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 Camp For All

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 Best Western Inn—Brenham

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 Brenham Clinic

**TIFFANY WINKLES**  
 Blue Bell Creameries

## Nominations Being Accepted for Man and Woman of the Year-Lifetime Achievement Award

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to start thinking about who deserves the honor of being selected for the 2013 Man and Woman of the Year - Lifetime Achievement Awards.

This is a long-standing tradition of the Washington County Chamber, recognizing the achievements of two extra-special individuals each year. The tradition includes the announcement of the winners at the Annual Banquet of the Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Foundation. The 2012 recipients were Sallie Blackie-Sengel and Jim Ellison.

The next annual Banquet will be held in late January. Prior to the banquet, the immediate Past Chairman of the Chamber Board will select a committee (comprised of past award recipients) to review all nominations and vote on the candidates for the current year.

If you know someone you would like to nominate for this honor, please pick up a nomination form from the Chamber office. It includes judging criteria. You may also call to have a form faxed or emailed to you. Completed nomination forms are due back by noon on Monday, January 6, 2014.

Winners are only selected from nominations received. *Please note that prior nominations* (submissions from prior years) may be considered if resubmitted by the January 6 deadline.



### Annual Banquet Date Announced

Save this date: the 2014 Annual Banquet of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce and Brenham Economic Development Foundation will be held on Thursday, January 30. The event will be hosted at the Firemen's Training Center on U.S. 290.

Details about the speaker, sponsors and program will be unveiled later this month. Invitations will be mailed to all Chamber members.

Tickets will go on sale on January 2, 2014. Reservations for corporate tables may be called in to the Chamber office at 836-3695.

## Chamber says Farewell to Retiring Directors

Following innumerable hours of volunteering at events and attending board meetings over the past three years, several outstanding board members will retire this month, and the Chamber wishes them a fond farewell. These retiring directors have been closely involved with the Chamber of Commerce since January 2011, and they are greatly responsible for the strides the organization has taken in the past few years.

The outgoing directors include: **Jim Baker** — Brenham Fitness Center, **Barry**

**Brass** — Kwik Kopy Business Center, **Kerri Hamilton** — First Baptist Church School, **Debbie Havers** — RR Donnelley and **Joel Romo** — American Heart Association.

These wonderful volunteers have been valuable members of committees and projects over the past three years. They will be greatly missed from the board's monthly meetings, but we know they will always remain strong members of the Chamber and our local business community.

Please join us in thanking them for their

years of service to the Chamber membership the next time you see them!

Congratulations to these seven newly elected board members who will be beginning their three-year term next month: Sharon Brass — Kwik Kopy Business Center, Cathy Cole — Heritage Texas Country Properties, Suzy Hankins — Ant Street Inn, Chad Gerke — Gerke Law Firm, Michael Pittman — Scott & White Hospital-Brenham, Nathan Wade — Lazy "D" Ranches and Randy Weidemann — Van Dyke Rankin Insurance.

# The Real Value of Joining the Chamber

*‘Consumers are 63% more likely to buy from Chamber members’*

A recent national study reveals that membership in a local Chamber of Commerce can significantly boost a business’ image among consumers, as well as among other businesses.

In a scientific survey of two thousand U.S. adults, The Shapiro Group, an Atlanta-based strategic consulting firm, found positive perceptions of Chamber members in a number of areas, including overall favorability, consumer awareness

and reputation, and likelihood of future patronage.

The study also showed that when respondents were told that a particular small business was a member of its local Chamber, they were 44 percent more likely to rate it favorably than study respondents who were not told of the Chamber affiliation.

Respondents were also 63 percent more likely to want to purchase goods or services

from a small business that is a Chamber member.

Alex Trouteaud, Ph.D., senior strategist for The Shapiro Group, said “There clearly is a feeling by respondents that Chamber membership is synonymous with quality and desirability.”

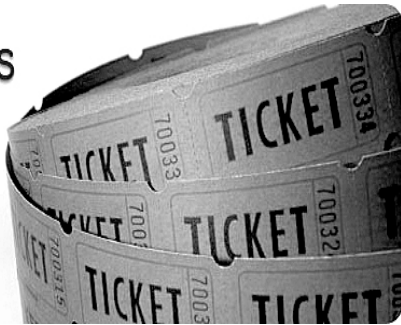
The positive impact of perceived Chamber membership is felt by big businesses too. For example, when consumers believed that a restaurant chain was a member of the

local Chamber of Commerce, they were 40 percent more likely to eat at the franchise in the future.

Jim Blasingame, small business expert and president of Small Business Network, said, “Join your local Chamber, be an active participant in your Chamber’s programs and be sure to let your customers and prospects know you’re a proud Chamber supporter when they come in your business and when they see your marketing material.”

## Don’t have enough room to host a ‘Business After Hours’ event? *Donate a Door Prize Item!*

Door Prizes



For some businesses, space will just not allow you to host a Business After Hours event. By donating an item to be given away as a door prize, your business can still gain valuable exposure to other Chamber members during

these popular events. Door prizes are always a highlight of the monthly mixers.

You are welcome to bring your item with you to the event, or drop it off in advance at the Chamber office during

normal business hours.

At the event, you will receive a special “Prize Donor” name badge to wear. It’s bound to be a great conversation starter that will help your networking!

### Washington County Chamber of Commerce

*Page Michel, President & CEO*

*Jane Hinze, Member Services Mgr.*

*Shae Pauler, Business Programs Mgr.*

*Lu Hollander, CVB Adv. & PR Mgr.*

*Jenny Mills, Visitor Center Mgr.*

*Judy Hyman, Visitor Center & Group Contact Mgr.*

*Debby Welch, Visitor Center Assistant*

*Cheryl Sevin, Bookkeeper*

*Support Staff: Marge Runge,*

*Jeanine Presswood and Darlene Denman.*

**314 S. Austin Street, Brenham**

**[www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com)**

### Ribbon Cutting



### Brenham State Supported Living Center — Lillian A Wilder Memorial Chapel Expansion

Kristie Wensel, Community Relations Director  
4001 Texas 36 South, Brenham

This holiday season, give a gift to your whole community.

### Buy Local



Scan for "Holiday Hot Deals!"



Find great LOCAL businesses at [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)

★ Washington County Chamber of Commerce ★



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Brenham, TX 77833

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Email: [booc@remax.net](mailto:booc@remax.net)

Web: [www.RealtorBoo.com](http://www.RealtorBoo.com)



Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

### GROUP BUYING POWER

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



SMARTER PAYMENT PROCESSING

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

[www.infintechllc.com](http://www.infintechllc.com)

# Maximize Your Online Presence



Statistics indicate that people searching the internet are experienced, educated consumers who use the web to help make purchase decisions. An estimated 82 percent of American adults use the internet and 78 percent of those users are looking for information about a product/service while online (according to PEW Research 2012).

People visiting the Chamber website are making decisions about where to do business specifically in this community. Are you reaching this targeted market?

Many members realize the benefit of membership and the value of targeting the market already driven to the Chamber's online Business Directory. It is about utilizing the web and the Chamber's credibility to promote your business.

We have invited Suzanne Johnson, Internet Marketing Consultant from ChamberMaster (our

software & marketing partner), to return to Brenham this month to help members promote their local businesses to the targeted, potential consumers using the Chamber's website.

We will hold a few group training sessions at the Chamber to demonstrate the online tools available to you and present options to further promote yourself online. Opportunities include the ability to display a logo in the online Business Directory, how to increase visibility of your own website link, and enhancements that give a more professional first impression. How to gain additional, exclusive exposure to the Chamber website traffic is something that will also be discussed.

At the group sessions, a free Basic Listing tutorial will be given. Did you know that your FREE listing on the Chamber's online Business Directory includes the following:

- A 200-character business description
- Your hours of operation
- Driving directions
- Personalized keywords
- Free online job postings
- Free online "Hot Deal" promotions
- The ability to update the Chamber's database if your information changes without having to call or email the Chamber office

You should check to see how your listing is showing up right now. The basic free listing requires your attention to update your business description, key word/search terms, hours of operation, etc. to maximize your presence and searchability.

Be watching your email in-box for more details on how to schedule a one-on-one consultation with Suzanne Johnson from Chambermaster. If you would like to get on the list to be contacted personally, reply to one of the Chambermaster emails or you can always contact the Chamber at [info@brenhamtexas.com](mailto:info@brenhamtexas.com).

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## The Washington County Chamber is a Proud Member of ...

- TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS
- TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES
- TEXAS ASSOC. OF CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAUS
- U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## Renewing Chamber Members

November 1-30

Thanks to the following members for continuing your investment in the Chamber. You are long-term "partners" in our mission to promote and preserve this great community, and we appreciate your confidence in the Chamber's ability to promote your business.

- B&R Industries, Inc — 8 years
- Tammy Brauner - District Clerk — 1 year
- Brazos Bed & Breakfast — 8 years
- Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union — 17 years
- Brenham ISD-CTE Director Ron Eilers — 2 years
- Brenham Trophies & Awards — 26 years
- Christ Lutheran Church & Day School — 8 years
- Country Butler — 1 year
- Country Place Cottage — 13 years
- DDM Metal Buildings — 3 years
- DMS Storage — 3 years
- Eberly Ranch — 9 years
- Emerson Process Management/PIC**  
- *Presidential Member* — 21 years
- Express Home Furnishings — 4 years
- Faubion Advertising & Design — 3 years
- First United Methodist Church — 13 years
- Golden Mirror Salon Suites — 8 years
- Hair Warehouse — 3 years
- Heritage Place — 9 years

- Independence Coffee Co. — 9 years
- Integrity Works — 5 years
- International Discount Mattress Company — 6 years
- Kay's Cuisine For The Soul — 3 years
- Leftovers Antiques Home Mercantile — 7 years
- Mariachi's Mexican Restaurant — 14 years
- MIC Group**  
- *Presidential Member* — 35 years
- National Equipment Corporation — 21 years
- Padgett Hearing Center — 4 years
- RWG Construction Management — 14 years
- Scott & White Health Plan — 9 years
- Texas Seafood & Steakhouse — 4 years
- Town & Country Realty & Mortgage — 8 years
- Tres Chic — 13 years
- Union Hill Builders — 7 years
- Washington County Appraisal District — 29 years
- Washington County Insurance Agency — 1 year
- Woodforest National Bank — 6 years
- Yumm! Sweets & Eats — 2 years

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



Thank you to our Presidential Level members ...



# Welcome New Members

## 290 CHIC RUSTIQUE

Owner: Brenda Simon  
6507 U.S. 290 East (Bluebonnet Hills entrance)  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-549-8527  
bsimon.tx@gmail.com  
*Home & Garden Accessories/Gifts*

## ACA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Owner: Amanda Abshier, MA, NCC, LAC  
8443 Woodlands Road (Physical Address)  
2305 S. Day St. PMB 244 (Mailing Address)  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-451-2512  
Amanda@acabehavioralhealth.com  
www.ACABehavioralHealth.com  
*Counseling Services*

## AMCOM SOLUTIONS

Owner: Scott H. Fairbairn  
901 S. Mopac Bldg II, #505  
Austin, Texas 78746  
Phone: 512-342-2226 ext 101  
sfairbairn@amcomsolutions.com  
www.amcomsolutions.com  
*Telecommunication Sales & Service  
Internet Provider*

## AUSTIN COUNTY EYE ASSOCIATES

Owner: Dr. Paul Beckwith, OD  
1617 Meyer Street  
Sealy, Texas 77474  
Phone: 979-627-7400  
admin@austincountyeye.com  
www.austincountyeye.com  
*Eye Care*

## CAT SPRING CANDLES

Owners: Debbie Mackey & Sharon Johnston  
P O Box 340 (Mailing Address)  
Brenham, Texas 77834  
Phone: 979-277-5844  
catspringcandles@gmail.com  
www.catspringcandles.com  
*Home & Garden Accessories/Gifts*

## COGNO ONLINE TRAINING

Director of Development: Kathy Amato  
1261 Lincoln Ave, 211  
San Jose, California 95125  
Phone: 888-585-9978  
*Training-Educational & Employee*

## FOCUSING FAMILIES

Executive Director: Kim Mathis  
910 Ninth Street (Physical Address)  
P O Box 1053 (Mailing Address)  
Hempstead, Texas 77445  
Phone: 979-826-3290  
focusing-families@yahoo.com  
www.focusing-families.org  
*Non Profit Clubs & Organizations*

## GUEST HOUSE AT WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS

Owners: Dean & Nancy Heard  
10050 FM 1370  
Washington, Texas 77880  
Phone: 832-274-0710  
heardnancy@att.net  
www.guesthouseatwashington.com  
*Bed & Breakfast*

## HERE I AM ORPHAN MINISTRIES

Manager: Debbie Fathauer  
P O Box 831  
Brenham, Texas 77834  
Phone: 979-421-6471  
debbie@orphanministries.com  
www.orphanministries.com  
*Non Profit Clubs & Organizations*

## HODDE REAL ESTATE COMPANY – JIM RIPPLE

Agent – Jim Ripple  
112 West Main Street (Physical Address)  
Downroq Brenham  
Phone: 979-451-2882  
Jim.ripple@theripple-effect.com  
www.theripple-effect.com  
*Real Estate*

## ROCKIN' STAR RANCH

Owners: Wallace & Marie Dillard  
8002 Fuelberg Pease Lane (Physical Addr)  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 1-800-778-3196  
Elaine@rockinstarbrenham.com  
www.rockinstarbrenham.com  
*Events/Reception Facilities*

## SPJST-BLUEBONNET LODGE #169

President: Don Strickland  
2200 Gun & Rod Road (Mailing Address)  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
Phone: 979-820-8879  
deon.j.strickland@gmail.com  
www.spjst.org  
*Non Profit Clubs & Organizations*

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

### Continuing Education for Preservation Storage

Owner Elen Moncrieff and manager Cindy Lamensky attended the 2013 annual Texas Self Storage Association conference and trade show in The Woodlands in October 2013.

Continuing education for all operatives is essential for keeping Preservation Storage's performance at optimum levels. Offering the best service and maintaining the best storage facility in the Washington and Austin County area has been our goal since opening this business in 2001.

Continued education for staff combined with a personal pride in our business helps us provide the diligent oversight necessary to insure that we provide what we promise.

Contact owner Elen Moncrieff at 830-8516 or elenmoncrieff@gmail.com.

*Be the next member in the "Spotlight!" Send submissions to info@brenhamtexas.com. Your "Spotlight" can be about a recent award, event, business expansion or new employee, or simply a couple paragraphs to increase community awareness about your products/services. (100-150 words maximum)*

## Did You Know?

Members, promote  
your events and business  
for free in the  
"Hot Deals" section  
and "Calendar"  
on the Chamber website!

# www.brenhamtexas.com



## BLUE BLAZER SPOTLIGHT Randy Weidemann

Randy is a Producer for Van Dyke Rankin Insurance. Born in Bryan, Randy was raised in Brenham and attended Brenham schools from K-12, graduating in 1991. He received an Associates in Arts degree from Blinn College in 1993, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from Sam Houston State University in 1996. He started his career in Insurance in 1997 with Van Dyke Rankin where he currently serves on the Board of Directors. He has attained

LUTCF and CIC designations, which are highly respected among Insurance Professionals in the Industry.

He and his wife, Jolie, have two sons: Dane, 5, and Cade, 1. He is a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and belongs to several other organizations, some related to Insurance and others part of the local community, including the Washington County Blue Blazers and starting next month, the Chamber Board of Directors.

## Blue Blazers

- |                                                          |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JOLENE CURTIS<br><i>Texas AgFinance</i>                  | TAMMY JASTER<br><i>City of Brenham-<br/>Blue Bell Aquatic Center</i> |
| TIFFANY COMPTON-FALK<br><i>Hodde Real Estate Company</i> | FLORENCE JULIAN<br><i>Blue Bell Creameries</i>                       |
| JOYCE DICKSCHAT<br><i>Brenham National Bank</i>          | BRICE MILLIORN<br><i>Edward Jones Investments</i>                    |
| JOHANNA FATHEREE<br><i>RE/MAX Advantage</i>              | LINDA PIPES<br><i>Individual Member</i>                              |
| WENDY FRAZIER<br><i>BBVA Compass</i>                     | CHRISTY SCHLOTTMANN<br><i>Express Employment<br/>Professionals</i>   |
| PAM GREEN<br><i>RE/MAX Advantage</i>                     | RANDY WEIDEMANN<br><i>Van Dyke Rankin &amp; Company</i>              |
| EDDIE HARRISON<br><i>Individual Member</i>               | BARBARA WILGANOWSKI<br><i>Spherion Staffing</i>                      |
| JARED HARTMAN<br><i>Seidel, Schroeder &amp; Company</i>  |                                                                      |



# Leadership and Law Enforcement

The November session of the Leadership Washington County program introduced the group to local law enforcement. Everyone met at the Brenham police station where Corporal Chris Jackson (Leadership Class of 2011) introduced them to a full day of activities.

Chief of Police Rex Phelps gave a presentation on leadership and his system of “E to the Fourth Power,” which exemplifies Empathy, Edification, Enthusiasm and Excellence in the workplace. The class also heard from Assistant District Attorney Eric Berg and County Attorney Renee Mueller.

The action-filled day was comprised of more than just lectures. After a tour of the County Jail and lunch, the class participated in breakout sessions, including a “Shoot/Don’t Shoot” scenario, staged “traffic stops” with police officers and Citizens on Patrol members, and an informative demonstration by the S.W.A.T./H.N.T./Narcotics officers.

In December the leadership class will focus on Health Care. Leadership Washington County is a program of the Brenham/Washington County Chamber of Commerce designed to train and motivate current and future leaders of our community. A new class will form next July and begin in August 2014.



Kevin Hemann, Jessica Holloway, James Baker and Hannah Roemer proudly show off their insulated cups.



Cpl. Chris Jackson introduces Chief of Police Rex Phelps.



Inv. Ocanas and Sgt. Weisepape tell the Leadership class what it is like to be part of the SWAT/HNT/Narcotics team.



James Pontiff, Emily Bolenbarr and Sara Byars listening to Lt. Marlow Lowery while touring the Washington County jail.



Hannah Roemer gets a laugh out of Patsy Bartkowiak (left) and Det. Ashorn (right) before heading into the “Shoot/Don’t Shoot” scenario.

# Tourism News



## Travel Information Gurus

Did you know that Texas operates 11 Travel Information Centers at key locations where travelers enter the state? Here are some interesting statistics indicating just how much visitor traffic these facilities handle and how much they support our tourism efforts.

In FY 2013 to date, Texas Travel Information Centers have:

Assisted 1,984,622 visitors with travel recommendations, highway conditions, trip planning, routing and safety information.

Generated an estimated \$82.9 million in additional visitor spending and economic impact for Texas tourism.

In October 2013 alone, Texas Travel Information Centers: Assisted 173,148 visitors state-wide.

Hosted, presented, or participated in 12 public events and sent 21 Travel Information Center staff members on FAM/site visits for destination training all over Texas.

Received a customer satisfaction rating of 4.98 out of 5 from all visitors surveyed.

## Survey reveals travel intentions of affluent Americans

Affluent travelers intend to spend more money on travel, according to a recent survey by MMGY Global, an integrated travel marketing agency, and the Harrison Group. Almost 30 percent plan to take more trips, versus just 18 percent for the general population of leisure travelers.

The pool of affluent travelers is also increasing, since 6 percent of leisure travelers now have an annual household income of \$250,000 or more, compared to 4 percent in 2010. Women make up a majority of these well-off travelers at 54 percent, up from 42 percent in 2010. These travelers also plan to spend 8.4 percent more on vacations in the upcoming year than in 2010.

"This data coincides with a growing sense of optimism on the part of affluent consumers," explains Steve Cohen, vice president of Insights at MMGY Global. "They reflect their

expectation that the economy will continue to improve, and their willingness to spend more on discretionary items and experiences like leisure travel as a result."

Additional results from the "2013 Portrait of American Travelers" includes: About 82 percent of affluent travelers are married, compared to 77 percent in 2010. Affluent travelers are older, with an average age of 49 in 2013, up from 43 in 2010. Just 1 percent of this group was retired in 2010, compared with 14 percent today. Seven in 10 (69 percent) of affluent travelers chose an international destination during the past 12 months. Affluent travelers reported spending 40 minutes per day with social media platforms, such as Facebook (69 percent). And the Internet is used to research travel information by 91 percent of affluent travelers.

*Reprinted with permission from Group Travel Leader newsletter, Nov. 2013*

## Special Presentations at Washington-on-the-Brazos

**Barrington's Candlelight Christmas:** Sip a cup of hot cider, cozy up to the fire and begin your holiday season at Washington-On-The-Brazos State Historical Site on Saturday, December 14 from 10am to 8pm. The Star of the Republic Museum will host period crafts in the Discovery Room from 11am to 3pm. Music and merriment will surround you in the visitors center from 2-6pm as merchandise made by Texas artisans is featured in the Washington Emporium gift shop and local Texas fare is available for sampling and tasting. Take advantage of a photo opportunity with Santa by the Christmas tree. At 5pm, activities will begin to shift from the visitors center to Barrington Living History Farm for the evening event, Candlelight Christmas, which will be held from 5-8pm.

Space is limited so reservations are strongly recommended. In addition to the standard entry fee, there is an activity fee of \$2 per person, for those 3 years and up, for the evening program. For additional details, call 936-878-2214 ext. 246 and ask for Jon or Jessica.

**Sod and Thatch-Texas Prairie Home Construction:** When arriving out on the frontier, early settlers did not always have access to necessary or common building materials and had to improvise. Without bricks and mortar, sometimes without wood, the people of early Texas constructed shelters and homes out of the materials at hand. On December 15, look at the good and the bad of early frontier construction. Presentations will be given at 11am, 1pm and 3pm and will last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Tickets for adults are \$5, student are \$3 and Free to Texas State Park annual pass holders and children 6 and under. For additional details, please call 936-878-2214 ext. 228 and ask for Adam.

**Bundled Against the Cold - Keeping Warm in the Republic:** On Saturday, December 21, take a look at how our forefathers kept warm during the bone chilling Blue Northerners that blew through Texas. Presentations will be given at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Tickets for adults are \$5, students \$3 and Free to Texas State Park annual pass holders and children 6 and under. For additional details, call 936-878-2214 ext. 224 and ask for Scott.

**The Last President of the Republic of Texas is No More:** Explore the mystery as to why the last President of the Republic of Texas decided to end his life as he did. This presentation will be held on January 4 and 5 at Barrington Living History Farm. Tickets for adults are \$5, students (age 7 through college) \$3 and Free to children 6 and under and Texas State Park annual pass holders. Please dress appropriately for the season and be prepared for the weather as the event will take place in an 1850's period setting with some portions outdoors. Leashed pets allowed in park, but NOT ALLOWED onto farm site. Accessible for the mobility impaired. For additional details, call 936-878-2214 ext. 246, and ask for Pam or visit [www.birthplaceoftexas.com](http://www.birthplaceoftexas.com).



## Brenham's Christmas Stroll and Lighted Parade

Enjoy live entertainment and holiday shopping as you stroll along the beautifully lighted downtown streets of Brenham on Friday, December 6 from 5-9pm. The parade begins at 6pm. Parking and admission is free. For more information, contact the City of Brenham at 979-337-7250 or visit [www.CityOfBrenham.org](http://www.CityOfBrenham.org).

## Chappell Hill Christmas Fayre

Make plans to go Downtown Chappell Hill on December 7 from noon to 7pm. There will be games for kids, the Teddy Bear Parade, Santa's arrival, live reindeer petting and photos, choo choo train rides, wine tasting, live music, downtown lights, and firing of the cannon. Food and refreshments available at local businesses and vendors. For more information, call 979-836-6033 or visit [www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com).

## Chappell Hill Homes Tour

Visit the Myrtle Providence House, T&L Ranch, Summerhill and Chappell Hill United Methodist Church which will all be decorated for the Christmas Season on Saturday, December 14, from 10am to 5pm and Sunday, December 15, from noon to 5pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 day of event. For more information, call 979-836-2554 or 979-836-6033.

## Christmas at Burton Depot and Country Homes Tour

The historic Burton Depot located at 507 N. Railroad Street will celebrate the Christmas season on Sunday, December 8, from 11am to 5pm. Burton Heritage Society will have Railroad Stew, Conductor Chili and Passenger Potato Soup for sale starting at 11am for \$8 per person. Shop with local artisans and craftspeople. Help support the Lake Loons annual Christmas Toy Run by bringing an unwrapped children's gift to drop off at the depot. For more information, call 979-353-0050 or visit [www.burtonheritagesociety.org](http://www.burtonheritagesociety.org).

## Winedale's 19th Century Folk-life Christmas

Celebrate on Saturday, December 14, from noon to 4pm at Winedale Historical Complex with folk-life demonstrations, dancers, singers, musical bands and stage coach rides. There will be historic homes decorated and free tours, children's crafts, German Santa, kid-friendly farm animals, storytellers, antique carriages, food and more. The complex is located at 3738 FM 2714 in Round Top and admission is free. For more information, visit [www.cah.utexas.edu](http://www.cah.utexas.edu).

## Working for YOU!

*As a Chamber member, your promotional information is seen by thousands of people every month.*

### WALK-INS

Visitor Center  
Nov. 2013 — 470

HQ Building  
Nov. 2013 — 553

### WEBSITE

[www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors  
Nov. 2013 — 5,781

Total Pages  
Nov. 2013 — 13,482

### WEBSITE

[www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com](http://www.VisitBrenhamTexas.com)

Unique Visitors  
Nov. 2013 — 8,698

Total Pages  
Nov. 2013 — 17,456

# What's Happening in December

*Dec 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28*  
**Live Music at The Kenney Store**  
 Go early for dinner and stay late for live music and dancing. Most nights are free, but occasional cover charge. See website for details, 811 Loop 497 South (www.TheKenneyStore.com).

*Dec 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22*  
**Unity Theatre presents "Nuncrackers: The Nonsense Christmas Musical"**  
 This musical is filled with Nonsense humor; an uproariously funny spoof of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Ballet; zany renditions of classic Christmas carols; a send-up of The Village People; and a Catholic home shopping network (www.unitybrenham.org).

*Dec 5, 12, 19, 26*  
**Farmer's Cafe**  
 Enjoy coffee, pastries and good company! Held every Thursday, 7-9 am, Brenham Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

*Dec 5-8*  
**Special Santa Photography Event**  
 A great family tradition! Santa Portraits by Brenham Portrait Gallery, held at Hermann Furniture from 9am-5pm Dec. 5-7 and from 1-3pm on Dec. 8.

*Dec 6*  
**Downtown Brenham Christmas Stroll & Lighted Parade**  
 Enjoy live entertainment and holiday shopping as you stroll along the beautifully lighted downtown streets of Brenham. The lighted parade is sure to put everyone in the holiday spirit. Free admission and parking. The stroll will last from 5pm-9pm, with the parade beginning at 6pm (www.CityOfBrenham.org).

**50 Miles to Harvest at the Citadel**  
 A unique culinary experience, Chef Brian & Amanda Light will prepare a home-style dinner at the historic Citadel featuring sustainably raised meats and vegetables from local family farms and ranches provided by Home Sweet Farm Market (<http://homesweetfarm.com/Citadel.htm>).

*Dec 6, 13, 20, 27*  
**Live Music at Nathan's BBQ**  
 Entertainment varies. Check website or Facebook page for details. Cajun Food Specials every Friday. Music from 6-9pm, 1307 Prairie Lea, Brenham (www.nathanbbq.com, 979-251-9900).

*Dec 6-7*  
**Jingle Bell Market 2013**  
 A holiday shopping adventure inside the Ant Street Inn Ballroom. Friday, Dec. 6 from 10am-9pm and Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10am-5pm.

**Pet Parade, Scavenger Hunt & Ice Skating**  
 Enjoy great shopping and mingling throughout Downtown Brenham. We're bringing back the scavenger hunt for great prizes, and we're adding ice skating! Start the day enjoying a fun Pet Parade at 10am.

Ice skating will be 4-10 on Friday and 10-4 on Saturday. Scavenger Hunt will be Saturday.

*Dec 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28*  
**Live Music at The Stone Cellar**  
 Live bands, pizza and drinks every weekend! Acts include Black Cat Choir, Tubie & The Touchtones, Tres Dux, Jack the Sax, Aaron Gross, Eugene Eugene, and more! Fri and Sat 7-11pm and Sunday from 5-8pm, 204 E. Mill Street, Bybee Square in Round Top (www.stonecellarwines.com).

*Dec 7*  
**Chappell Hill Christmas Fayre**  
 From Noon-7pm on Main Street in Chappell Hill.

**Texas Master Chorale**  
 Returning for an encore engagement, the Texas Master Chorale, a mixed choral ensemble of 100 auditioned singers, will present a Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 3 pm in the Festival Concert Hall. The group will perform sacred and secular holiday favorites to ring in the holiday season (www.festivalhill.org).

*Dec 8*  
**Christmas at the Depot & Country Homes Tour**  
 At the historic Burton depot, starting at 11am, eat and shop with local artisans. Enjoy the Homes Tour from 1-5pm, tickets available at Depot starting at 11am, \$10 each (for tickets call 979-289-2485). Enjoy Christmas in the Country (979-353-0050, www.burtonheritagesociety.org).

*Dec 12*  
**Square Dancing**  
 Be introduced to the world of Modern Western Square Dancing. After the introduction class, you can join other sessions to earn your graduate certificate in Square Dancing (www.brenhamcommunityed.com).

*Dec 13*  
**Brenham Children's Chorus Christmas Concert**  
 Featuring sacred and popular holiday music at 7pm in the Blinn College O'Donnell Center, adult tickets in advance \$8 and Children 12 and under \$5. Adult tickets at the door \$10 (979-277-3897, www.brenhamchildrenschorus.org).

**Live Music at Buffalo Creek with Jack's Sax**  
 Performing at Buffalo Creek on December 13 at 7pm. 10827 Hwy. 36 S., Bellville (info@BuffaloCreekBellville.com).

*Dec 14-15*  
**Chappell Hill Holiday Home Tour**  
 Tour historic homes, churches and sites and enjoy lunch in the Rock Store all in Chappell Hill, 9:30am- 5:30pm, tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door (www.ChappellHillHistoricalSociety.com).

*Dec 14*  
**Christmas Gala**  
 Chappell Hill Historical Society's Christmas Gala. Visit [www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chappellhillhistoricalsociety.com) for details.

**Christmas on the Brazos**  
 Spend the day in Washington where from 10am-8pm, modern and historic activities will be staggered throughout the park ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/christmas-on-the-brazos-1](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/christmas-on-the-brazos-1)).

**Folk-life Christmas Event**  
 at Winedale Historical Complex  
 Dancers, singers, musical bands, stage coach rides, Historic Home tours, children's crafts, German Santa, kid-friendly farm animals, storytellers, antique carriages, target demonstrations, food, and more (www.cah.utexas.edu).

**The Brenham Children's Chorus Christmas Concert**  
 Featuring sacred and popular holiday music at 2pm in the Blinn College O'Donnell Center, adult tickets purchased in advance \$8 and children 12 and under \$5. Adult tickets at the door will be \$10. (979-277-3897, [brenhamchildrenschorus@gmail.com](mailto:brenhamchildrenschorus@gmail.com), www.brenhamchildrenschorus.org).

**Nutcracker Ballet**  
 Presented by Ovation Ballet Company, preceded at 2pm and followed by "The Kingdom of Sweets", a sampling and tasting of Christmas sweets and drinks at Menke House. The Nutcracker danced by children for children of any age (www.festivalhill.org).

**Live at Buffalo Creek**  
 Brandon Rhyder takes the stage at 9:30pm (www.BuffaloCreekBellville.com).

*Dec 18*  
**South Texas Tack "Night with the Angels"**  
 "Upon a STT Night" from 6-9pm for Christmas Shopping, a portion of proceeds will benefit Adams Angels. Rios Of Mercedes and Anderson Bean custom trunk show, and Anderson Bean professionals will help design custom boots (www.southtexasstack.com).

*Dec 19*  
**TSCRA Ranch Gathering**  
 Texas & Southwest Cattle Raisers Association will be at South Texas Tack for their annual Ranch Gathering. Various speakers on TSCRA topics, 4-7pm (www.southtexasstack.com).

**Friends of Bluebonnet Opry**  
 Call ahead for musical lineup. Funds donated to Hospice-Brenham. Held at Silver Wings Ballroom from 5:30-10pm, tickets \$5 (www.friendsofbluebonnetopry.org).

*Dec 20*  
**New Beginnings Life Ministries Open House**  
 Open House and tours from 9 am-1 pm (www.brenhampregnancysupport.com).

**Love Came Down**  
 An evening of worship and praise, performed by Brenham State Supported Living Center members and Sounds of Joy, Special Guest: Sister by Faith, at the Lillian A Wilder Memorial Chapel, 6-7 pm (Contact Cynthia Jordan 277-1586 or Kristie Wensel 277-1507, [kristie.wensel@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:kristie.wensel@dads.state.tx.us)).

**Live at Buffalo Creek**  
 Matt Caldwell with Kylie Rae Harris from 8:30-11pm (www.BuffaloCreekBellville.com).

*Dec 21*  
**Bundled Against the Cold**  
 Special presentation at Washington-on-the-Brazos at 11am, 1pm and 3pm (www.birthplaceoftexas.com).

*Dec 22*  
**Prairie Home Construction**  
 Special presentation at Washington-on-the-Brazos at 11am, 1pm and 3pm (www.birthplaceoftexas.com).

*Dec 31*  
**New Year's Eve Gala**  
 The party begins at 7:30 pm with appetizers, beverages and festive company in the Menke House Parlors, followed by dinner at 8pm. After dinner, dance away 2013 on the Festival Concert Hall stage with The Jackie Myers Band (www.festivalhill.org).

**New Year's Eve Bash**  
 Celebrate the old year and the new at Ant Street Inn's New Year's Eve Bash! Music by The Argyles, food provided by Design II, BYOB with set ups included in ticket price. Complimentary Champagne Toast at midnight, call Ant Street Inn to purchase tickets (836-7393, [www.antstreetinn.com](http://www.antstreetinn.com)).

## A few Jan. highlights...

*Jan 4-5*  
**Mid Winter Antiques Show**  
 Featuring antiques to Vintage & Country to Country Formal. The garden area will feature Potpourri, Seasonal Plants, Herbs, Hanging Baskets, Fresh Farm Produce, Small Trees and wonderful old yard furnishings that gardeners love to collect. Gourmet luncheon catered by The Garden Cafe (www.ruraltexasantiques.com).

*Jan 11*  
**Chappell Hill Chamber Banquet**  
 To be held Saturday, January 11, at Lillian Farms Bed & Breakfast with guest speaker Washington County District Attorney Julie Renken.

*Jan 18*  
**Uptown Swirl**  
 Plan a great day at the "Uptown Swirl!" in Downtown Brenham from 3-7pm to swirl and shop your way through town. You will get to taste over 20 different wines and take home a commemorative glass. Tickets \$25 if purchased before December 31, and \$30 after that date (www.brenhamuptownswirl.com).



# Annual Photo Contest Deadline – Dec. 31

Did you shoot any great photos this year? Maybe during bluebonnet season, the County Fair, Hot Nights Cool Tunes, the Scarecrow Festival – or any other subject that reflects our beautiful Washington County?

Plan to enter the 2013 “Slice of Life” in Washington County photo contest. It is sponsored by the Washington County Chamber every year. There are cash prizes for the top three entries! Plus the

winning photo will have the honor of being made into a glossy souvenir post card.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Visitor Center or the Chamber office, or found

online at [www.BrenhamTexas.com](http://www.BrenhamTexas.com) (under “News & Events”). The deadline for entries is December 31, 2013. Find complete rules on the entry form, or call the Chamber with any questions: (979) 836-3695.



Contest winning photos from previous years.

## CHAMBER NEWS & NOTES

### Did You Know?

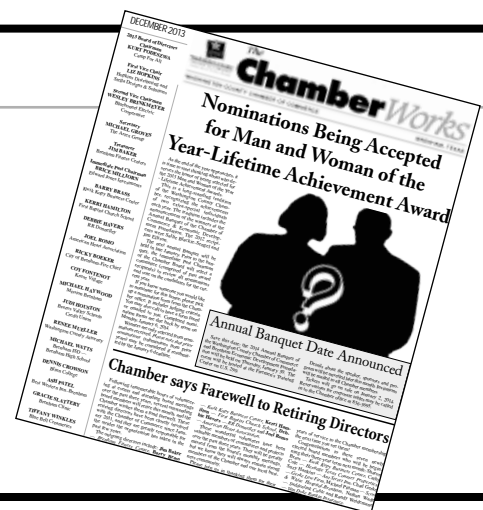
That the Chamber provides hundreds of “Relocation Info” packages every year to individuals and businesses who are considering moving to this community. As a member, you are eligible to include your promotional material and reach this targeted audience for a nominal annual fee (\$75). Contact the Chamber office to be included.

### Get Noticed...

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

If you are looking for a new opportunity to advertise, just give Jane Hinze, Member Services Manager, a call at the Chamber: (979) 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 businesses, it should also be about upcoming special events, as long as there is no purchase required for the reader to experience the event.



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