



SMITHVILLE  AREA  
Chamber of Commerce

**June 2016**

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#### Enclosures:

Membership Directory Form  
June Mixer Invitation  
Casino Night Sponsorship Form

### CHARACTER TRAIT of the Month of June

## HONOR

Demonstrating adherence to principles considered right, acting with integrity as we respect ourselves and others.

#### Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce

100 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 716  
Smithville TX 78957

chamber@smithvilletx.org  
512-237-2313

Check out the Community Calendar  
at [www.smithvilletx.org](http://www.smithvilletx.org)

# NEWSLETTER

## Smithville Area Chamber Of Commerce

### Message from the Chamber Desk

by April Daniels



As we head into the month of June and the days begin to really warm up, be sure to head out to our many local eating establishments, shop in our local stores and participate in the many events that are a mainstay of our community. Shopping locally keeps Smithville's money IN Smithville. As you'll read in City Manager Robert Tamble's article later in this newsletter, our sales tax dollars are up significantly from this same time last year.

Why shop local? Here are just a few reasons:

#### **YOU'RE HELPING:**

**STRENGTHEN YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY.** Each dollar you spend at independent businesses returns 3 times more money to your local economy than one spent at a chain (almost 50 times more than buying from an online mega-retailer) a benefit we all can bank on!

#### **SHAPE OUR CHARACTER.**

Independent businesses help give your community its distinct personality.

#### **CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT.**

Independent, community-serving businesses are people-sized. They typically consume less land, carry more locally-made products, locate closer to residents and create less traffic and air pollution.

**LOWER TAXES.** More efficient land use and more central locations mean local businesses put less demand on our roads,

sewers and safety services. They also generate more tax revenue per sales dollar. The bottom line: a greater percentage of local independent businesses keeps your taxes lower.

#### **INCREASE WEALTH OF RESIDENTS.**

The multiplier effect created by spending locally generates a lasting impact on the prosperity of local organizations and residents.

#### **CREATE JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES.**

Not only do independent businesses employ more people directly per dollar of revenue, they also are the customers of local printers, accountants, wholesalers, farms, attorneys and restaurants, expanding opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

#### **GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY.**

Small local businesses donate more than twice as much per sales dollar to local non-profits, events, and teams compared to big businesses. (*Portions of this article courtesy of [www.amiba.com](http://www.amiba.com).)*

Included with this newsletter is information on the Smithville Chamber Member Directory & Visitor's Guide. This will be in full color, distributed at local chamber offices, city offices, area businesses and Texas Tourist Centers, have beautiful photography of Smithville, the ads will be larger and also in full color plus will be distributed over the next 2 years. Check out the flyer and get us your info as soon as possible.

Have a great June everyone!

-April Daniels

# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

## **Upcoming Chamber Events**

Wednesday, June 8  
11:00 a.m. – La Cabana  
**Board of Director's Meeting**

Wednesday, June 8  
11: 45 a.m. – La Cabana  
**Board of Director's Meeting**

Thursday, June 16  
5-7 p.m. – Pendergrass  
Mortuary  
**Chamber Mixer**

**Liquor by the Drink** – The Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a petition drive to have Liquor by the Drink for Precinct 2 added to the ballot in November. This initiative will help with economic development in our part of Bastrop County by attracting new businesses, creating new jobs, increasing sales tax and opening potential new choices for residents. We only have 30 days left to obtain these signatures so we need as many volunteers as possible. These efforts include walking neighborhoods, attending events and/or obtaining signatures at exit polling locations for City, School Board and County run-off elections. Please call (512) 360-7397 if you can volunteer some time for this important economic development initiative.



## **SMITHVILLE TIGER SPOTLIGHT**

### **BUDDY BENCH**

Third grader Caylee Hill has plans which she's been eager to put in motion to help her peers connect with each other. With the installation of a buddy bench and game board in one of the elementary playgrounds, one dream of hers is complete.



"I've seen kids on the playground who didn't have people to play with," said Caylee. "I thought it'd be a good way to help our school."

A buddy bench, which Caylee read about in Highlights magazine, is a place for a student to sit if they don't have anyone to talk to or play with. Once they sit down, one of their peers can sit with them to play or talk as a way to socialize and feel included.

Caylee also believes the bench is a great place for friends who are fighting to talk to rebuild their friendship.

"They could actually become friends again," said Caylee.

Caylee had planned to pay for the bench herself, with a match from her parents. However, once she presented the idea to Mrs. Tammie Hewitt, Elementary principal, verbally and with a written proposal, Mrs. Hewitt realized that the high school Construction Technology class would be able to construct the bench. The class decided to donate the bench.

Instead, Caylee used her funds for paint to decorate the bench. Her sister, Randi, a freshman in high school, painted the words "Buddy Bench" on the Tiger orange bench. Caylee wants to add paw prints because "we are the Tigers."

Her grandparents also created a checkerboard out of a log, complete with rock for checkers painted like bees and ladybugs, so that anyone who sat on the bench could play together.

As part of this project, Caylee with select friends, will be creating a video about the buddy bench, which will be shared on the school website and at the six weeks assembly.

Caylee also hopes to get another bench for the other playground, which doesn't have any equipment, but wants to wait to see how this project is utilized.

"The buddy bench wouldn't be possible without Principal Hewitt, the high school, my family," said Caylee, clearly understanding the value of teamwork.

"Her hard work and determination - sticking to it - paid off," said Mrs. Hewitt.

Caylee's plans for the future include politics so she can make positive changes in the world.

"I'm going to be mayor to congress to government to president," said Caylee. "To do something good is to do something great."

With her let's-do-it attitude, Caylee has already begun those positive changes.

100 PERCENT. NOTHING LESS.



*Real Estate Team*

Gwendolyn 512-332-6070  
BROKER

Tylene 512-581-8067 Rudy 512-581-1828  
REALTOR REALTOR

TotallyHookedRealEstateTeam.com  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



**Molly Todd, Realtor**  
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*Molly Todd*  
BROKER

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## CITY NOTES

From Robert Tamble,  
Smithville City Manager

### CITY OF SMITHVILLE SALES TAX UPDATE

County/City	Current Rate	Net Payment This Period	Comparable Payment Prior Year	% Change	2016 Payments To Date	2015 Payments To Date	% Change
Bastrop	1.50%	597,235.58	525,112.68	13.73%	2,698,085.54	2,464,346.42	9.48%
Elgin	1.50%	229,093.84	159,754.36	43.40%	829,083.55	741,172.01	11.86%
Smithville	1.50%	60,668.34	51,773.60	17.18%	216,972.69	197,210.71	10.02%
County Total		886,997.76	736,640.64	20.41%	3,744,141.78	3,402,729.14	10.03%

Above are the sales tax allocations for May 2016 vs. May 2015 (retail sales made primarily in March). This data reflects RETAIL sales of goods and services subject to LOCAL sales tax. Our sales tax payment (receipt) for May was \$60,668. This represents a 17.18% increase in our net payment compared to the same time last year. Basically, consumers spent more money locally in March. The Front Room, Honey's, Back Door Café, Olde World Bakery, Mexico Lindo, Pockets, Huebel's, Bone Spirits, and Smithville BBQ seem to be attracting more and more hungry/thirsty patrons to our business district. The local shops, grocers, C-stores, and lodging establishments have also seen an increase in business. Our year-to-date sales tax allocations are \$216,973 and trending positive at 10.02%. Remember --- SHOP LOCAL....it makes a difference!



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Round Rock, Texas 78664

(512) 318-0785



### CASINO NIGHT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EVENT!

The Chamber will be hosting our 20<sup>th</sup> 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 entire 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

## June Community Happenings

- 3 – Smithville High School Graduation, 8pm, Barry Field
  - 10 – BCMRA Canteen Dance, SV REC Center
  - 10-19 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Playhouse Smithville Melodrama
  - 8-10 – Volleyball Camp, REC Ctr.
  - 11 – Lost Pines Dental Assisting thirteen week course begins
  - 11 – Casino for CASA, Bastrop Convention Center
  - 11 – West End Park historic marker dedication/music fest
  - 12 – Heart of the Pines VFD Community Potluck
  - 13-16- Basketball Camp, REC Ctr.
  - 16 – Chamber Mixer, Pendergrass Mortuary
  - 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](http://www.smithvilletx.org)  
for up to date happenings in our town & county.

their money. A portion of proceeds also go to our Chamber Scholarship Program.

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](mailto:susan.curry@smithvilletx.org).



## Bookmark Your Calendar

By Judy Bergeron

School's out and summer reading is IN at the Smithville Public Library! On your mark, get set...READ! Then be sure to bookmark your calendar for the following events this month:

June at the Library means that Summer Reading Club is underway! This year we want you to exercise your mind and activate your imagination, while also getting outdoors with the Smithville Rec Center programs. Stop by the library TODAY to get registered and get a schedule of program events. The library portion of the collaborative program will feature five weeks of performing arts programs, Wednesdays at 2 p.m., beginning June 8, 2016. Make note, however, this year the programs will all be held at **Brown Primary School!** And of course, if you get your reading done, and turn in your reading logs by July 7<sup>th</sup>, you'll be eligible for the SRC Finale Party at Riverbend Park in July!

The library will also be getting outdoors again this summer! While the Smithville ISD Child Nutrition Department is feeding folks at their outside locations, we'll offer SPL in the Park. We'll bring programs to the Bluebonnet Circle location on Tuesdays, MLK Park on Wednesdays, and the Neighbor Place at Hart's Chapel on Thursdays. See you there!

The Teen Summer Reading program: Get in the Game! will be Tuesdays, 6 – 8 p.m., we'll kick it off on June 14 with our annual Pizza & Games night (did

someone say free pizza?). We've got some great fun lined up, so if you are Junior High or High School age, come join us!

Lastly, watch your websites and social media pages for the next Community Health Forum which will be held in late-June. We'd like to hear from YOU about ways to encourage activity, exercise, and healthy lifestyle choices to help make Smithville a more fit community! On your mark, get set....

## THE GREAT OUTDOORS



By Ethan Turner  
Park Operations Trainee  
Bastrop & Buescher State Parks

Our data from the 2015/2016 tree planting season is in! We planted 396,337 saplings on 799 acres! This was accomplished with 917 volunteers. Our total trees planted since 2011 are now at 1,487,410! A couple highlights of this year are that we planted trees that were grown from the seeds harvested right here in Bastrop State Park and we continued to reach a variety of volunteer groups to include Texas School for the Deaf, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Philadelphia Insurance Company, Austin area school children and of course the Aggies. We really appreciate all the hard work our volunteers and staff put in and we are that much closer to our goal of 1,800,000 trees.

The Lost Pines Complex Interpreter worked with Draco Services, which is an organization that provides residential services to adults with intellectual and

## Thank You to New & Renewing Members

### New Members

Bastrop Cty. Democratic Party  
Curlee Business Management Services

### Renewing Members

Roxanne & Mike Shell  
Advanced Embroidery & Promotions  
Rogers Automotive  
Carolyn & Lloyd Koopman  
Ramona Gilliland  
A&S Services  
Fayette Medical Supply  
Janis Penick – ReMAX Realtor  
Atlas Pain Institute  
Friends of the  
Lost Pines State Park  
Comfort Suites  
YMCA-Bastrop

.....  
If you would like to become a Chamber member contact us at 512-237-2313 for an application form or visit

physical disabilities. On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 15 adults with various types of physical and intellectual disabilities arrived at Buescher State Park with their staff – all 30 participants were first time anglers. Together, they learned what to bring on a fishing trip, rules and regulations, embarked on a very enthusiastic hour of Backyard Bass fishing and then another hour of real fishing with cane poles. By the time the program was over, they were hooked!

## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Stefani O'Donald, Lan Krakora, JW Breeden and all the hard working volunteers who made Thunder on the Colorado such a big success, THANK YOU!  
Also, a huge shout out to the many volunteers who came out on May 21<sup>st</sup> for the City Wide Clean Up. THANK YOU!