

City of Gonzales
820 St. Joseph St.
P.O. Box 547
Gonzales, TX 78629

Prsrtd Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gonzales,
Texas
Permit No.98
Zip Code 78629



email us at:

info@cityofgonzales.org



CALENDAR

AUGUST

4 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers

SEPTEMBER

1 City Holiday Labor Day
2 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers

OCTOBER

6 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers

NOVEMBER

3 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers
11 City Holiday Veterans' Day
27 City Holiday Thanksgiving Day
28 City Holiday Day after Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

1 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers
24 City Holiday Christmas Eve
25 City Holiday Christmas Day

POLICE

The flashing lights near the school mean it's that time of year. With the beginning of school in August, the rat race begins and parents will start making their mental lists of school supplies and clothes.

As these thoughts of the everyday routine fill our minds, it's easy to miss the road signs and flashing lights for the school zone. But because they understand the importance of safe driving in school zones, the police will be looking for violators.

It's important to understand that the police officer who stops drivers for school zone violations only is enforcing the law and does not argue guilt or innocence. The appearance in court offers a time for arguing the facts of the situation.

The most important objective of the Police Department is not to generate revenue, as many people think, but rather to assist in making the City of Gonzales a safe place for children to walk to school and for residents and visitors to travel the streets.

Please pay attention to the traffic laws. Start your trip earlier to avoid trying to make up time by speeding or rolling through stop signs. Remember that if you get pulled over, it could take 15 minutes or more, so you could end up spending even more time.



City of Gonzales

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Volume 5 Number 3

A TEXASWIS\$E™ Publication

Third Quarter 2003

GONZALES ARENA AVAILABLE FOR RENTALS

Residents may now rent the Gonzales Arena located in the J.B. Wells Park for dates from the time of its completion through December 2004. City officials expect the Gonzales Arena to be finished in August.

To make a reservation for the Gonzales Arena, call the City of Gonzales at (830) 672-2815. Multi-day events will take precedence over single day events.

The security deposit is required at the time of the reservation and is refundable if the event is cancelled. Half of the total rental fee is due six months before the event, with the other half due 30 days prior to the event. The rental fee is nonrefundable. Rental rates are below.

Arena:

Monday - Thursday

\$150 Security Deposit

Rental Rate - \$250 per day

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

\$150 Security Deposit

Rental Rate - \$350 per day

Additional Arena Charges:

Timer: \$30 per day

Roping Pads: \$5 per day

Stage Set up: \$25 per day

Poles: \$5 per day

Tractor: \$25 per day for rodeos and barrel races

Panels: \$1 per panel-does not include set-up
\$2.50 per panel-includes set-up

Arena Vendors: \$50 per day per vendor, plus proof of liability insurance

Food Vendors: \$25 per day electrical hookup and proof of insurance

Other park facilities are available at the following rates:

Stalls: \$10 per day, noon to noon

RV Hook-ups: \$17 per day, noon to noon

Large Pavilion: \$100 Security Deposit

Rental Rate - \$200 per day, 6 a.m. to 6 a.m.

'Come and Take It' Story Recounted History Takes the Stage at October Festival



Plan now to join Gonzales residents and visitors on Oct. 2 on Texas Heroes Square for the Come and Take It Festival. The 12:15 p.m. activity includes a short history presentation and cannon firing to start the festival that runs Oct. 3-5.

The Come and Take It Festival celebrates the firing of the first shot of the Texas

Revolution on Oct. 2, 1835, near Gonzales, the western-most Anglo settlement until the close of the Texas Revolution. Laid out in the shape of a cross with seven squares, Gonzales was established by Empresario Green DeWitt and named in honor of Don Rafael Gonzales, provisional governor of Coahuila, Mexico and Texas.

To protect against the Indians, the Mexican government loaned the citizens of Gonzales a six-pound cannon in 1831. As unrest grew, Mexican officials at San Antonio de Bexar demanded the cannon's return and sent a corporal and five soldiers to bring it back. Gonzales residents stalled for time and buried the cannon in George W. Davis' peach orchard.

Lieutenant Castaneda and 150 mounted soldiers then came to take the cannon. When they appeared on the west bank of the Guadalupe River, 18 men in Gonzales stood in defiance, denying the Mexican military a crossing. As the Mexican army scouted the river for a crossing, the colonists crossed the river with their cannon, surprising the troops and waving their hastily fashioned flag that proclaimed "Come and Take It." They fired the cannon, killing one soldier and scattering the rest, forcing them to retreat to San Antonio.

When the smoke cleared, the Mexican troops had taken off and the Texas Revolution had begun. Gonzales became known as "The Lexington of Texas," where the first shot was fired and the first Texas army of volunteers gathered. A few months later, men and boys from the region gathered in Gonzales and sent the only reinforcements received at the Alamo.



820 St. Joseph St.
P. O. Box 547
Gonzales, TX 78629

City Council Members

Bobby G. O'Neal, *Mayor*
Steve Hendershot, *District 1*
Russell Grant, *District 2*
Mary Anne MacLean, *District 3*
Robert A. Logan, *District 4*

Administration

Buddy Drake
City Manager

Linda L. Mercer
*Director of Finance/
Administration/Grants*

Robert Berger
Director of Community Services

Raymie Zella
Director of Community Utilities

Jean Collins
City Secretary

Tim Crow
Interim Chief of Police

Jackie Williamson
City Attorney

Leann Wilkerson
Revenue Collection Line Supervisor

City Council Meetings
First Monday of each month 6 p.m.,
Council Chambers at City Hall



TEXASWISE™ IS AN LCRA PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES
VALUE-ADDED SERVICES TO ELECTRIC CONSUMERS.

CITY BRIEFS

ANIMAL CONTROL HAS NEW HOURS

The Animal Control Department has new operating hours: 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The office is closed on holidays. For assistance during non-business hours, call the Police Department at 672-8686.

ANIMAL CONTROL ASSISTS WITH CHICKEN DISEASE

Because loose chickens can become a health hazard, the City Ordinance requires keeping them in pens.

To help control Exotic Newcastle Disease that affects chickens, the Animal Control Department is required to write citations for citizens who have loose chickens on their property. Property owners are responsible for keeping chickens in pens and the City Ordinance requires citing the property owner if chickens are loose for three days on the property or return to the property twice.

Chickens found on property where they do not belong must be identified and returned to their owners. Otherwise the property owners where they are found will be cited.

Violation of the City Ordinance can result in fines up to \$2,000 per chicken.

ADOPT A PET



The Animal Control Department has pets available for adoption. If you wish to adopt any of these cute kittens or puppies, call Animal Control at 672-2815.

EMPLOYEES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

This month features the Parks Department employees who make a difference. The department crew is responsible for maintaining and mowing all City properties. These properties include Confederate Square, Texas Hero Square, Market Square, Memorial



The Parks Department crew includes (front row left to right): Darren Kuntschik, Gwen Smith, David Cantu, Salomon Almaguer and Mark Martinez. Back row left to right are Melvin Allen, Jesse Valle, Clifford Hare, Kevin Martinez and Lance Fougerat.

Turn to CITY BRIEFS, page 3

Continued from CITY BRIEFS, page 2

Museum, the City Municipal Building, Kerr Creek Park, Independence Park and J.B. Wells Park.

By itself, the J.B. Wells Park has 146 acres, an indication of the size of the job and the amount of effort required to maintain the City's facilities. Because of the employees' efforts, citizens have facilities they can enjoy using. Express your thanks by giving a wave the next time you see a City employee out keeping the City clean and looking good.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL YEAR



With an average daily attendance of 80, the Summer Youth Program completed a successful year. The program offered activities from dodge ball, volleyball, softball, football, kickball, basketball and circle ball to golf, hiking, swimming and arts and crafts.

The program's success was possible because of the hard work of the following coaches, volunteers and lifeguards:

Coaches: Elisa Molina, Jennifer Casares, Mary Frances Carrizales, Lorretta Camarillo, Jacob Leal, Johnathon Carrizales, and Matthew Camarillo.

Volunteers: Amy Gonzales, Krystal Voigt, Tristian Johnson, David Molina, Joshua Aldaco, Alvaro Sanchez, David Sanchez, Felix Gonzales, Miranda Molina, and Jill Simper. Lifeguards: Alexia DeLaRosa and Brooke Kruger.



Some of the Summer Youth Program participants having a good time included (left to right): Alvaro Sanchez, Jacob Leal, Mary Frances Carrizales, Matthew Camarillo, Elisa Molina and Lorretta Camarillo.



TEXASWIS\$ TIPS

PROTECT SENSITIVE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

FROM POWER SURGES

Today's advanced electronic devices have become part of everyday life. But while computers sometimes seem all powerful, they can be vulnerable, too. Computers, fax machines and other electronics require a consistent power supply. As a result, they often fall victim to momentary increases in voltage, called power surges.

Although the City of Gonzales provides safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, it is impossible for the electric utility to prevent all power surges. But you can choose from a number of ways to protect electronic equipment.

SURGE DEVICES OFFER PROTECTION

Consumers can protect electronic equipment by unplugging it when it is not in use. However, continuous protection can be achieved, even when the device is in use, by purchasing and using a surge suppressor, also known as a surge protector. Designed to absorb momentary voltage irregularities, surge protectors prevent damage to delicate electronics.

Surge protection devices include "whole house" suppressors that must be installed at the electric service panel by a professional. These devices provide protection for all electrical devices in your home.

On the other hand, you can purchase the more common "surge strips" that protect only the devices plugged into the strip. Surge strips vary in their capabilities, so check the rating to determine the type that will best meet your needs.

Powerful surges can result from lightning strikes, or when power is restored after an electrical outage. Surges can also result from factors within the home, such as air conditioners or refrigerators restarting. Surge protectors can prevent damage from fluctuations regardless of their origin.

DID YOU KNOW?

A 23-watt fluorescent bulb produces almost the same amount of light as a 100-watt incandescent bulb yet uses one-fourth the energy and lasts 10 times longer.

LIBRARY HOURS

11 A.M. - 7 P.M., MONDAY
9 A.M. - 5 P.M., TUESDAY - FRIDAY
9 A.M. - NOON, SATURDAY

E-MAIL

INFO@CITYOFGONZALES.ORG
VISIT OUR WEBPAGE AT
WWW.CITYOFGONZALES.ORG

CITY OFFICE HOURS

8 A.M. - 5 P.M.
MONDAY - FRIDAY