

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Texas Independence Day Celebration
3 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers

APRIL

- 7 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers
18 Half Day City Holiday Good Friday

May

- 3 City Elections
5 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers
26 City Holiday Memorial Day

Continued from Freedom Celebration, page 1

Gonzales: The Beginning - 4-5 p.m. in District Courtroom

Fish Fry, sponsored by Knights of Columbus at Catholic Parish Hall
702 St. Lawrence St. \$5 per plate for plates to go or dine in.

Country Music Show - 7 p.m. at Gonzales Jr. High Auditorium, 914 St.
Lawrence St. - \$5 admission. Sponsored by
Pioneer Village Living History Center

More information about Texas Freedom events is available by calling
(830) 672-6532 or on the Internet at www.gonzalestexas.com.

City Welcomes New Parks Director

Billy Malaer, is the new Parks Director, replacing Charlie Pankey. Malaer has been employed at the City since August, 24, 1999, when he started work in the Water Department as a utility operator. After receiving his commercial driver's license, he was upgraded to heavy equipment operator



*New Parks Director
Billy Malaer*

in March 2000 and became a crew leader in the department on October 15, 2001.

"His experience with the City makes Billy a real asset," said City Manager Buddy Drake.

Malaer is President of the Gonzales Volleyball League, Vice President of the Gonzales Little League Association and is a member of the Come & Take It Association and the Come & Take It Entertainment Committee.

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



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City of Gonzales

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Volume 1 Number 5

A TEXASWI\$E™ Publication

First Quarter 2003

HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM ENDS

The successful Home Grant Program has ended following completion of 11 new homes. Three additional homes currently are under construction.

"This grant has made a difference in our community and has touched many people" said City Manager Buddy Drake. "We hope to have more grants of this type available to our community in the future."



The before and after photos of a home improved under the Home Grant Program shows the benefits from the program.



City Manager Buddy Drake (left) presents a plaque to Charlie Pankey recognizing his service as Parks Director.

PARKS DIRECTOR RETIRES

Charlie Pankey retired January 31, after working for the City of Gonzales for 7 years and 8 months. He joined the City May 1, 1995, as Parks Maintenance Worker and worked his way up to Park Foreman before being appointed Parks Director on Jan. 8, 2000.

As Parks Director, Pankey supervised 13 full-time staff and 11 seasonal employees and oversaw

maintenance and janitorial services for all City parks and facilities. He represented the City of Gonzales on several local and regional boards and committees.

"Charlie brought a sense of pride to the Parks and Janitorial Departments," said City Manager Buddy Drake. "He has been a great asset to the City and his services will be missed."

Gonzales Holds Texas Freedom Celebration

Gonzales marks Texas freedom on March 1 with a day of celebrations sponsored by the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Gonzales County Historical Commission.

EVENTS

Breakfast at the Old Jail Museum - 7- 9:30 a.m.

Art Show - 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sponsored by Gonzales Art Group on second floor of Gonzales County Courthouse.

Gonzales: The Beginning - 10-11 a.m. - History Program in District Courtroom in Courthouse

Wreath-laying Ceremony 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Texas Heroes Square. Followed by Toast to Texas

Shelton Wagon Display - Noon - 5 p.m. on Courthouse Square

Walking Tour of Downtown Historic Squares - 1-3 p.m.

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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

Leann Wilkerson
Revenue Collection Line Supervisor

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



TEXASWIS[™] IS AN LCRA PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES
VALUE-ADDED SERVICES TO ELECTRIC CONSUMERS.

CITY BRIEFS

Reduce Future Sewer Charges

The Water Department reminds residents and business owners that sewer bills for the year beginning April 1 will be based on the amount of water used between Dec. 10, 2002, and March 10.

Sewer charges are recalculated each year based on the three winter months when water is not used for lawns and generally goes into the sewer system.

Adopt a Pet at April Fair

The City's Animal Control Department will hold its third annual Pet Adoption Fair on April 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Animal Shelter on County Road 488 off Moulton Rd, FM 532. Both cats and dogs will be available for viewing and selecting.

Hot dogs and soda will be sold to raise money and Dr. first name? Clampet will provide rabies shots and vaccinations. The Adopt-A-Pet program was organized in 2000 to place unwanted animals in good homes.

Animal Cruelty Results in Fines

Unfortunately, the City's Animal Control Officer gets an increasing number of animal abuse reports. In cases of abuse, the officer picks up the animal and issues a citation that will result in a fine up to \$2,000 for each count of cruelty.

In the last several months, the City has picked up dogs, chickens and rabbits that did not receive proper care. Examples of abuse included dogs without shelter and chickens and rabbits left without food and water.

If you know of any animal abuse, please call City Hall to report it.



Pictured is a German Shepherd that was left behind.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CITY ELECTIONS

City Elections will be held on May 3 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Gonzales North Avenue School, 1032 St. Joseph Street. Voting locations for all districts have changed to the North Avenue School in an attempt to make voting easier for all voters.



City Council positions that will appear on the ballot include District 1, currently held by Steve Hendershot, and District 2, currently held by Russell Grant.

Early voting will be conducted at the Gonzales Municipal Building April 16-29 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

La votacion de la ciudad de este ano, tomara lugar en Mayo 3, 2003 de las 7:00 a.m asta 7:00 p.m. en la escuela North Avenue localisada da en 1032 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Cambiaron locaciones para votar para todos los distritos a la escuela North Avenue el cambio de locaciones es para los votantes mas facil en un solo local.

Lugares papa re-eleccion del ano Distrito 1, Steve Hendershot, y Distrito 2, Russell Grant.

Votaciones tempranas para apariensa personal sera conducida en el Edificio Municipal de Gonzales, comensando Abril 16, 2003 asta Abril 29, 2003 entre las horas de 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

CITY HALL
672-2815
672-2813(FAX)

POLICE DEPARTMENT
672-8686

LIBRARY
672-6315

MUSEUM
672-6350

GONZALES PLANS SPRINGFEST

Springfest will be held in Gonzales April 26-27. Activities will include special events, food and a home tour.

April 26 Events

Courthouse Trade Days features arts, crafts, antiques and collectibles on the square in downtown Gonzales - 9 - 4.

Silent Auction - Gonzales Christian Assistance Ministry (GCAM) will have a Silent Auction and lots of good food on Confederate square from 9 to 4.

Gonzales Pioneer Village Dutch Oven Cook Off - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
See how pioneers prepared meals; taste the foods at noon; watch broom making, butter churning, quilting and other pioneer chores

Listen to good country music and stroll through the living history village of pre-1900 buildings from Gonzales County. (Admission)

April 26-27 Event

Springfest Tour of Homes - 2 to 6 p.m.

Five historic homes will be open for touring during the two-day event. Featured will be the C. T. Rather House, the C. E. Dilworth House, the J. B. Wells House, the B. N. Peck House and the G. F. Burgess House.

What to Do If a Police Officer Stops You in Your Motor Vehicle

A traffic stop represents one of the most frequent encounters between citizens and police. Usually, police officers pull a vehicle over if they believe some offense has occurred. You may feel anxious, irritated at the delay or concerned about a possible citation. However, officers are also concerned about possible threats to their personal safety while performing their duties. The following recommended procedures will help ensure that the traffic stop can be completed quickly and safely:

- ❖ When signaled by an officer, safely pull over to a place out of traffic flow.
- ❖ Sit calmly, with your hands visible on the steering wheel. If you have passengers, ask them to sit quietly with their hands visible. (Avoid sudden movements or ducking in the seat; these actions can unnecessarily alarm the officer).
- ❖ If it is night, turn on your inside light when you pull the car over. For safety reasons, the officer will want to visually scan the car's interior before proceeding.
- ❖ Do not get out of your car unless the officer asks you to step out. If you are

asked to do so, comply in a calm manner.

- ❖ A sure way to put an officer at ease is to communicate your actions in advance by telling the officer what you will be doing before you move.
- ❖ If requested, you must give the officer your driver's license and vehicle registration.
- ❖ Tell the officer where it is before reaching for it - especially if it is tucked away in the glove box or some other unusual place.

If you are issued a citation, you will be asked to sign it. Signing is not an admission of guilt but an acknowledgement that you have received the citation. While you may wish to clarify the circumstances of the citation, keep in mind that your guilt or innocence can be determined only in court. Arguments over or protests about the situation cannot be resolved in the street.



TEXASWIS\$ TIPS

With spring coming soon, plan now for landscaping work that will pay dividends with beauty and water conservation. Your lawn can provide pleasure for the eye and for family activities while reducing the heat around your house and requiring little water.

Plant Trees for Cool Shade

A tree in the landscape can reduce utility bills by shading your property, particularly the house. Plant trees to limit sun exposure on the south and west sides of your home.

When choosing trees, plan the size according to the location so trees will not interfere with power lines and will not crowd other landscape plantings. Because trees such as oaks and pecans grow well in South Texas and can reach 30-40 feet tall, they represent a good choice for lawns that have adequate space.

Flowering trees, such as crape myrtle and mountain laurel, can add color to the landscape and represent good choices for areas where shorter trees are required.

After they are established, trees do not require water to survive. However, during the first year after they are planted, they should be watered regularly if rainfall isn't adequate.

LANDSCAPE WITH WATER IN MIND

Choose landscape plants to reduce the requirement for watering. The results will save you money on your water bill and work when the summer heat comes.

While drought-resistant plants, such as lantana and salvia greggi, will bloom best if they have adequate water, they can survive the heat and drought of South Texas summers even without water.

CLEAN WITH CARE FOR LANDSCAPING WORK

As you prepare for spring planting, keep safety in mind as you clean away the debris from winter.

- ★ Use electrical tools that are properly grounded and have the Underwriters Laboratory label to assure they are safe.
- ★ Use heavy-duty three-prong, grounded extension cords approved for outdoor use and, if possible, plug equipment into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet.
- ★ Never touch a fallen wire or assume such a wire is not energized. Call the City Electric Department to report it.

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