


CHAMBER NEWS



THE BASTROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce is to improve the economy of Bastrop and thereby, the quality of life for all its citizens through economic, community, and leadership development.



Member of the Month

Our May 2015 Member of the Month is...

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The Chamber of Commerce 'Member of the Month' is chosen randomly from among the past month's Chamber Membership Renewals. So keep those memberships up to date for your chance to be our 'Member of the Month'!



TASB Conference

The WE Believe in BISD initiative continues to receive statewide recognition. On April 28, the Education Committee of the Bastrop Chamber was asked to provide a panelist at the first ever TASB Business/Education Forum held in Austin. Speakers were Jolene Jaehne, Tracy Lovelace, Steve Murray, Ashley Mutschink and Becki Womble.

Businesses need a plan for handling disasters

President's Report May 2015
Dear Chamber & Community Members,
A recent survey by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce revealed that 74 percent of American small businesses do not have a disaster plan, 84 percent do not have adequate insurance, 71 percent lack a back-up generator and 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster because damage is too severe or the businesses were not prepared.



Becki Womble, President Bastrop Chamber of Commerce

As the weather gets warmer, there is a chance that a weather-related event could affect your business. Recently, flash flooding, tornadoes and hail storms have been on the top of local news reports and Bastrop is all too familiar with the potential for wildfires that damage local infrastructure. It is wise to be prepared before an emergency to ensure employees know what to do to keep themselves safe and to make sure you can still do business if something does occur.

Below are just some of the important things to consider when creating an emergency plan:

Review your insurance policy

It is important to understand your insurance policy, including the fine print. Know what types of natural disasters are covered and what your business must do should one occur. Determine if you need additional coverage by reviewing the monetary limitations associated with each natural disaster. Also, check your deductible and have a plan to meet it.

Update your inventory

When you submit an insurance claim, you will need to provide an itemized list of damages. Having an accurate inventory list prepared prior to a natural disaster will help

you assess the situation and determine what your needs are in order to get your business back on track and operating at capacity.

Inform your staff

Post an emergency plan of action in your place of business or include it with new employee handbooks. This will help keep your staff safe in a natural disaster.

Identify critical business systems

Figure out what functions are vital to your organization's survival should something happen. These include functions that would be most sensitive if you had to shut down temporarily, as well as functions that are necessary to maintain cash flow.

Develop emergency communication plan

Make sure you have a plan developed to communicate with your customers and vendors in the event of a natural disaster. The plan should include a list of all parties that have regular contact with your business and information on how to account for any outstanding customer orders or projects. Make sure the plan explains how to update your web and social media sites to communicate any pertinent information.

Manager expenses

If your business closes temporarily due to a nat-

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ural disaster, make sure you have a way to process expenses, such as accounts payable and payroll. Compile a list of all expenses along with account access information in order to continue to be able to operate in a normal capacity.

Chambers are often the place businesses turn to for help after disasters, and we want to ensure that you have the right resources at your disposal if the time comes. A wealth of information on this topic can be found on the U.S. Chamber website (<https://www.uschamber.com/>) along with the Better Business Bureau. Let us know how we can help you plan and know that the Bastrop Chamber of Commerce is taking these steps alongside you to ensure our sustainability in a disaster.

As always, if you have ideas to share about how we can serve you better, stop by the chamber and let us know! We are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday to serve you.

Together we can accomplish more!

Serving you,
BECKI WOMBLE,
PRESIDENT/CEO BASTROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Month of May photos



May Luncheon: Attendees at the May Bastrop Chamber of Commerce Luncheon listened to a program on fraud in business.



BEST Mixer: The B.E.S.T. Countywide Mixer was held May 14 at Baxters on Main. More than 100 chamber members came together to celebrate the partnerships among Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville.



Bastrop Career Fair: The Bastrop Career and Job Fair on May 9 was set up for adult job-seekers, with more than 300 people attending looking for a job or new career. At press time, at least 38 people had been hired from this event.



Student Day at Bastrop Career Fair: The first Bastrop Career and Job Fair was held on May 8 and 9 at the Bastrop Convention Center. Friday was geared toward 11th- and 12th-grade students, giving them the opportunity to find summer jobs and explore career options after high school.

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CHAMBER NEWS

Welcoming new business



J. Irwin Co. has relocated its operations to Bastrop and is located at 111 N. Hasler Blvd. #200. The company's Grand Opening was held on April 22 with Chamber Staff and Ambassadors in attendance. Another sign of a growing economy in Bastrop!



Pecan Park Development is the newest planned housing development to come to Bastrop. A ground breaking was held on April 20 with the Chamber, Bastrop EDC and City of Bastrop. Eventually there will be 550 lots with two different homebuilders for the growing housing needs of our community.



CentX Trailer & Repairs and CentX Custom Truck had their Grand Opening on May 1 with the Chamber Staff and Ambassadors. They are located at 104 Enchanted Cove in Cedar Creek. Contact them for all your truck and trailer needs.



Red Rock Steakhouse celebrated its Grand Opening with a joint ribbon-cutting between the Bastrop and Lockhart Chambers on May 15th. It was a unique opportunity for two chambers from two cities and two counties to come together and meet in Red Rock to celebrate the opening of the steakhouse there.

New members and renewing members

Welcome new members

The Board of Directors approved the following new members at its monthly meeting. We appreciate the investment these new members have made in the chamber and we ask that you give them your support.

- ABR Enterprises – Imran Rehman, Elgin, (512) 229-6147
- Bastrop Painting – Kevin Walton, PO Box 551, Cedar Creek, (512) 971-0704
- High Cotton – Pam Ferguson, 922 Main St., Bastrop, (512) 308-5012, <http://highcottontx.com>
- 100 Club of Central Texas – Etta Moore, 3200 Steck Ave. Ste 240, Austin, (512) 345-3200, <http://www.100clubcentex.com>
- Direct Auto and Life Insurance – Mande Yarbro, 104 Hasler Blvd, Bastrop, (832) 712-5658, <http://www.directgeneral.com>
- Red Rock Steakhouse & Saloon – Nicole Henderson, 101 S Lentz St.,

Red Rock, (512) 321-9000, <http://www.RedRock-Steakhouse.com>

Renewing members

Thanks to the following renewing members for continuing your investment in the Chamber. We appreciate your confidence in our ability to promote Bastrop and your business.

- IBC Bank
- Sammy Lerma III, M.D.
- Roscoe State Bank
- First Rate Construction
- Stanberry & Associates Realtors
- McDade Watermelon Festival Association
- Bridges Real Estate Group
- Coldwell Banker Green-Mills & Assoc.
- All Hardwood Cabinets, LLC
- Bastrop Family Dentistry
- Bastrop Goldsmith Silversmith
- Healing River Alliance
- Install It All, LLC

- Ascension Catholic Church
- Rundell Business Park
- Steven Yount, D.O.
- Covert Chevrolet-Buick-GMC
- Edible Austin

- FIRECAP, Inc.
- Wanda Schopp
- Pine Point Apartments
- Jo Castillo
- Bastrop County WCID #2
- Lone Star Cleaners

- Osborn Plumbing, Inc.
- Calvary Episcopal Church
- Fayette Medical Supply, Inc.
- Amazing Floors
- David F. Bragg, P.C.

- K's Bridal Boutique
- Katy House Bed & Breakfast
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- G&C Printing
- Gracie's (The Grace Miller)



- Prosperity Bank
- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- First National Bank
- Bastrop State Park

- Centex Image Designs
- Keller Williams Realty
- RE/MAX Bastrop Area - Janis Penick
- Austin Title
- Bastrop County Board of Realtors
- Bastrop Creative Agency
- EMS Party Rentals



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