

Have you gotten your tickets for the 84th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Feb. 11?

The 84th Annual Chamber of Commerce Member Banquet will be held, Thursday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. It will be a wonderful evening and we hope that you will make plans to attend. Seating is limited, so please call 903-885-6515 and get your tickets now! It's only \$20 for a fabulous meal, amazing speaker and the presentation of all of the much deserved awards!!

Cindy Brinker Simmons, speaker for the 'In the Heart of Hopkins County' Chamber Banquet

We are so excited to have Cindy Brinker Simmons as the speaker for the Chamber Banquet. In case you are not familiar with Ms. Simmons, I wanted to give you a little information about her! The reason we asked Ms. Simmons to speak is because her heart's desire is to serve and help others and I believe that is the perfect fit with our community. I have never been in a place where people were more giving and thoughtful of others as Hopkins County and I believe this community has a HUGE heart! So here is a brief bio on Ms. Simmons:

Ms. Simmons co-founded the public relations firm of Brinker, Jeffett & Associates which has now merged and is Levenson & Brinker Public Relations. Ms. Brinker serves as president of the award-winning, full-service strategic communications company.



She brings more than 25 years experience to the firm in creating and implementing strategic public relations campaigns, developing brands, organizing special events and projects, and assessing corporate communications needs. She is considered a specialist in media campaign execution and community relations utilizing her writing skills, creativity and extensive special events background to create multiple opportunities for client visibility.

Coinciding with starting her professional career, Ms. Simmons devoted herself to philanthropic concerns. In 1980 she founded Wipe Out Kids' Cancer, one of Dallas's largest pediatric cancer organizations, in memory of her mother, the late great tennis champion Maureen "Little Mo"

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Written by Meredith Caddell, Hopkins County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO
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Connolly Brinker, who died of cancer in 1969 at the age of 34.

Ms. Simmons is president of the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation, one of the nation's oldest and most esteemed non-profit organizations furthering junior tennis development worldwide.

Ms. Simmons currently serves on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations including Dallas Theological Seminary and the International Tennis Hall of Fame. She has also served on the boards of the Greater Dallas Metroplex Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (Dallas Chapter), Children's Medical Center Dallas, North Texas Food Bank, and Dallas Christian Leadership. She helped establish the Women's Advisory Board of the Mary Crowley Cancer Research Centers.

Ms. Simmons is the author of the popular book, "Little Mo's Legacy: A Mother's Lessons, A Daughter's Story". She enjoys a distinguished reputation as a motivational speaker.

Throughout the years, Ms. Simmons has received numerous civic awards including the 2004 philanthropy award from the Collin County Children's Advocacy Center; the 2003 "Roaring Lambs" ministry award as a woman of great faith; the 2003 "SAVVY" award for community leadership; the Miss Dallas 2002 "Woman of Achievement" award; the 2001 "Dallas Mother of the Year" award; the 2000 "Loving Kids" award from Meeting Planners International; the 1996 "Volunteer Leadership" award from Children's Medical Center Dallas; and the 1994 "Woman of the Year" award from Today's Dallas Woman magazine.

Chamber Ribbon Cutting at Steps 2 Strides



In the photo from left to right are Ambassadors Charlotte Baxter and Carolyn McKinney, Shandra Tanton, Speech Therapist; Kay Bush, Office Manager; Melonie Findley, LMSW; Vickie Lewis, Owner; Jackie Thornton, Stacey Willmon, OT; Kara Petty, Administrator, Ashley Petty, Ambassador; Bailee and Emily Petty, Kara's daughters; and John Booth, owner. They are surrounded by Ambassadors, clients and other business associates from this community. Steps

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2 Strides is located at 614 Bill Bradford Road, Suite 101 inside the Factory Outlet Mall. Their phone number is 903-885-5919 or you can visit them on the web at www.steps2strides.com. Steps 2 Strides will also host our February Business After Hours from 5:30-7:00 on February 18th!

Ribbon Cutting for Safe T Crisis Center

Join us at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Safe T Crisis Center, located at 100 Craig St., Ste. D at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Don't miss these opportunities

- Feb. 10: Safe T Crisis Ribbon Cutting, 11 a.m., 100 Craig Street, Ste. B
- Feb. 11: Chamber Banquet-6:30 p.m. at Civic Center
- Feb. 18: Board Meeting-9 a.m.
- Feb. 18: Ambassadors-Noon
- Feb. 18: Business After Hours at Steps to Strides, 5:30 p.m.7 p.m.
- April 9: Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament
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2010 Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



I wanted to share with you the new Board of Directors for the Chamber: Front row: Treva Watson, HC Treasurer; Shannon Brown, Robert J. Russell, CPA; Kregg Slakey, Texas Heritage National Bank; Jennifer Gregory, Galyean Insurance; Gary Stribling, A & S Air Conditioning; Craig English, Century 21 First Group. Back Row: Scott Brown, Morningstar; Kerry Wright, CPI, Inc; David Fenton, CNB; Markeda Fisher, Professional Land Title; Judy Gregg, SSISD; Jackie Thornton, HCMH Foundation; Carolyn McKinney, Southwest Dairy Museum; Laura Brannon, Alliance Bank; Matt Jasmer, C & C Dairy. Not pictured are Lydia Walden, Como-Pickton ISD; Larry Crowson, Sulta Manufacturing and Sharla Campbell, Carriage House Manor.

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Business of the Week

We will not have a Business of the Week this week because someone stole our Business of the Week sign. W We are currently having another one made and will select a new business as soon as our sign is ready!

That's all for now...have a GREAT week!