

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST

5 City Council Meeting – 6 p.m., Council Chambers

### SEPTEMBER

2 City Holiday Labor Day  
3 City Council Meeting – 6 p.m. Council Chambers

### OCTOBER

7 City Council Meeting – 6 p.m., Council Chambers

### NOVEMBER

4 City Council Meeting – 6 p.m., Council Chambers  
11 City Holiday Veterans Day  
28 City Holiday Thanksgiving Day  
29 City Holiday Day After Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

2 City Council Meeting – 6 p.m., Council Chambers  
24 City Holiday Christmas Eve  
25 City Holiday Christmas Day

email us at:

[info@cityofgonzales.org](mailto:info@cityofgonzales.org)

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



## Employees Who Make a Difference



*Gary Shock, Chief Water and Wastewater Plant Operator for the City.*

Gary Shock, Chief Water and Wastewater Plant Operator, recently received his Class A-Water license from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. The license goes along with the Class A-Wastewater license he received last year.

The two licenses are the highest that can be achieved in the industry and makes Shock a "Double A."

The Texas Water Utilities Association will honor Shock next year at their annual meeting at College Station where he will be inducted into the Double A Club.

With fewer than 1,000 Double A license holders in the state, the City of Gonzales is fortunate to have such a distinguished professional on our staff.

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# City of Gonzales

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Volume 4 Number 3

A TEXASWI\$E™ Publication

Third Quarter 2002

## CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

In this issue of *News and Information*, we will introduce the City of Gonzales web site. Make plans to visit [cityofgonzales.org](http://cityofgonzales.org). We hope that you will find the site informative and helpful. As the Gonzales Community Network grant comes to an end, we provide an update on the grant and encourage you to visit [gonzalesnetwork.org](http://gonzalesnetwork.org).

Congratulations to Gary Shock for obtaining an A-operators license in water and wastewater. To be a double A operator is quite an accomplishment, since there are only about 1,000 double A operators in the state of Texas. We are fortunate to have such a qualified employee.

The City is proceeding with several capital projects of interest to the community; an update is provided. We highlight the new employees in the Janitorial Department and provide a calendar of City Council meetings and City holidays.

Thank you for taking the time to read your newsletter and remember "Come and Take It" is right around the corner.

Buddy Drake  
*City Manager*

## GONZALES NETWORK GROWS AND IMPROVES



More than 180 individuals have taken 571 free introductory and specialized Microsoft classes as part of the Gonzales Community Network program that also includes additions to the equipment and software for the project. Organizers expect that a training program in Nixon will increase the number of students completing computer courses.

New equipment has been installed at the County Archives and Gonzales Public Library and additional new software is in use at the Gonzales Learning Center. The library's new machine allows access in Spanish and English; a new scanner and imaging software is now used for the mobile computer lab.

*Turn to Gonzales Network, page 3*

## Web Site Provides a Wealth of Information

The City of Gonzales web site at [www.cityofgonzales.org](http://www.cityofgonzales.org) offers a variety of information for residents and others. Major sections include:

- ✦ Community Services-information about all city parks and the airport and maps of the golf course; animal control officer and adopt-a-pet program; library and museum hours and information.
- ✦ Code Enforcement provides a link to the national building code, forms and fee schedules for building, zoning and construction permits.
- ✦ Utilities section covers utility rates and meter deposit policies for electric, water, wastewater and solid waste services. The

section also includes street department information.

- ✦ Administration-City Manager information and current budget overview. A Human Resources section has links to employment benefits agencies for the City of Gonzales, including the IRS.
- ✦ Law enforcement-online compliment and complaint form and contact information. The Municipal Court section contains a plea form and a fine and fee schedule.
- ✦ City Council-description of how the Council-Manager form of government works and a list of the current council

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## CITY MAKES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Gonzales continues to make improvements to the infrastructure that will enhance life in the city.

New water and sewer lines and a lift station are under construction north of town in newly annexed areas to provide

water, sewer and fire protection services that will allow the area to develop. This work is being done by Mercer Construction of Edna.

New water lines are being added along Johnson, Klein and Weimer streets and all

of the streets off Johnson Street. The funding is provided by grant money and the project by Ruschaupt Plumbing of Cuero is nearing completion.

Work on new pumps and a storage tank

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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*

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



*New City staff from left to right are Gloria Salazar and Carol Russell.*

### TWO JOIN CITY STAFF

The City welcomes Gloria Salazar and Carol Russell to the Janitorial Department where they are responsible for cleaning all City facilities.

A native of Gonzales County, Salazar attended Gonzales public schools. She

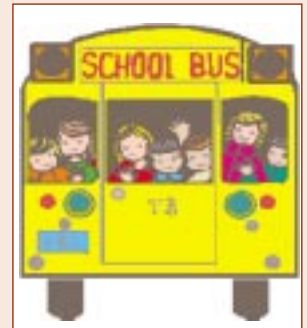
was an ambulance corps volunteer for 12 years and worked in the local hospital. Her hobbies include collecting birdhouses and angels and being with her grandchildren.

Russell graduated from Gonzales High School in 1985 and attended the Gary Job Corps Center where she graduated in 1987. She likes working with children and formed a precision marching group that has performed in the last two "Come and Take It" parades. Her hobbies include basketball, running and playing Bingo.

### SCHOOL OPENING MEANS SAFETY CONCERN

Lights in school zones begin flashing later in August to warn drivers to pay attention to children walking to school, crossing the streets and getting off buses.

Drivers should pay particular attention to flashing red lights on school buses when they are stopped to pick up or drop off children. Failure to stop for a school bus is a class B misdemeanor and carries the same penalty as a first offense DWI, which means offenders could spend time in jail.



The Police Department needs your cooperation and help in preventing avoidable accidents and keeping children safe. Please remember that traffic fines are double the usual amount in school zones.

Be patient, drive slowly and pay close attention to the school zones, buses and children walking or riding bicycles. Any questions can be directed to the Police Department at 830-672-8686.



### SIGNS ON POLES VIOLATE CITY ORDINANCES

Signs and flyers on utility poles are not only unsightly and dangerous for City electric employees, but they are also illegal. Placing advertisements on utility poles violates City ordinances (Section 130.09) and carries a fine of up to \$2,000.

Utility poles are for holding power lines. Please do not hang signs on them.

CITY HALL  
672-2815  
672-2813(FAX)

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
672-8686

LIBRARY  
672-6315

MUSEUM  
672-6350

*Continued from Gonzales Network, page 1*

At the archives, a computer, scanner and printer are available for public use. Imaging software at the Learning Center can be used for the training machines as they are prepared for each new class. The backup server was moved from the external vendor site to the Gonzales Public Library to reduce monthly fees for the service.

Program organizers have made significant progress on implementing programs that will allow the Community Network to sustain itself after the grant expires. Steps include adding the capability for advertising banners on the community portal. The project also offers organizations "snapshot" web sites on the portal. Both services will be marketed in the community.

A Sustainability Committee will oversee issues that involve maintaining the Community Network when the grant expires. Future plans include installing kiosk machines that default to the Community Network portal for public use at member sites. Another project will deliver wireless connectivity to the Gonzales Public Library to host the server internally and significantly reduce operating costs.

For information about the grant and its programs, please call Barbara Friedrich at 830-672-2815.

*Cont'd. from Web Site, page 1*

members with contact information. A map of the election districts and the location of polling places are available in the Election section.

★ Main Street Program description with a link to the National Main Street City program. Includes a list of grants and funding programs available through the City Main Street Program. A City profile is presented through the Economic Development section.

★ City boards-includes functions and composition of all boards appointed by the City Council.

★ Links to the Chamber of Commerce and Community Network to connect directly to those web sites and a link to City of Gonzales News and Information newsletters.

Please provide your comments about the web site and its information by using the feedback form. Your response will be used to enhance the site in the future.

*Cont'd. from Improvements page 1*

for a well at the water plant is nearly complete. The project being done by Mercer Construction of Edna will allow the water plant to increase its capacity by 500 gallons per minute.

Addition of a grinder pump type bar screen at the wastewater plant will allow all of the solids to be ground up and augured into a dumpster to reduce pump wear and maintenance. This project will be completed by the end of August by Payton Construction of Wimberley.

City Staff with oversight by the Texas Department of Transportation will con-

struct the North Avenue sidewalk. Beginning at the end of August, the project will take about a year to complete.

The City of Gonzales will serve as general contractor for the J. B. Wells Park where water and wastewater lines are being designed. The Texas Workforce will hold heavy equipment training on the site and training sessions will be included in the community's match for a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The contract for the covered arena has been awarded to McKee Construction of Yoakum. Erection of the building will be completed by the middle of December.



## TEXASWIS\$ TIPS

### Tips for Summer Energy Savings

In South Texas, air conditioning represents the greatest user of energy during the year. You can save money by following some practical tips to reduce your air conditioning usage.

- ★ Set the thermostat on the central air conditioner at 78 to 80 degrees during the summer; then supplement the air conditioning with fans to move the air around.
- ★ Clean or replace the air filters every two weeks during the hottest months of the summer.
- ★ Close blinds and drapes in areas where the sun shines directly.
- ★ Add awnings over windows with a western exposure to keep out the summer rays.
- ★ Plant trees and shrubs to limit sun exposure on the west side of your home.
- ★ Seal up air leaks around doors and windows with weather-stripping and caulk.
- ★ Check the air conditioning ducts for leaks. Minor leaks can be repaired with tape with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) logo. You can save 10 percent or more on your utility bill by sealing up air duct leaks.
- ★ Insulation on air conditioning ducts represents a big energy saver; consider having a professional replace the insulation and moisture barrier.

### Plan Now for Changing Season

As the season begins to change, consider preparing your home or business for the upcoming heating season.

- ★ Call for service on your furnace or do it yourself so it will operate properly and will be clean. Properly functioning, clean equipment saves you money on your utility bill, because the furnace is more efficient.
- ★ Buy a supply of air filters, so you can change them at least once a month during the heating season.
- ★ Check for air leaks around windows, doors and pipes then seal leaks with caulk and weather-stripping.
- ★ Replace any cracked or broken windowpanes.
- ★ Add insulation in the attic to maintain an R-30 rating. Insulation can be installed from rolls or loose insulation can be blown in. Check the insulation labeling to be sure you have the correct thickness to achieve the R-30 rating.
- ★ Resist the temptation to cover your attic vents. They help maintain air circulation that is necessary to reduce attic moisture throughout the year.

#### 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