



**March 2016**

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**Enclosures:**

Community Forum Candidate Question Form  
March Mixer Invitation  
City Wide Garage Sale Form

**CHARACTER TRAIT of the Month**

**SELF-RELIANCE**

Believing in one's own self-worth and learning to rely on one's own personal strengths; demonstrating one's knowledge of personal skills, abilities and impressions on 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 your Community Calendar at [www.smithvilletx.org](http://www.smithvilletx.org)

# NEWSLETTER

## Smithville Area Chamber Of Commerce

### A Message from the Chamber Desk

*by April Daniels*

February was an exciting month here at the Chamber! Welcome to our new members Rosanky Community Center, Vineyard of Christ Lutheran Church and Kathy's Kountry Kitchen, we are so glad to have you as a member of our Chamber family.

The highlight of the month was, of course, our annual Chamber Award Banquet. Our many deserving awards recipients were congratulated by the filled the capacity banquet room (the beautifully turned out Smithville Recreation Center gym, a perfect place to have our event every year!

Award recipients included Pocket's Grille as Business of the Year, The Smithville Volunteer Fire Dept. as Organization of the Year and, of course, our Citizen of the Year recipient Mayor Mark Bunte who was clearly surprised, especially when the curtain was drawn back to reveal his large, proud as punch family on the stage. His wife Becky did a great job of keeping the secret and many thanks to Adena Lewis for coordinating the big family reveal! Also honored were Laverne Herrington as recipient of the Chamber Volunteer Spotlight Award for ten years of service as a Community Host. The Smithville Film Commission presented Director Andrew Shapter of *The Teller & the Truth* with a special award for his hard work and efforts on a film that featured Smithville and brought notice and publicity to our town. The Richard D. Latham Cultural

District named John Daniels, Jr. as Artist of the Year. Mayor Mark Bunte awarded several honors including a Community Service Award to Jim Horton for his years of hard work and dedication to the Smithville Community Gardens as well as awards to Joyce Klutts and Freddie Bertsch for their hard work and dedication to the Oak Hill Cemetery upgrades completed last year.

Many thanks to our speakers Judge Paul Pape who gave an informative, interesting overview of what's been happening at the Bastrop County level and to City Manager Robert Tamble for his update on what's been happening in Smithville this past year. What a wonderful evening and my thanks to everyone!

Coming up next for the Chamber is our March mixer on March 17, 5pm-7pm at Milton's Fine Furniture, co-sponsored by Milton's and Doug's Plumbing. After that, we are planning the first of our bi-annual City Wide Garage Sales (two this year for the first time) on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Get your registration form in if you're ready to begin your Spring cleaning this year with a big garage sale! Keep your calendars open after that for Jamboree April 7-10 with a Chamber sponsored Arts, Crafts and Vendor Sale on Saturday, April 9 downtown on Main Street.

See the article dedicated to our Candidate Forum on April 26 later in this newsletter. Much more is on the horizon here at the Chamber. Enjoy your March, everyone!

-April Daniels

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
Upcoming  
Chamber Events**

Mar 1 – **We Support SISD event** at Brown Primary, sponsored by Tejas Healthcare

Mar 3 -Kathy's Kountry Kitchen, 5pm, 703 Washington, Smithville – **Ribbon Cutting**

Wednesday, Mar. 9  
11:45 a.m. - La Cabana  
**Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, Mar. 16  
6:30 p.m. – La Cabana  
**Thunder on the Colorado Committee Meeting**

Mar. 17 - 5:00 p.m. - Co-sponsored by Doug's Plumbing and Milton's Fine Furniture, 206 NW Loop 230  
**Chamber Mixer**

Apr 2 – Spring City Wide Garage Sale (registration form included in this newsletter)

Apr 9 – **Jamboree Arts & Crafts Fair** - downtown on Main Street (call 512-237-2313 to register)

Apr 26 – **Candidate Forum** (Mayor, City Council, School Board) – Smithville REC Ctr.

**THE CHAMBER  
WORKS!**

**DOUG'S  
PLUMBING CO.**

P.O. Box 1025 **512-629-7408**  
Bastrop, Texas 78602 Doug Berryann  
DougThePlumber1@gmail.com M36441



**Chamber to Host Candidate Forum on April 26, 2016**

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Candidate Forum on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at the Smithville Recreation Center, 106 Gazley at 6:30pm.

Candidates have been invited to attend and respond to questions submitted by the general public.

Questions from the community for the candidates will be accepted until Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Drop-off boxes and question submission forms are located at Smithville City Hall, the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce office and the Smithville Public Library. Forms are also included with this newsletter. A Question Selection Committee will choose the questions for the candidates from those submissions. Questions will be provided to the candidates prior to the Forum along with the rules of conduct and time allowances.

Only pre-approved questions may be addressed by the candidate at the Forum. No questions will be accepted from the audience.

Candidates have been asked to comment only on the questions presented within the time limits specified.

Candidates have been invited to bring pamphlets or information they would like to have available for the public.

Members of the public are encouraged to call the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce at 512-237-2313 with any questions.

Please note that the Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce is coordinating the forum for community information purposes only and does not endorse or support any candidate.

**TOTALLY HOOKED**  
*Real Estate Team*

Gwendolyn 512-332-6070  
BROKER  
Tylene 512-581-8067  
REALTOR  
TotallyHookedRealEstateTeam.com  
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



**Kacy Benson Spoke to Students 6th - 12th Grade**

Motivational speaker and comedian Kacy Benson spoke to Smithville ISD students. Mr. Benson's presentation at the junior high last fall impressed the high school staff with his

uplifting and impactful message, so when Mr. Benson returned to SJHS he also added three sessions for high school students about "Making Positive Choices."

Mr. Benson, a former high school coach and teacher, relies on his mentoring experiences with students and on his personal life growing up to make a point. Coming from a rough childhood with an alcoholic father, and friends who made harmful choices regarding drugs and alcohol, he is able to reach the students with a message that hits close to home.

"You do not have to become a product of your environment," said Mr. Benson, speaking to students at the junior high last fall. "You do not have to become what you see around you. You're one choice away."

Benson said there are two reasons teens turn to drugs and alcohol: emotional pain and fear of not being accepted or of being bullied. He stated that students should talk to a parent or counselor, not a friend who offers drugs to kill the pain.

"Choices you make today defines who you are tomorrow," says Mr. Benson.

The program was brought to the junior high by Dr. Bethany

Logan, junior high principal, who knew about Benson from her time in Austin.



### CITY NOTES

From Robert Tamble,  
Smithville City Manager

#### LCRA "Steps Forward Day"

**Project** - The City of Smithville submitted our "Steps Forward Day" project application to LCRA for consideration. Volunteers from the Lower Colorado River Authority will gather on Friday, April 22, 2016, to work on community projects throughout LCRA's service territory. Examples of potential projects include cleaning parks, painting pavilions, planting trees or doing carpentry work. Last year, LCRA volunteers helped trim fifty (50) ten foot crepe myrtles at the Loop 230 exit (just off Hwy 71) next to Crawford Municipal Airport. The project helped beautify the entrance to Loop 2

30 (East) while extending the life of the crepe myrtles. This year (if selected), LCRA volunteers will help the City cut / trim trees along the river on both sides of the lighted Fishing Pier at Riverbend Park. *(continued next page)*

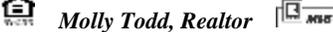
### March Community Happenings

- 2 – Texas Independence Day Celebration, Independence Park
- 3 – Smithville Heritage Society Spring meeting, First Nat'l. Bank Bldg., Smithville, 7pm
- 5 – St. Paul Catholic Church, blessing of community prayer garden, 204 Mills St.
- 10 – Smithville Community Gardens mtg., 5:30 p.m.
- 11 – BCMRA Canteen Dance, Smithville REC Ctr., 6:30 p.m.
- 19 – Brothers of Men Living for Christ "Prayer in the Park", MLK Park, Smithville, 11:00 a.m.
- 19 – Lost Pines Chapter NSDAR meeting, VFW Hall, 557 NW Loop 230, Smithville, 9:30 a.m.
- 25 – Playhouse Smithville opens hilarious comedy Making Love in Public (runs 3/25-4/3)  
Every Tuesday – Smithville Noon Lion's Club meets at La Cabana Restaurant  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

#### CHECK OUT the COMMUNITY CALENDAR

at [www.smithvilletx.org](http://www.smithvilletx.org)  
for up to date happenings in our town & county.

If you'd like to add your community event, email:  
[susan.curry@smithvilletx.org](mailto:susan.curry@smithvilletx.org)



**Molly Todd, Realtor**  
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Smithville, Texas 78957

*Molly Todd*  
BROKER

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

necessary to support the project with LCRA providing the manpower (approximately 10-20 volunteers who will work 4-6 hours). This project will help improve the beauty and functionality of yet another one of Smithville's valuable assets.....the Colorado River at Riverbend Park. Community volunteers are welcome to help! Contact Robert Tamble @ 512-237-3282 for additional information.

contributions to an archive of Texas history and culture, aka your films and videotapes. In partnership with TAMI, Texas Archive of the Moving Image, you may bring your materials in to the library and they will provide free digitization of your materials and share them as part of the Texas Archive. The Archive is a collection of moving images that capture Texas heritage for future generations to appreciate. Call or stop by the library to find out more about the Round-Up which lasts from 1 – 12 March.

reviews to be entered in the prize basket drawing. See you at 507 Main Street!

Commented [DA1]:

**Thank You to New & Renewing Members**

**New Members**

Rosanky Community Center  
Vineyard of Christ Lutheran Church  
Kathy's Kountry Kitchen

**Renewing Members**

Smith Supply  
AOI International  
Bastrop County Board of Realtors  
Check Plus  
The Smithville Times  
Keep Bastrop County Beautiful  
LTCl Choices  
Seton Smithville Regional Hospital  
Wilderness Ridge Camp  
Boys & Girls Club of  
Bastrop County  
Gwendolyn Watkins Totally Hooked  
Team of Keller Williams  
Stay Cool Texas  
Pendergrass People's Mortuary  
Smithville Florist  
Seton Home Health  
Vitalogy Skincare  
Reachable Stars

.....  
If you would like to become a Chamber member contact us at 512-237-2313 for an application form or visit [www.smithvillex.org](http://www.smithvillex.org).

**VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH**

Our volunteers of the month are the amazing folks who helps us get the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet up and running.

A special thanks goes out to Banquet Chair Gwendolyn Watkins!



**Twice the Ice**  
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

It's already March? Wow! I guess since *to us at the library*, every month could be Library Lovers' Month, we never want February to end!

March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the *Texas Film Round-Up* in Bastrop County! All three libraries in Bastrop County will be collection centers for your

Since Jamboree is early in April this year (7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>) that means the Critter Coloring Contest is in March!

Children ages 2-12 may enter the contest by coloring their Critters and submitting them to the library by March 28 at 6 p.m. Be sure to have your kids stop by and get their Critter – we can't wait to see their creative efforts this year!

Calling ALL artists – of every kind (literary, performing, visual, etc!) If you are interested in sharing your story with SISD junior and senior high school arts students, please contact the library. We hope to show these students the opportunities for the Arts beyond high school and beyond Smithville...and your stories will help us!

It has been so exciting to see the great response to our "Blind Date with a Book" program, we may have to do it again soon! A reminder to all of our brave, brown-bag-book selectors: March 19 is the last day to submit your mini-