

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

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

25 & 26 City Holiday Thanksgiving



DECEMBER

6 City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. Council Chambers
 23-24 City Holiday City offices closed for Christmas holidays
 31 New Year's Eve City offices closed



JANUARY

3 City Council Meeting-6 p.m. Council Chambers
 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City offices closed

FEBRUARY

7 City Council Meeting-6 p.m. Council Chambers
 21 Presidents' Day City offices closed

Winter Fest, from page 1

mance will be held in the District Courtroom of the Gonzales County Courthouse at 1:30 p.m.

Stroll from house to house on the Historic Homes Tour from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 4-5. Five homes, decorated for the holidays, will be on the tour. Tickets are available at the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, 414 St. Lawrence.

Be sure to attend Gonzales Pioneer Village "Stars in the Village," a twilight walk with history. Stroll through this 1800s village after dark to see period Christmas decorations, blended with thousands of tiny twinkling lights. Enjoy punch and cookies while costumed historians play seasonal music on antique instruments. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and will close at 9 p.m. on Dec. 3-4. Admission is \$3 per person.

Winterfest is a joint effort of various clubs and organizations in Gonzales. For more information, call Gonzales Main Street at 672-2815.

Happy Holidays!

email us at:
info@cityofgonzales.org



City Manager's Corner

We are pleased to have several new businesses in town. This business activity brings a new life to Gonzales, and I encourage everyone to do holiday shopping in downtown Gonzales.

Gonzales Main Street has dates set for several festive activities this season, including the Christmas Piano Gala, Breakfast with Santa, Courthouse Book Fair, a performance of "Gonzales: The Beginning," the Historic Homes Tour and "Stars in the Village" at Pioneer Village. These events will add to the holiday season in our city.

*The City Council,
City staff and I wish
each and every one
Happy Holidays
and a Prosperous New Year.*

Remember that averaging starts Dec. 1 and will end Mar. 1 to determine sewer charges for the following 12 months. This time period is used to set sewer charges, since generally water used in the winter will go into the sewer and not to water lawns or fill swimming pools. This is a good time to monitor your water usage with the added incentive that you can reduce your sewer charge.

The City of Gonzales department heads are currently working on the budget for fiscal year 2006 that starts April 1. Workshops will be scheduled when preliminary work is completed.

The City Council, City staff and I wish each and every one Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year.

*Buddy Drake
City Manager*

Gonzales Schedules Winterfest Activities



Colorful events in Gonzales will add entertainment to the pre-holiday season. Activities will include a parade of historic homes, Piano Gala, Courthouse Book Fair, Stars in the Village, Breakfast with Santa, History Show, and Courthouse Trade Days—all part of the fun and excitement of the Gonzales Winterfest 2004. Events take place on Dec. 2-5.



Downtown Winterfest activities and vendors attracts visitors for family fun.

Lions. Enjoy delicious pancakes while being entertained by snowflakes, reindeer and dancing dolls presented by the Gonzales School of Dance. Beta Sigma Phi members will take photos of visitors with Santa.

Shop for jewelry, yard art, Christmas decorations or the Pilot Club's newest collectible ornament at Courthouse Trade Days on Confederate and Courthouse squares starting at 9 a.m. While shopping, stop by and see talented dancers perform to Christmas tunes and listen to youth sing old-time favorite Christmas carols.

Want that unique Christmas Gift? Come to the annual Courthouse Book Fair sponsored by the Gonzales County Historical Commission and Liford's Books and More. Six noted authors will autograph their books. The book fair runs from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Gonzales County Courthouse.

After the book fair, stay for the performance of "Gonzales: The Beginning" presented by the Gonzales County Historical Commission. Actors in period costumes will present information regarding the founding of Gonzales in 1825. This perfor-

Gonzales Main Street presents its fourth annual Christmas Piano Gala on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Wells Fargo Bank Building. Enjoy an evening of musical entertainment featuring local artists. Admission is \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door.

Begin the day at 8 a.m. on Dec. 4 at the St. James Catholic Parish Hall at Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Tejas



Santa listens...

CITY OF GONZALES

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*
Deidra Voigt, *District 3*
Robert A. Logan, *District 4*

Administration

Buddy Drake
City Manager

Billy Malaer
Director of Community Services

Raymie Zella
Director of Community Utilities

Joe Cavazos
Director of Finance

Barbara Friedrich
Mainstreet Administrator

Jean Collins
City Secretary

Tim Crow
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

Identification Can Save Lives and Property
In an emergency, when seconds count, locating your business or residence could be costly if emergency personnel are unable to find you. Approved numbers or addresses must be located on all buildings in the City of Gonzales so they are plainly visible 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.

Conserve Water to Save on Sewer Charges
The period used to calculate your sewer bill is here. Your water usage from approximately Dec.1-Mar. 1 will be averaged to establish your residential sewer bill for the next 12 months (April 2005-March 2006).

These three months are used for the calculation, because very little water is used for lawn watering. Most of the water that is used will go into the sewer system.

It is good to practice water conservation at all times, but the amount of water used during this three-month period will affect the amount of your sewer bill for the next year. Your sewer bill changes annually, based on the water usage during this three-month period.

911 Addresses Needed

The City of Gonzales needs your 911 physical/mailling address. The U. S. Postal Service may not deliver your mail if you still have an old rural route mailing address, so the City of Gonzales needs to update records with your 911 address as your physical and mailing address.

This request affects residents who have water accounts and live outside the City limits. For example, an address of 100 Water Dist-S would need to be updated with a physical location. Many of these accounts are located on Shiner Highway, Waelder Highway and Harwood Road.

Updating your address will assist the Post Office in delivering your mail and will

allow the City to locate your account for water service. Please call Leann Wilkerson at 672-2815 to provide the information or for questions.

Year-end Financial Work Begins

In preparation for the end of the year, City staff members are making their lists and checking them twice for social security numbers and tax identification numbers needed to prepare 1099 forms. If you received at least \$600 from the City in 2004 and you are eligible for a 1099, you should receive your form by Jan. 31. The City will not report earnings to the IRS until Feb. 28.

The Human Resources staff is compiling the facts and figures for the 2004 payroll year to prepare W-2 forms. If you were employed by the City of Gonzales during 2004, you will receive your 2004 W-2 by Jan. 31.

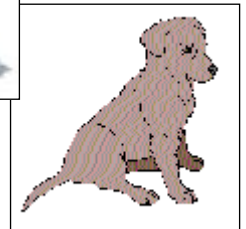
Supervisors and division directors are preparing the 2006 budget worksheets for the budget year ending Mar. 31, 2006. The finance department compiles the departmental budget worksheets during December and January. The draft budget will be presented to the City Council in January, with public workshops to be held shortly after.

Animal Shelter Opens New Facility

The Friends of Gonzales Animal Shelter has opened a new adoption facility at 505 St. Francis Street. The facility houses several cats and dogs that need new homes.



Currently, the shel-



ter needs volunteers so the shelter can extend its operating hours. Operating hours will be Tues. & Thurs. 3:30 - 6 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information about becoming a volunteer, call City Hall at 672-2815.

Downtown Gonzales Coming Back to Life

The 300 block of St. George Street has had somewhat of a facelift. Three new businesses have opened within the last few months to share the block with All In One Salon, The TV Shop and Valdez Cleaners.

The Star Dust Room, a Southern bistro and dance hall, opened its doors in September. Bringing big-city ambiance to Gonzales, it serves delicious cuisine and has an extensive jukebox and live music on Friday and Saturday nights. Two other great additions along this strip are El Mercado Bakery and Personal Impressions.

Other businesses new to the downtown area include: The Josephine Peck Black Art Center, Gonzales School of Dance, Heads Black Belt Academy, Apache Title Co., Hearty Gourmet, Greg's, Starry Nights Café, Shear Designs Boutique and Licorice and Lemon Drops. Remember to shop Downtown Gonzales.



Two views of recently renovated downtown streets.



SAVING MONEY SAVING RESOURCES

In the midst of the ho, ho, ho's of the holiday season, safety is an important consideration, both while putting up decorations and while enjoying their beauty and the festive feel they provide. Take note of some safety tips to enjoy the season.

LIGHTS AND FIRES ADD SPARKLE AND GLOW

The sparkle and glow of candles, fireplaces and electric lights bring warmth and cheer if you take a few precautions:

- ✓ Make sure your fireplace or wood stove has been cleaned and serviced before you light the first fire of the season.
 - ✓ Cover open fires with a screen, glass doors or grate and keep the hearth clear of wood or other inflammable materials.
 - ✓ Check fireplaces and space heaters to make sure they operate safely and are properly vented.
 - ✓ Choose lamps and extension cords that carry a UL label, and don't use a larger wattage bulb than the rating for the fixture. (The correct wattage should be printed on the inside of the lamp fixture).
 - ✓ Check fuses and circuits to prevent overloads.
 - ✓ Turn off decorative lights and extinguish fires before you leave the house or go to bed.
 - ✓ Check your smoke detectors. Many fires start from cigarettes left smoldering or dropped into a trash can. These hazards can go unnoticed, particularly after a party.
- Take care when preparing for Santa's trip down the chimney:
- ✓ Before you put the reindeer or lights on the roof, inspect the rungs and supports of the ladder you'll use.
 - ✓ Check overhanging tree branches that could be sparked by exhaust from your chimney and trim any that present fire hazards.
 - ✓ Use care in placing your ladder for work on the roof to avoid getting it in your overhead power lines.
 - ✓ Hire a professional to sweep the chimney to prevent a fire from residue buildup.

Frequently Asked Questions About Gonzales Utilities

Q: Does the City offer electronic bank drafts to customers?

A: Yes. Customers can come in and sign up to have their bills electronically drafted from the bank. The payment for utility bills will be taken from the designated account on the 10th of the month.

Q: Does the City offer an average monthly payment plan?

A: Yes. The average monthly payment plan is designed to make month-

ly utility bills more uniform throughout the year. Customers can sign up at City Hall.

Q: Does the City refund utility deposits?

A: The City applies the utility deposit to the customer's utility account after 12 months of an excellent payment history.

Send questions and suggestions for future topics to City of Gonzales, P.O. Box 547, Gonzales, TX 78629.

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