finest. Business owners, representatives, and non-profits joined us to drink some coffee, network, and promote their business. Lots of amazing door prizes were donated by local businesses. Special thanks to Brenham Memorial Chapel for hosting this quarterly event. If your business would like to host a networking event in the future, please reach out to jane@brenhamtexas.com and she will get you on the books! The next networking breakfast will be February 6, 2024 at First Baptist Church School.



“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.



Texas Farm Credit
40 Years



Washington County Insurance Agency
10 Years



Coldwell Properties Unlimited & The Lindi/Cameron Team
35 Years



Stats – from the month of: October 2023

Walk-In’s
Chamber of Commerce 642
 Website – www.BrenhamTexas.com
 Unique Visitors **6,347**
 Total Pages **3,112**



Mattrezz Guys
5 Years

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

Brooke Huckert
ValuePoint Wealth Management

Rachel Nordt
Edward Jones

Christy Schlottmann
Christy Schlottmann Farmers Agency

Joyce Dickschat
Brenham National Bank

Tammy Jaster
City of Brenham-Blue Bell Aquatic Center

Pita Pangan
Associated Credit Union of Texas

Christy Shelton
Brenham State Supported Living Center

Brianna Edmunds
PLANNORTH Architectural Co.

Genna Lechler
Brand It Graphix

Linda Pipes
Retired-School Teacher

Chris Ann Stroech
Washington County Landscapes

Jennifer Fleetwood
Plinkers Ammo

Lauren Maass
Germania Insurance

Carl Prihoda
Citizens State Bank

Amy Supak
Kruse Village

Tiffany Holmes
Bluebonnet Abstract and Title

Kristie Marth
Brenham Iron Works

Teresa Rosales
Brenham Washington County Economic Development

Barbara Wilganowski
Chamber Friend

Tiffany Howard
Glamfetti

Sierra Miller
Brazos Valley Schools Credit

Jeffrey Sadler
BRIANNAS Fine Salad Dressings

Ribbon Cuttings



Baylor Scott & White - The Brenham Clinic Hasskarl-Giddings Imaging Center 20th Anniversary | 693 N. Market St., Brenham



**Maifest Exhibit – Brenham Heritage Museum
105 S. Market St., Brenham**



**Maifest Exhibit – Brenham Heritage Museum
105 S. Market St., Brenham**



**T-Mobile Brenham
910 Hwy 290 East, Brenham – Store Manager: Manny Villarreal**



**Taqueria El Rorro
904 S. Market St., Brenham - Owner: Rodolfo Rodriguez**



**The Hill Top at Brenham Luxury RV Resort
3170 N. Park Street, Brenham
Owners: Rick & Shanna Lohr and Matt & Wendy Adams**



**Trade Winds Physical Therapy
2505 Stone Hollow Dr., Suite 200, Brenham – Owner: John T. DeSimio**



**Watermark Veterinary Hospital
4511 Hwy 290 West, Brenham – Owner: Dr. Sarah Burbridge**



2023 Brazos Valley Gives Kick-Off – Washington County Non-Profits



**Fritz Pecan Farm
1406 S. Market St., Brenham – Owner: Bradley Fritz**



**RE/MAX Bluebonnet Properties - Kay Robbins
308 S. St. Charles St., Brenham – Owner: Kay Robbins**



**Two Peas Organizing Co.
713-562-2627 or twopeasorganizing@gmail.com – Owner: Stephanie Newman**

A note from the President

With all the talk about economic downturns, cutbacks, layoffs, spending freezes, etc...some businesses are slowing expenditures for all but the most urgent of necessities. We must be concerned about how our members perceive the value of Chamber membership. Will they continue to see it as a valuable necessity to promote their business and help grow the community, or will they consider it one of the first expenditures that can be cut?

The mission of a Chamber is to unite the citizens of a community to promote business, quality of life and community development. There is no other organization that does this in a community. Chambers are the glue that keeps the community together. But we need the involvement and support of members to make it happen.

When things get tight, the most successful Chambers are those that remind their community of what the Chamber is and how Chamber membership is an investment in themselves and in their community -- an investment for which there is definite tangible and intangible return, not the least of which is that of providing them support, referrals, and resources to run their business more profitably.

In the oil crisis of the 80's there was a small rural town, Cushing, OK, that was very dependent on oil to survive, so when it bottomed out, it looked like the town would just fold up and die, as had so many other similar communities. The Cushing Chamber leadership decided that was not going to happen to them! They fought back by working together.

The business people of Cushing turned to each other and collectively pooled their energies and resources into a strong, economically sound and proactive Chamber of Commerce through diligent marketing and planning projects.

And now Cushing is an All-American success story. They grew their Chamber to be strong in numbers, financially sound, and highly effective. Their local economy not only stabilized, but in time, it thrived. They have received national recognition and grants for their economic and community development projects. We've heard that several major employers eventually located there because of the "can do" spirit of their people.

When things are tight and businesses are greatly impacted, they need each other and their Chamber the most. It is our job to make more of our business community understand that the Chamber is ready to help them survive and prosper.

That's the Chamber way: that's the American way!

Wishing you and your business much success in 2024,

Jamie Rankin
President & CEO
Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Meet Mandy

Hello! I'd like to introduce myself to everyone! My name is Mandy Beausoleil and I am the new Events & Programs Director with the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. I will be on hand to help members promote your business' through

ribbon cuttings, member spotlights, social media, special events and more!

My background is graphic design, and I am the owner of Beausoleil Creative, specializing in logo and branding. I also taught Graphic Design, Animation and AV technology for 11 years at Bellville High School.

I'm a self-proclaimed computer nerd, always looking to learn new things and explore new design styles and techniques. I also love to travel, find places to hike, my dogs, ok and my kids too (and sneakers). While I'm out and about I like to capture images for design color inspiration or painting.

I look forward to meeting y'all at the many upcoming events we have. Please reach out to me anytime.

.....

Please join us in welcoming to the Chamber Team our new Events & Programs Coordinator. We are thrilled to have Mandy as part of the Dream Team!

Letters to Santa

The Chamber is once again, excited to provide the "Letters to Santa" Mailbox. Stop by the Chamber beginning November 27 - December 24 to get your letter to Santa on time!

Pictured: Knox Hansen

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Promote Your Business With Us

The chamber is currently working on the 2024 publication of our award winning magazine. If you would like to promote your business with us, please email Jane@brenhamtexas.com



BrenhamTexas.com

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING: BUSINESS, WORKFORCE, & QUALITY OF LIFE.

314 SOUTH AUSTIN STREET
979.836.3695