



February 2016

Inside this Issue

Message from the Chamber Desk, PG. 1

Annual Banquet, PG. 2
Mark Your Calendar, PG. 2
Board of Directors, PG. 2

Tiger Spotlight, PG. 3
Message from the Chief, PG. 3

New/Renewing Members, PG. 4

City Notes, PG. 5
It's PARD-y Time, PG. 5
Great Outdoors, PG. 5

Volunteers of the Month, PG. 6
Book Corner, PG. 6

Enclosures:

Chamber Banquet Sponsorship Information and Form
Membership Plaques 2016

CHARACTER TRAIT of the Month

Justice

Fair and equitable behavior which is consistent with the laws and principles that govern a democratic society.

Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce

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P.O. Box 716
Smithville TX 78957

chamber@smithvilletx.org
512-237-2313

Check out your Community Calendar at www.smithvilletx.org

NEWSLETTER

Smithville Area Chamber Of Commerce

A Message from the Chamber Desk

By April Daniels

January was filled with New Year wishes as well as new members of the Chamber of Commerce. Welcome Maurice Cook, Bastrop County, Family Heritage Insurance, Nicole Curry Photography & John & Susan Gann.

We held our January mixer at the Smithville Heritage Society, a lovely museum filled with Smithville artifacts and stories of our shared past. Many thanks to Carol Snyder and the Heritage Society Board for making their lovely space available for this mixer.

Remember that we do not have a February mixer but will rather be holding our annual Chamber Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 27th at 6:30pm at the Smithville Recreation Center. Individual tickets can be purchased online at www.smithvilletx.org or give us a call if you are interested in being a banquet sponsor. This year we will also have a silent auction at the banquet which will benefit our Chamber Scholarship Program. If you can offer a silent auction item, please contact us and we'll come and pick up or you can deliver to the Chamber offices. The Chamber, with your help, is proud to support our local SISD students with this scholarship program.

Included with your newsletter this month for our business members is your 2016 Membership Plaque. Be sure to display your plaque at your place of business to let your customers know you're a member of the Chamber.

As we head into February and all of our preparations for the Chamber

Banquet, I have begun to seek out stories about Smithville's business past. Do you have a story you'd like to share about a Smithville business? Is there a building on Main Street or anywhere around town that has a particular history you think would be interesting to share with your fellow members? If so, send the stories to us and we will include it in our monthly newsletters. I met with Mayor Bunte this morning and he told me about the clock post that was in the middle of Main Street for a short time. He also has recounted many stories of his childhood growing up in Smithville including the many grocery stores on Main Street. One man told me of the noon siren calling people down to Main Street to eat lunch together. Send your stories to april.daniels@smithvilletx.org and we will share them.

As I write this article we are preparing for our Annual Board Retreat. Our Board of Directors give so much of their time and effort to the Chamber of Commerce and the Smithville community as a whole. If you are interested in getting involved with the Chamber Board please contact me. We are always looking for members to get involved and help us make a difference.

Included with this newsletter is our annual sponsorship opportunity packet. If you'd like to sponsor an upcoming event, check out the packet and send it back in. Your generous support allows us to continue the many events and membership programs we sponsor throughout the year.

Feel free to reach out to us at any time via phone or e-mail or come by the Chamber office and Visitor Center.

Have a wonderful February!

-April Daniels

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

This Month's Chamber Events

Wednesday, Feb. 10
11:00am – La Cabana
**Chamber Education Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 17
6:30pm – La Cabana
**Thunder on the Colorado
Committee Meeting**

Saturday, Feb. 27
6:30pm-Smithville Recreation Ctr.
**2016 Annual Chamber of
Commerce Awards Banquet**

Community Events

- 13** Smithville Genealogy
Society mtg. at Library
- 11** Community Gardens mtg., Rec Ctr
- 12-14** Playhouse Smithville presents
"Laugh FM", a light-hearted musical
review for Valentines weekend
- 23** Spoken Word mtg., 301 Burleson
- 27** LPAA Introductory Jewelry Making
Class by *Zanna James*, Register at
206 Main St.
- 2nd Tuesday** – Music Tuesday at Block
16 aka Central School
- Every Saturday** – Live Music at Olde
World Bakery
- Every Week** – Huebel's has Texas
Hold 'Em, karaoke, pool tournaments
and free pool
- Every Week** – The Front Room Wine
Bar has ladies night & drink specials +
special events throughout February



**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

Annual Chamber Banquet

The banquet is just around the corner. This year, the banquet will be on Saturday, February 27. The highlights of the night are the announcement of the Citizen of the Year, the Business of the Year, the Organization of the year and the Artist of the Year as well as the Chamber Volunteer Appreciation Award.

If your business or organization would like to sponsor a table, contact the Chamber office at 512-237-2313 or fill out the sponsorship form included with this newsletter.

The sponsorships available are:

- **\$100 for the buffet table**
- **\$250 for the beverage table**
- **\$300 for a banquet table
(includes 10 tickets)**
- **\$750 for the entertainment
(includes 10 tickets)**

Each of these sponsorships includes your company's name prominently displayed on the sponsored table or entertainment area; your company's name displayed on a wall-sized donor list; verbal recognition for your company throughout the evening and in the event program; acknowledgement for your company in both the Chamber newsletter and e-blast and social media as well as in the Chamber Chatter column in The Smithville Times

Individual tickets are \$30 each at www.smithvilletx.org. A delicious menu of smoked raspberry pork tenderloin, roasted reds and veggies, Caesar salad, rolls, tea and bananas foster bread pudding for dessert from John Chabot "The Caterer."



Board of Directors



The Chamber is fortunate to have wonderful Directors! These men and women give of their time each month as dedicated volunteers. They are always willing to go the extra mile to plan, help and make sure things happen in our community. Let's give a big round of applause to:

Mac Simpson-Modern Woodmen of America

Terri Couteau-Advanced Embroidery & Promotions

Gwendolyn Watkins-Totally Hooked Real Estate Team, Keller Williams

Stefani O'Donald-Texas Associates Insurors

Harold "Skeeter" Sewart - Community Volunteer

J.W. Breeden-LiveAir Networks

Milan Krakora-franLan Multimedia

Ana Murray-Smithville ISD

Linda Liebowitz-Katy House B&B

Danne Absher-Community Volunteer

Debbie Denny-Debbie Denny Media Solutions

John Chabot-"The Caterer"

Sharon Foerster-Texas DPS

William Gordon-Community Volunteer

Caroline McClimon-Morris & McClimon, Attorneys at Law





Smithville ISD Tiger Spotlight: SHS Chosen to Participate in TASB Innovation Challenge: Three high school teams competed blending

project-based learning, collaboration, and teamwork to solve a global problem.

Three Smithville High School students gained valuable experience by competing in the student-led, project-based Innovation Challenge against teams from two other high schools. The competition is an activity that blends hands-on learning and collaboration between students and experts to solve real-world problems, according to host DLR Group.

Team members, Justin Dees, Michael Morriss and Courtney Haney, created and solved a real world problem and presented it to 60 professionals, according to SHS Principal Mr. Parker, with a turnaround time of about 40 hours. Mr. Wilmot was their teacher and mentor for the project.

Before the competition officially started, the teams each wrote up a real world problem which had to be solved in 30 years. These were then assigned to other teams. The topic the SHS team created revolved around learning valuable life skills in first world vs. third world countries.

SHS was assigned to "design a system of healthcare in the United States so that all citizens have access to equal, quality 'free' healthcare by 2030" regardless of a person's financial and employment status. The team was allowed to research this topic the week before the event, but the main portion of creating the final report was done on site the day before the presentation. Students had to consider not only problems and technology available today, but what life could be like in the future. Brainstorming and debating were huge parts of the process, according to Justin.

"We put a lot of our eggs in the basket of nanobots," said Justin, but ensured that the system would still

need doctors, nurses and other medical personnel.



With their research, assistance from mentors, including Dr. Garza, CEO of Seton Healthcare Family, the team proposed a 100 percent free healthcare system that did not include insurance.

"They found out that what people spend on insurance exceeds the cost of healthcare," said Mr. Wilmot. "If that money was put towards care, the program would almost pay for itself."

The premise was based mainly on preventative care and the ability to monitor healthy actions. Unhealthy foods and actions, such as smoking, energy drinks and lack of exercise, would be taxed so that the payments were small and ongoing rather than as a lump sum when a person was affected later in life.

The team found that having one nationalized healthcare system with centralized records also reduced costs and generated higher quality care.

On the final workday held in Austin, the hosts presented a twist. All teams, including two junior high teams, had to work together to see how they would handle, in their topic, a terrorist attack of toxic ink on money for an additional group report and presentation.

"This showed me what I really want to do," said Justin. "I want to solve problems and advance technology. The Innovation Challenge really helped me to realize this. This was a lot more interesting way to learn."

Prior to the event, the team worked for a week with sponsors to do problem solving activities, one of which included building a marshmallow/spaghetti tower with

limited supplies. The SHS team built the tallest tower.

The event was part of the Texas Association of School Administrators/Texas Association of School Boards Convention held in early October.

"Though we got second place, we won in spirit," said Justin. "We only lost by one point, but we still won in experience and knowledge gain."

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Commented [DA1]:

The Smithville Police Department works to protect Smithville citizens and businesses from crime, but nothing promotes a crime-free environment as well as an active and aware public. The following are some tips that may help you prevent crime. But remember: the most important single act you can do is to call the Police to report crimes or suspicious activities! When law enforcement is unaware of problems, they cannot resolve them.

Although most of these tips are for homeowners, businesses can also play a significant part in the anti-crime effort. Adapt these suggestions for your business. Your customers and employees will benefit

Protect Your Home & Neighborhood

- Adequately secure all windows with secondary locking devices.
- Be neighborly, but be suspicious of strangers in the area.
- Call the police to report all crimes and suspicious activity.
- Do not advertise that you are away from home.
- Install good deadbolt locks and use them.
- Leave exterior lights on all night.
- Lock garage doors and windows.
- Mark your property with your Permanent Texas Driver's License.

- Organize into a Neighborhood Watch Program. Call 512-237-3228 for information.
- Record serial numbers and maintain a record of your property in a safe place, other than your home.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off in a normal schedule when away from home.

Protect Yourself

- Carry your purse firmly and close to your body.
- Do not accept rides from strangers.
- Do not hitchhike. Do not pick up hitchhikers.
- Have your car or house key in your hand as you approach the door.
- If you are concerned about crime and must go out, find a friend to walk, jog or shop with.
- If you jog, do not jog alone in isolated areas.
- Keep your wallet in an inside coat or side trouser pocket.
- Park in well-lighted areas that will be well-lighted when you return.
- Be sure to lock your car doors.
- Show you are calm, confident and know where you are going.

Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable, leave.

Women living alone should list only their last name and first initial in the phone book and on mail boxes. Ask the phone company to not list your address in the book.

If Attacked or Robbed

- Call the police immediately, identifying yourself and giving your location.
- Don't escalate this crime into a violent encounter.
- If the attacker is after your property, don't resist.
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of your attacker: age, race, complexion,

body build, height, weight, type and color of clothing.

- Try not to panic or show any signs of anger or confusion.
- Try to remain calm.
- If Your Home is Broken Into
- If a door or window has been forced or broken while you are absent. Do not enter or call out! Someone may still be inside.
- Use a neighbor's phone immediately to call the police, and wait there until they arrive.

When You Call the Police

- Call the Police Dispatch Center at 512-237-3228 to report burglaries, thefts, vandalism, prowlers, or suspicious or disruptive activities. You will be asked to provide:
 - Your address, name and phone number
 - What Happened? Describe the event in as brief manner as possible
 - When Did it Happen? Tell if the crime is in progress or when it occurred
 - Who Did It? Name or describe the suspect or vehicle, if there is one
 - Where Did They Go? Which way and how did they leave?
 - Try to remain calm.

Use 911 for medical emergencies, fires and crimes in progress. Someone should respond within a few minutes on a call of this type. In many situations, an officer may be dispatched while you are still providing information to the Communications Operator.

Wait for the officer to arrive or to return your call. The time it takes for an officer to arrive will depend on many factors. The officer may ask you questions similar to those asked earlier. Please be patient.

Remembering Case Information

In many situations it may be unnecessary for an officer to come to you. Nearly 15% of all police cases are handled over the telephone. Therefore, keep track of the case number you are given by the officer

Thank You to New & Renewing Members

New Members

Maurice Cook
Family Heritage Insurance
Nicole Curry Photography

Renewing Members

Pocket's Grille
Lou & Charrell Rose
Mary Farrar
Lost Pines Bible Church
Earl & Mary Ann Walborg
7-11
Esther Schlortt
Milton's Furniture
First United Methodist Church
Pease Custom Floors
Rustic Cedar Cabins
Brian Riewe, PC
The Looking Glass
Bella's Cottage
Smithville Jamboree
G&C Printing
Smithville Auto Parts
Clarence's Refrigeration & Electric
S&D Plumbing
Robert Whitten, Jr. (Riverdale Estates) Whitten Descendants
Ted Carney, DDS
Renee & Ken Blaschke
Lenel & Rick Tamez
Smithville Community Gardens
Hampton Inn & Suites
Zapco, Inc.
American Legion Post 180

It will be needed by your insurance company if you file a claim, and all future police activity related to that event will be linked to that number. If there is enough information, the case will be passed on to a follow-up detective. It will be a few days before you are contacted.



Molly Todd, Realtor

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Molly Todd

BROKER

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CITY NOTES

From Robert Tamble,
Smithville City Manager

Loop 230 ADA Ramp / Sidewalk Project

The New Year started with a bang and many citizens are beginning to notice progressive change. New street lights are being installed, water / electric meters are being replaced, and road improvement projects are underway. TXDOT completed demolition and construction of ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps from SH 95 to Mills Street along Loop 230. The City of Smithville intends to augment this TXDOT project in FY17 by replacing damaged or ADA non-compliant sidewalks and constructing new sidewalks where none presently exist between SH95 and Olive, all of which will be ADA accessible and built to meet TXDOT standards. This project will also extend the Safe Routes to School sidewalks from Bluebonnet Circle to Webb Street (north side), which is currently a "cattle path" and heavily used by pedestrians. The City of Smithville will seek additional funding to complete the sidewalk network between Olive and McSweeney (where the SRTS sidewalks begin) at a later date. Steel-reinforced sidewalks are intended to be 6' wide. The project will be funded by a Texas Transportation Commission grant as part of the 2015 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The total project cost is \$496,959; Smithville's match will be \$64,000 for the Engineering portion (which is not eligible for grant funding) and \$12,964 towards construction. This project will greatly enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety along Loop 230 while providing a much needed "facelift" in our business district. The seeds of progress we have sown over the past year and a half are beginning to

sprout and I look forward to what the future holds.

100 PERCENT. NOTHING LESS.



TOTALLY HOOKED

Real Estate Team

Gwendolyn 512-332-6070
BROKER

Tylene 512-581-8067
REALTOR

TotallyHookedRealEstateTeams.com
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

IT'S PARD-Y TIME! PARD EVENTS

By Ashley Regier



Little Dribbler season is upon us.

Our Little Dribblers program has pretty much taken over the Rec. Center in a good way. We have practices going most days of the week and games on Saturdays. This program wouldn't be what it is without the parents and volunteers support. It is so much fun seeing kids returning each year and to watch their skills develop.

Upcoming Youth Programs and Activities!!! Our Spring Volleyball Camp in just around the corner. Registration is open now and the camp will run March 22nd-May 10th. Registration is also open for the Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp. This camp will run June 27th-July 1st. Our Tumblers Gymnastics program has a few open spots available in all age groups. Registration is open for the current session that will end on March 10th and registration will open for the 2nd 10 week session on February 1st. The 2nd Session will run March 21st-May 26th.

Adult Programs!!! Register for the Disc Golf Spring Fling Tourney by March 3rd. The first 30 players to register will receive an aluminum PARD water bottle! Get your teams together and sign up for the Indoor Adult Volleyball League. Teams will

be co-ed and entry fee is only \$150. Rosters due by March 17th.

This and That!!! Did you know that we have Pickleball available at request? We also have a Walleyball net and ball available for play. However, you will want to set up a reservation for the racquetball court to ensure your play time. We are more than just basketball folks! ☺ Check out our website at the address below for all the information flyers and registration forms. We also have the calendars for our Encompass Program and our Fitness Classes as well.

ci.smithville.tx.us -
facebook.com/smithvillepard -
512.237.3282 X 7

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

By Ranger Turner



Dig a hole. Place the seedling. Pack the dirt. Walk four steps. Dig a hole. If you know these steps, you're already halfway to being a Loblolly pine-tree-planting-pro. Every year for the past four years, we have planted thousands of Loblolly pines in Bastrop State Park. This year, we will plant approximately 400,000 seedlings among 800 of our acres here at Bastrop State Park in just two months. By the end of next year's planting event, we will have planted 1.8 million Loblolly pine seedlings on 3700 acres.

The Hidden Pines Fire in October of 2015, as well as the Bastrop Complex Fire in 2011 has altered the habitat and ecosystem that we all call the lost pines. In order to reproduce, Loblolly pine seeds need a bare mineral soil to make contact with. In order to be successful the pines need not only a receptive topsoil, but also less competitors. It is with these two reasons that our pine forest needs fire to survive. Fire eliminates and reduces vegetation and fuels that are built up on the forest floor, providing a clear opening for seeds to find receptive soil. Fire also

reduces the competition that oaks present to pines.

There are times, however, when fires can be damaging to our pine forest. These are fires, as you are all aware, that are much more intense than our pine stand can handle. The Bastrop Complex fire as well as the recent Hidden Pines fire were both examples of a fire that, in some areas, were of high intensity. The high intensity destroys seeds that may have been present in the soil and also eliminates seed-producing pines as well. The combination of these two things leads to the inability for a pine forest to reproduce effectively. From a plant's perspective, seed production needs to be as high as possible in order to increase the chances of their offspring surviving. With that, many more seeds are produced than actually survive. So, if a seed-producing tree is eliminated, but has a nearby relative to help step up seed production, that area may recover. However, if large areas of trees are eliminated, the overlap among trees needed to make up for lost ones, does not exist.

This is where our tree planting comes into play. We realized that in order to jumpstart our reforestation efforts, planting trees ourselves would be the best route. With the help of many donors, our first large-scale tree planting event took place in the wake of the 2011 Complex fire. That was the beginning of an ambitious five year tree planting schedule. What makes this year's planting unique is that the seedlings to be planted were harvested directly from Bastrop State Park in 2014. Our Loblollies have unique traits preparing them for a much drier climate, so planting native trees to this specific area is very beneficial. Our planting is also unique this year because some of our acreage that was burned in the Bastrop Complex fire was also burned in the Hidden Pines fire. For this reason, some areas along Park Road 1C were in dire need of tree planting. We have hundreds of volunteers tasked with

that exact task. Park Road 1C is a historic corridor, serving as the direct route from Bastrop State Park and Buescher State Park. The Civilian Conservation Corps chose and constructed this route based on its winding, curving roads, its ability to blend in with the landscape, the recreational uses it provides, and its convenience between two parks. All these reasons are why we aim to plant thousands of trees along Park Road 1C this year. We will also be planting on the edges of our golf course that parallel the Highway 150 Loop and Highway 21. Planting here will help improve the natural view shed and create a sound buffer for the traffic that exists.

None of our tree planting efforts would be possible without volunteers. Without the help of donors, companies, organizations, volunteers of all ages, and an awesome staff, none of this would be possible. For us, as a staff, tree planting is a privilege. We have a lot of fun and we get to work with local folks like yourselves, companies from different states, people from different counties, school groups from nearby towns, and many others. If you'd like to participate in tree planting next year, you can monitor volunteermatch.org to sign up for available planting days starting in December.

Thank you for supporting our mission.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

We are so grateful for our group of Chamber community hosts! They show up week after week and are always willing to help in whatever task we ask of them.

Their smiling faces and cheerful voices greet our out-of-town visitors as well as our members as they drop into the Chamber office. We are so lucky to have this great group of people to represent the Chamber!

THE CHAMBER WORKS!



THE BOOK CORNER Bookmark Your Calendar

By Judy Bergeron

Well, Casey may have moved on to a bigger library in San Angelo (and we do miss him!), but we can still come up with a few words from his Book Corner!

Did you know that February is *Library Lovers* month? If you love your library, why not make it over to 507 Main Street and let them know? And why stop there? Let everyone know everywhere! While you're at it, please be sure to let the library folks know what else we can do to make your library experience better. We are a community service institution and would like to hear from you about what activities, programs, and services you would like to see!

Speaking of programs, did you know that February is also African-American History month? Check in on the library website (www.smithvillepubliclibrary.org) and/or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/smithvillepubliclibrary/>) to see where and when we will host a special read-in at the library, featuring one or more prominent African-American authors.

February also brings us a Valentine celebration! How does the library celebrate St. Valentine? By sharing the love, of course! During the week of Valentine's Day, your library will waive up to \$10 of you overdue fines if you make a donation to the Smithville Food Pantry. Bring in non-perishable foods to the library, and you will get credit towards your fines at a rate of ten cents per ounce, up to \$10. This does not count towards fees associated with replacement of lost or damaged materials. It is, however, a great way to share the love to help fight food insecurity while taking care of those pesky late fees!