



SMITHVILLE  AREA
Chamber of Commerce

July 2016

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July Mixer Invitation
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CHARACTER TRAIT of the Month of June

Patriotism

Honoring and supporting the United States of America by our words and actions, and encouraging others to do the same.

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce

100 NW 1st Street
P.O. Box 716
Smithville TX 78957

chamber@smithvilletx.org
512-237-2313

Check out the Community Calendar
at www.smithvilletx.org

NEWSLETTER

Smithville Area Chamber Of Commerce

Message from the Chamber Desk

by April Daniels

20th Annual Casino Night!

Our title sponsor, Black Tree Enterprises, and the Chamber will be hosting our 20th Annual Casino Night and Buffet on Saturday, July 30, at the Smithville Recreation Center. Buffet lines open at 6:00 p.m. and the gaming floor will be open from 7:00-10 p.m.

We will be offering all your favorites including blackjack, roulette, craps, Texas Hold 'em and slot machines. General admission tickets, which include the all-you-can-eat buffet and adult beverages, plus access to the gaming floor and silent auction, will be available pre-sale for \$35 each or \$40 at the door. 50/50 tickets are available for sale now through the night of the event. They are \$5/ea. or 5 for \$20. Remember, only adults 21 and over will be allowed.

This event is one of our major fundraisers for the year. In addition to bringing in funds to the Chamber, it also helps to pay for the billboard along Highway 71 that bring people off of the highway and into town to spend their money. A portion of proceeds also go to our Chamber Scholarship Program and help to pay for our Fall events including Airing of the Quilts and Festival of Lights.

The Chamber is in need of items for the silent auction. If you have an item or a service you would be willing to donate, please let us know.

The Chamber has sponsorships available for the gaming tables at \$100; for the buffet food table at \$250; the beverage table sponsor for \$300 as well as several other sponsorship opportunities (see enclosed Casino Night Sponsorship Form for details. Call the Chamber at 237-2313 or drop by during business hours to purchase tickets, to donate a silent auction item or be a sponsor or e-mail susan.curry@smithvilletx.org.

Announcing our **free quarterly member trainings**. Are you trying to figure out Facebook and Twitter? Do you know how to claim your listing on Yelp or other review sites? Have you added your business to Google Maps? We can help you with that! These trainings will range in topic based on member interest so let us know if you have a topic you'd like us to present. Our first training will be on Wednesday, July 20th at 11:30am at the First National Bank meeting room at 312 Main Street. These are Lunch & Learning trainings so bring your lunch, your laptop and your questions. Register via e-mail at susan.curry@smithvilletx.org.

We are excited to announce the **Visitor Center** will be open all summer on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Great news for tourists and retail stores alike! Let us know if you want us to hand out offers or information about your business to weekend visitors.

Have a safe and happy July everyone!

-April Daniels

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Chamber Events

Monday, July 4
**Chamber Office Closed for
Independence Day**

Wednesday, July 13
11:45 a.m. – La Cabana
Board of Director's Meeting

LUNCH & LEARN
Wednesday, July 20
11:30 a.m.–FNB Meeting Room
Social Media Training

Thursday, July 21
5-7 p.m. – Red Ridge Events
Chamber Mixer

Saturday, July 30
6-10 p.m. – REC Center
20th Annual Casino Night

THE CHAMBER WORKS!



SMITHVILLE TIGER SPOTLIGHT

SHS PALS & PAX Program

In its 20th year at the high school, the Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALS) program, and the later added Peer Assistance Extended) PAX program, has brought good morale and better academic performance to all of the campuses in Smithville school district since its inception.

According to longtime advisor Mr. Tony Quitta, the impact the programs and his students make on a daily basis is huge, and not only with the students mentored.

"The halls have empathy; the halls are clearer," said Mr. Quitta. "The social atmosphere across the district is more friendly and

welcoming. We do not have the social problems that other schools do. New teachers and substitutes are amazed."

He currently has 37 high school students active in the prevention programs who are mentoring 259 students, not including interventions. During class time PALS mentors meet weekly with four younger students at other campuses who are recommended by teachers.

PAX members are PALS who are also trained in mediation and conflict resolution, and are chosen based on their personality which is more engaging and direct, according to Mr. Quitta. They are assigned three students who they meet with weekly. They also are assigned PAX days in which they "intervene" with students who need immediate help and are "on the bubble," said Mr. Quitta, such as those in In-School Suspension (ISS) at the Elementary and Junior High before behaviors get out of hand. The PALS and PAX students are given six weeks of training at the beginning of the school year before meeting with their charges. "You're not there to counsel," says Mr. Quitta to his students. "You are there to listen." The rest is on the student.

They do keep confidential records of their interactions, which have been subpoenaed in the past as legal documents. The students understand the seriousness of what they do.

"I always tell my students 'I have confidence in your ability to cope with the situation,'" said Mr. Quitta. "And I am always available to listen to them when they need to talk it out."

The Smithville PALS/PAX program has always been a winning program. At state meetings, Mr. Quitta said that other schools are amazed at the depth of the Smithville program, especially given its size. Mr. Quitta has also had students help give presentations at other schools, and they volunteer a large number of hours each year around the district and community.

Over the years, Smithville's PALS/PAX program has won numerous awards at the local, state and national level.

"This is the flagship," said Mr. Quitta. "We set the standard for other programs."

July Community Happenings

8 – BCMRA Canteen Dance, SV REC Center

11-14 – Smooth Moves Dance Intensive I classes

8-23 – Snow White & the 7 Dwarves at Playhouse Smithville

10 – Heart of the Pines VFD Community Potluck

21 – Chamber Mixer, Red Ridge Event Center

Every Monday & Thursday, PiYo classes, Smithville Rec Center

Every Friday & Saturday night, Live Music, Cistern Store

Every Tuesday evening, Live Music, Block 16 aka Central School

CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

at www.smithvilletx.org

If you'd like to add your community event, email:
susan.curry@smithvilletx.org

The program was established in Austin in 1980 as a way to enable young people to use their potential to make a positive difference in their school. Mrs. Vicki Hall, high school teacher,

brought PALS to Smithville in 1998.

Mr. Quitta has taught and managed the program for the past eight years. With Mr. Quitta's retirement this year, next year's PALS/PAX will be taught by Scottie Stevens, who was coached by Mr. Quitta in the 1980s.



CITY NOTES

*From Robert Tamble,
Smithville City Manager*

GLO-HUD Rec Center Expansion 100% Design Review

On June 7, 2016, Cutright & Allen presented drawings of the Rec Center "Shelter-In-Place" expansion along with a revised budget for resurfacing and expanding the Rec Center parking lot; upgrading restrooms; adding a laundry area, adding a multi-purpose room, and adding a media room. Total under roof expansion is approximately 5,600 SF. The next step will be to publish notice requesting competitive bids for selecting a general construction contractor. Construction should begin in July 2016 with completion April 2017. The Rec Center expansion will greatly enhance our ability to provide shelter to local community members in times of natural disaster. The City of Smithville received a \$1.5M grant from the GLO-HUD office last year. There is no financial match requirement for this project.

The logo for "Twice the Ice" featuring two penguins and the text "TWICE THE ICE" and "ICE HOUSE AMERICA".

Located on Hwy 95 at
American Legion Road
(DELLRIF ICE, LLC)
President/Owner John W. Purser
3989 Lord Byron Circle
Round Rock, Texas 78664
(512) 318-0785



Bookmark Your Calendar

By Judy Bergeron

The Summer Reading Club continues in full swing here at the library! We will have one more program at Brown Primary in July (The Zoo Show!), and then we'll wrap up the SRC with our annual Big Finale Party at the Riverbend Park, on July 13. In addition to the regular water slides and bounce houses, horse and carriage rides, sand art, a birds of prey show, and a hot dog lunch, several outdoors/nature-type booths will be sharing their enthusiasm for the natural world. Remember to have your reading logs turned in by **July 7**, and you'll be able to attend the Big Finale Party, which will be at Riverbend Park from 10am-1pm!

Texas Teens Read "Get in the Game!" programs continue through July on Tuesdays, 6 – 8 p.m. Any teens participating in this Summer Reading Program are also invited to join in the fun on the 13th. We will have the Teen Finale Party and Movie Night on July 26. Teen reading logs are due by July 20.

The library is also hosting a children's Spanish Camp throughout the summer, for kids

of all ages to learn to read and speak Spanish. The classes take place every Thursday, from 1-2, and students at every level are encouraged to join. Roxanne offers this fun camp through August 18, so there is still plenty of time for your kids to pick up a bit of Spanish before school starts!

Each week after camp, children are encouraged to stay for the new Children's Poetry Club, which meets every Thursday from 2 – 3 p.m. Have your kids join the fun, with either poems that they have created or sharing the works of another poet.

We know that you are not ready to start thinking about back-to-school, but it's never too early to start on those summer assignments! The library will support Smithville HS students with multiple copies of assigned books, copies of the assignments, and are also available to host a study group/book discussion for the students' reading assignments.

Students/parents – let us know if you are interested!

Volunteer of the Month



Otilia Sanchez has been a dedicated, hard-working volunteer for the Chamber of Commerce for the past year. Otilia goes above and beyond, working nights and weekends to help us meet deadlines. She volunteers at multiple events, works at the Chamber each week as a community host and can always be counted on to lend a helping hand. Thank you, Otilia!

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Ethan Turner
Park Operations Trainee
Bastrop & Buescher State Parks



Bastrop

Since the time they arrived, American Youth Works have done a tremendous amount of work for us. They just recently helped get some trail sections back open again. They are continuing to clear out debris in and around Copperas Creek and Creekside camping area. Thanks for all the hard work!

We are gradually getting more trails open, which means we had another successful Saturday morning hike! Like always, we got another group of anxious guests. Staff partnered with the city of Bastrop Parks & Recreation to help with their summer camp. Their summer camp brings in kids from ages 6 -12. This year, we helped with a fishing program that is learning one day and fishing the next day.

Staff continues to clean Copperas and Creekside camping areas. We hope to re-open these camping areas by the end of July once cleaning and road repairs are finished.

Buescher

Staff put on a watercolor program in which kids and adults got to tap into their creative spirit. They now have cool pieces of art to show off at home. Bill Brooks, who has been an anger education instructor for years, coordinated another successful Go Fish event at Buescher. All participants enjoyed learning at the various information tables and were more-than-ready to go fishing. A number of kids caught fish. One in particular landed his first ever fish, a 14 inch largemouth. Good work, Sergio.

Thank you to all the members who took advantage of the Early Bird incentive for the upcoming new membership directory and visitor's guide. We had a great response. I'm so excited to be working on this project for the chamber and for you! This year's directory will be different than you've had in the past. We're expanding it to not only have the membership listings but also to be Smithville's Visitor's Guide. It's been a few years' since you've had a visitor's guide and this one will be one you will be so proud of. The entire directory will be in full color, with important information on the area and beautiful photography. You'll be proud to give out this publication to local residents, visitors and those wanting to relocate as a resident or in business.

This is a 2 year publication, every chamber member gets a listing, will have lots more local information, the ads will be larger and rate includes color and your ad will not be on same page as your listing – allowing you more impressions. This publication will be ready for distribution by November 2016.

You all can imagine what a big project this is and want to encourage you to market yourself and your business by also running an ad in the directory. If you did not take advantage of the first early incentive, we have one more for you, those who commit and pay for their ad by July 31st, may have a FREE highlighted listing in the directory.

Please let me know, Debbie Denny, if you are interested, have any questions, need help with your

Thank You to New & Renewing Members

New Members

Roscoe State Bank
Smithville Inn Bed & Breakfast

Renewing Members

9E Ranch
Joanna & Mike Morgan
Gina Hightower
Bridges Real Estate Group
Sunrise Roofing
Molly Todd Realtor
Covert Chevrolet–Buick–GMC
Mosaic Art & Home
Block 16 aka Central School
Men Living for Christ
Davis Ranch Retreat
Frontier Bank
Stanberry & Associates
John & Mary Lou Zink
Modern Woodmen of America
– Mac Simpson
SP Bastrop Theater, LP -
Lost Pines 8
Serenity Star
Total Control Beauty Salon
Ternus Consulting Services

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If you would like to become a Chamber member contact us at 512-237-2313 or visit www.smithvilletx.org.

ad idea at ddenny001@gmail.com or call 512-844-3930. Also make sure your membership listing is up to date by contacting Susan Curry at the chamber office. Hope to hear from you!

DOUG'S
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"Honest, Friendly, Reliable Service"

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