

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

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CITY EMPLOYEES INITIATE PROJECT "WE CARE"



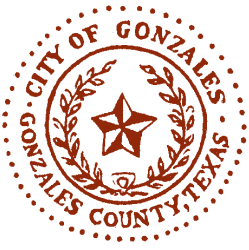
Employees who participated in the project "We Care" include from left to right:
Front row: Myron Boerger, Charlie Pankey, George Martinez, and Billy Rhoades; second row: Richard Simmers, Roger Tomas, Jean Collins, Barbara Friedrich, JoAnn Broz, Carrie Bazan, Dalia Martinez, Kathy Collie, and Melissa Kilpatrick; third row: Tony Gonzales, Bobby Berger, and Roxie Bean. Not pictured: Bryan Onofre.

On Sept. 22, City employees began collecting money for the "September 11 Fund." The 17 employees made up and placed collection canisters in various businesses to gather funds for the families of the Sept. 11 catastrophe. To date, their project "We Care" has collected more than \$2,832.

The project started when employees expressed their desire to do something to help the victims. Even though one person can do a lot, the group formed to expand their capabilities by collecting donations in firemen's boots at traffic intersections. Patriotic music played, American flags waved, and the people who donated expressed their appreciation, telling the employees, "God bless you."

"You could see and feel the pride of America's people giving from their hearts to help the victims and families they did not know and would probably never see," said one participant. People on motorcycles, in cars, pickups, trash trucks, and 18-wheelers stopped to donate money, not worrying about the lights turning green, nor if they were going to be a little late to where they were going.

Thanks to each of you who took the time to stop and give from your hearts. Your smiles, kind words, and donations meant more to those who participated than you will ever know. It is truly wonderful to be an American and live in Gonzales.



City of Gonzales

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Volume 3 Number 4

A TEXASWI\$E™ Publication

Fourth Quarter 2001

MANAGER'S CORNER

In this issue of News and Information we honor an employee who is retiring after 37 years with the City of Gonzales. We are also very proud of a group of 17 city employees for their project "We Care" to help the victims of the September 11 tragedy.

As usual the dates for City Council meetings and City Holidays have been listed. We encourage everyone who can to attend the council meetings to be informed about on-going work as well as plans being made.

We have included an article on Winterfest 2001, which is sponsored by the Gonzales Main Street Program. Also notice the City Briefs for items of interest.

Thank you for taking the time to read your newsletter. Please let us know what you think of the articles and information contained in this issue. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to Donna Irlle, City of Gonzales, P. O. Box 547, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Buddy Drake
City Manager

FREDDIE MAREK COMPLETED 37 YEARS OF SERVICE CITY SAYS GOOD-BY TO LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE



Freddie Marek receives a rifle from the Municipal Electric Service Association and a scope from the City of Gonzales on October 10.

On December 31, the City of Gonzales will lose one of its principal assets when Freddie Marek retires as Superintendent of the Gonzales Electric System. He has served 37 years and 3 months with the system and has helped maintain a staff of qualified and loyal personnel to keep the City's municipally owned electric system among the best in Texas.

Freddie started his employment with the City of Gonzales Electric Department on September 14, 1964, as a lineman. In 1981, Freddie was promoted to the position of Electric Superintendent.

Retired City Manager Calvin Spacek said of Freddie, "I had the privilege of being City Manager and working with Freddie from March 1970-March 1987 in guiding

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WINTERFEST BRINGS SEASONAL FUN



Catch the holiday spirit in Gonzales at the 2001 Winterfest activities. Festival events are scheduled from Thanksgiving through the first weekend of December. Highlights for the weekends of Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 are described below.

On Nov. 24 at 10 a.m., join the fun at the Pioneer Village Fall Festival. Various groups will participate in the annual Soup Cook-Off and the public can join in by judging

the entries with a tasting kit that is included in the admission price of \$5.

Winterfest continues on Dec. 1 at the First United Methodist Church at 8 a.m. with "Breakfast with Santa" sponsored by the Tejas Lions. Enjoy delicious pancakes while being entertained by snowflakes, reindeer, and dancing dolls as the Hermann Sons Dancers perform. Join Santa in a parade to Confederate Square where Santa will hear kids of all ages recite their wish lists.

Shopping for jewelry, yard art, Christmas decorations, or the Pilot Club's newest collectible ornament is easy at Courthouse Trade Days. Activities take place at Confederate and Courthouse squares starting at 9 a.m. on Dec. 1.

Want that unique Christmas Gift? Come to the 2nd Annual Courthouse Book Fair sponsored by the Gonzales County Historical Commission and Liford's Books and More. The

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email us at:
info@cityofgonzales.org



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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

Melissa Kilpatrick
City Secretary

Bill Chenault
Chief of Police

Jackie Williamson
City Attorney

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



TEXASWISE™ IS A PROGRAM TO HELP CONSUMER-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND SAVE THEIR CUSTOMERS ENERGY AND MONEY.

CITY BRIEFS

Visible Addresses Help in Emergencies

In an emergency when seconds count, the results could be costly if emergency personnel are unable to locate your residence or business. Approved addresses must be located on all buildings in the City of Gonzales in a position that is plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting the property.

If you are not sure of your address, you can check on your utility bill for the property address or call the City of Gonzales at 672-2815 for assistance.

Driver's License Office Moved

The driver license renewal office has been relocated to the Courthouse Annex at 1709 North Sarah Dewitt Drive.

Library Provides New Patron Services

The Gonzales Public Library provides several new services and is upgrading its

technology. By the end of the year, the library will be fully automated after work on automating the genealogy books, family folders, and items about local history is completed.

The library recently installed a new microfilm reader/printer in the genealogy department. Copies of microfilmed newspapers and census records are now sharper and the print is enlarged. The library has three public access computers and will add five additional computers in the near future.

Materials in the library include books, videos, audio books, and language tapes that are available for checkout. The library will purchase DVDs for public checkout based on demand.

Open 43 hours per week, library hours are Monday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Visit your local library soon to take advantage of its new services.

Winterfest *continued from page 1*

book fair runs from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Dec. 1 in the Gonzales County Courthouse.

After the book fair, stay for the performance of "Gonzales: The Beginning" presented by the Gonzales County Historical Commission. This performance will be held in the district courtroom of the Gonzales County Courthouse at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 1.

Stroll from house to house on the Historic Homes Tour from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 1-2. Six homes, decorated for the holidays, will be on the tour. Tickets are available at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, 414 St. Lawrence. Cost is \$3 per house or \$10 for 4 houses. Come tour the McClure/Braches House, the oldest historic structure in Gonzales County on its original site from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 1-2. Cost will be \$3 per person.

Relive the magic of the horse and buggy days with Hugh Shelton and friends. View this wonderful collection of carriages and wagons from the 1800s and sample some of Hugh's Dutch oven cooking right off the back of his authentic chuck wagon. His entire collection will be open to the public on Dec. 1-2 from noon-5 p.m. Admission is free. To see the collection, take Highway 183 South from Gonzales. Turn right past the Guadalupe River bridge on County Road 197 and follow the signs.

Gonzales businesses will join in the fun with the Annual Gonzales Wassail Trail from noon-5 p.m. on Dec. 1. Visit the stores and offices that have been transformed into holiday works of art. Sample the storekeepers' famous wassail; present the official passport and vote for the favorite recipe. Drawings for door prizes, compliments of the participating businesses, will begin at 5 p.m.

End your day of activities by attending the Pioneer Village Country Music Show featuring the O'Neal Brothers Band on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. Come for an evening of great country music at the Gonzales Junior High School Auditorium, 920 St. Lawrence Street. Admission is \$5.

Winterfest is sponsored by the Gonzales Main Street Program and is a joint effort of various clubs and organizations in Gonzales. Plan to enjoy the fun and entertainment for everyone.

CITY HALL
672-2815
672-2813(FAX)

POLICE DEPARTMENT
672-8686

LIBRARY
672-6315

MUSEUM
672-6350

MAREK RETIRES *continued from page 1*

the Electric System through the oil embargo of the early 1970s and the resulting escalation of electric energy prices throughout the country. Freddie became very apt at participating with city, area, and state personnel in many activities relating to the operation of small municipally owned electric systems."



Freddie on his wedding day, August, 1965.

Because of his participation in industry related organizations, Freddie brought particular expertise to his job. At various times, he served as president and board member of the Municipal Electric Service Association (MESA), a group of more than 30 cities that buy wholesale electric power from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). He was an active member of the Association of Wholesale Customers (AWC), another organization of LCRA customers. Freddie also worked on the Job Training Safety Program and numerous other activities related to small electric systems.

Freddie's expertise has been recognized by his peers through a number of awards. He received an award for more than 25 years of service on the Job Training Safety Program board and the Distinguished Merit Award by the AWC. He received an award from the MESA board for the nearly 30 years of service on the planning committee. The MESA board presented Freddie with a rifle and named him an "Honorary MESA Life Member." The City of Gonzales presented him a scope for the rifle.

Freddie and his crew have made the City of Gonzales Electric System one of the best in the LCRA service area through the improvements they have completed. A study recently done by LCRA found few places where improvements could be made.

Freddie will be missed but he is leaving the Electric System in excellent condition and in the hands of a well-trained crew who will continue to provide reliable electric service.

As he retires, Freddie can look back on the more than 37 years and take pride in knowing he has played a significant part in providing a reliable, safe, and economically viable electric system for all of the citizens of Gonzales.

TEXASWI\$E TIPS



NEW APPLIANCES ADD TO LIFESTYLES BUT DEMAND ELECTRICITY

During the years, improvements have been made to electrical appliances and equipment we use, making it possible to pay less for the same amount of comfort and work. But even while large appliances, such as refrigerators and freezers, have been made more efficient, electricity demand has continued to grow, primarily because new appliances powered by electricity have been invented.

Many of the appliances homeowners take for granted today did not exist even 20 years ago; rechargers for cellular telephones, alarm systems, and electric toothbrushes, all powered by electricity. While considered "small" users of electricity compared with water heaters, electric ranges, and other major users, the number of these new appliances has grown to the point that they have become major users of electricity when added together.

NEW APPLIANCES HAVE BECOME BIG USERS OF ELECTRICITY

Many of the new users of electricity, such as pool pumps and dehumidifiers, require significant amounts of electricity because they operate continuously. For example, at 1.7 cents per hour, a dehumidifier can cost several dollars per month.

Appliances that do not operate continuously can still add significantly to your electric bill. The sum of all these small users can affect your total utility bill.

WATCH FOR THE "HIDDEN USERS"

Many of the appliances that we take for granted include "hidden users" of electricity. The electronic clocks on microwave ovens and ranges, for example, operate all the time regardless of whether you are using the appliance. Cellular telephone rechargers use electricity even when the phone is not attached.

These new devices make life more enjoyable but cost money when the utility bill arrives. When making purchases of these "extras," consider the additional amount of electricity they use. Check labels to determine the most cost efficient types of devices for the job. Enjoy the benefits that electricity brings all day, every day.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2001

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 | City Council Meeting – 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 12 | City Holiday | Veterans Day |
| 22 | City Holiday | Thanksgiving Day |
| 23 | City Holiday | Thanksgiving Holiday |

DECEMBER 2001

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 3 | City Council Meeting – 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 24 | City Holiday | Christmas Eve |
| 25 | City Holiday | Christmas Day |

JANUARY 2002

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | City Holiday | New Year's Day |
| 7 | City Council Meeting – 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 21 | City Holiday | Martin Luther King Day |

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

CITY OFFICE HOURS

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