

# The Burnet Bluebonnet



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## HIGHWAY PROJECTS NUMBER ONE ON CARTPO LIST

Improvements to U.S. Highway 281 in Burnet and Marble Falls tied for first priority ranking during the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) 2008 Call for Projects.

CARTPO prioritized eleven regional transportation projects submitted by Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Lee and Llano Counties on Friday, December 5 with Burnet County taking the top two positions.

CARTPO initiated the Call for Projects in response to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) Austin District Engineer Bob Daigh's request for a prioritized list of regional transportation projects. The list allows each region to have input on what they believe are the most pressing issues that can be executed in a timely manner if and when funds become available.

The two projects include the rehabilitation of the roadway between Park Road Four and Delaware Springs Blvd. including the addition of a 14' center line turn lane and 10' shoulders, and the replacement and widening of the bridge over Lake Marble Falls.

According to County Judge Donna Klaeger, who made the presentation to CARTPO, although the projects still have yet to be funded by TxDot, the prioritization is an important step in the process. If awarded funding, both projects will be ready to begin construction as soon as the bidding process is completed.



Photo courtesy Austin Steam Train Association

## Work begins for A Day Out With Thomas

City crews recently began work at the Burnet Train Depot in anticipation of the arrival of Thomas the Tank Engine™ and the Day Out With Thomas event scheduled for October, 2009. Improvements to the track at the depot are required because of heavy use of the tracks during the event.

A Day Out With Thomas is a family event that offers children and their grownups the opportunity to ride with classic storybook friend Thomas the Tank Engine™ at heritage railroads nationwide. Parents, grandparents and siblings join their aspiring engineers in the fun. The Day Out With Thomas experience introduces a new generation to the timeless excitement of railroading.

Since Thomas the Tank Engine left the depot more than 60 years ago, this Really Useful Engine and his Island of Sodor friends have chugged their way into the hearts of preschoolers and grownups worldwide.

Based on The Railway Series of classic stories authored by a father who loved trains and wanted a shared experience with his son, Thomas & Friends™ is a rite of passage that inspires the imagination while teaching the life lessons of friendship, exploration and cooperation.

Thomas is expected to roll into Burnet October 9, 10 and 11, 2009.

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**THE BLUEBONNET**

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Published by the City of  
Burnet, 1001 Buchanan Dr.,  
Suite #4, P.O. Box 1369

Burnet, TX. 78611

Phone 512/756-6093

Fax 512/756-8560

mail@cityofburnet.com

**THE BLUEBONNET EDITOR**

CRISTA GOBLE BROMLEY

**BURNET CITY COUNCIL:**

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COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAM  
DELEON, BILL FLYNN, PAT  
RIDDELL, PAUL SHELL, LINDA  
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## Christmas Festival weekend draws record crowds

As many as 25,000 visitors attended holiday events during the first two weekends of December. Drawn by events such as Main Street Bethlehem, Christmas Festival and Christmas at Old Fort Croghan, bus loads of visitors descended upon the city to participate in the events.

Main Street Bethlehem, which is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Burnet, is open to the public the first two weekends in December. This permanent structure replicates the town of Bethlehem as it may have appeared the night Christ was born. Bustling with merchants, soldiers, peasants and a myriad of other characters, a stroll through the "town" brings you to the manger where the child lays sleeping. It is a very moving event for visitors and participants alike.

Like Main Street Bethlehem, Christmas at Old Fort Croghan takes the visitor back in time but at the fort, Christmas is

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**RECYCLING PROGRAM UNDERWAY**

Burnet Recycles, the City of Burnet recycling program, officially kicks off in mid-January with the arrival of a new recycling trailer, according to project coordinator, Crista Bromley.

"The City Council has expressed a strong interest in establishing a recycling program," said Bromley, "but the cost for a curbside recycling program was prohibitive." The next best option was to obtain a recycling trailer into which citizens could deposit their recyclables. The City was successful in obtaining a \$21,700 Capitol Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) grant to fund the project.

The City then formed an agreement with Interface Industries whereby the organization would collect the recyclables from the recycling trailer and sell them on the open market. Interface Industries operates a recycling center in Marble Falls, which provides jobs for mentally challenged individuals.

While the program ultimately will accept a wide range of recyclables including Nos. 1 and 2 plastics, newspaper, magazines, copy paper, metal cans, and cardboard, current markets will only provide for the recycling of white copy paper, aluminum cans and cardboard. According to Shirley Beaudoin, Director of Interface Recycling, the market for plastics and newspaper has become almost non-existent. For the time being, the City will collect white copy paper, aluminum cans and cardboard only. "We will monitor the market and as soon as it become possible for Interface to sell the product, we will change our policy to accept these additional materials," Bromley said.

The trailer will be located at the City of Burnet Maintenance Facility on Highway 29 West (1000 Buchanan Drive.) Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday except for scheduled City holidays. The trailer will also be available on special clean-up days such as the Citywide Cleanup project held in the Spring and Fall.

Go online to [www.cityofburnet.com](http://www.cityofburnet.com) and click on the Burnet Recycles logo for more information or call Crista Bromley at 512.715.3217.

**GARAGE  
SALE**

**GET YOUR GARAGE SALE  
PERMIT AT CITY HALL**



## Letters to City Hall

September 12, 2008

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff of Galloway-Hammond for their efforts in providing such a wonderful place for us members to enjoy.

I would especially like to commend your valuable employee, Sandra Guenta, for her hard work and dedication to the job. She is always very efficient in managing the demands of the front desk but never too busy to smile and greet us members. It is always a job to visit the rec center because of the way in which she makes me feel so welcome.

Sincerely, Joyce Pouncey

September 23, 2008

I was a Hurricane Ike evacuee. My family and I were unable to make reservations until late Thursday, September 11. We were planning to stay and ride out the storm at home. But when the treat of a 20-ft storm surge came across the TV, we decided to leave. We were lucky there were two rooms at the Holiday inn Express. We had never been to Burnet or the Hill Country before, but we were looking forward to visiting your town. We were overwhelmed with the beauty of the hill country and the warm hospitality everyone showed us. We left the hotel on Monday, September 15th, and moved to The Cove House on Inks Lake. My grandparents who are 85 and 80 years of age, felt like teenagers again by the lake. They spent their time outdoors enjoying the view. My parents lost their beach cabin they owned for 20 years to Ike. My dad put in countless hours remodeling the beach cabin into his dream home, the past 7 years. Though he was very saddened his dream was taken away, your town and the hill country gave him new hope that he will find another 2nd home in and around your area. We know what it's like having to take in evacuee's. Our hometown of Beaumont and Port Arthur took in evacuees after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Thank you again for your warm hospitality. I hope to be visiting your town again soon.

Sincerely, Tina Munoz

September 24, 2008

Our family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to the Burnet Fire Department and the Burnet Police for their prompt and courteous help on September 6, 2008 in responding to the fire at our office building at 412 Buchanan Drive. The response of the Departments was quick and professional and we were treated with utmost courtesy. Please forward our gratitude to the appropriate

people.

Sincerely, Camm Lary, Jr., Mike Lary, Louise K. Lary

September 24, 2008

The staff at Michael Warner & Associates, P.C. would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all emergency service personnel who responded to our office on September 6, 2008. Your quick response and decision making kept us from losing over 1,000 client files, not to mention everything else in the building. Our files sustained little damage. We are happy to say we did not lose one piece of paper!

We cannot thank you enough for your hard work and dedication in keeping our community safe.

Sincerely, Michael Warner & Associates, P.C.

September 28, 2008

As Show Chair for the Lake Area Rods and Classics Fall Car Show, I would like to thank you for the spirit of cooperation exhibited by City Staff in making this Car Show an unbridled success. Additionally, I would like to thank you personally for your effort in helping us move to a rain date caused by Hurricane Ike.

All these efforts paid off. We had 127 total cars, with 102 paid attendees, 95 cars competing for awards and tons of spectators. This highly successful show will allow us to donate \$4,290.01 to the Boys and Girls Club of the Highland Lakes.

Thanks again, Mike Dohrse, Show Chair

*(Christmas Festival Weekend Continued from page 2)*

celebrated as it might have been done on the frontier in the 1800's. The cabins at the fort are filled with real life families baking, cooking and playing music. Cider and cookies are offered to visitors as they stroll by.

Christmas Festival brings the visitor to modern day with the appearance of Santa Claus, a lighted parade and activities all weekend. Christmas Festival was held the second weekend of December and Christmas at Old Fort Croghan was held the second Saturday in December.

Put these events on your calendar for next year. While lines tend to be a little long at Main Street Bethlehem, there is plenty to see , do and eat while you wait.

Contact Delaware Springs Golf Course to  
schedule your next fund raiser.

[www.delawaresprings.com](http://www.delawaresprings.com)

Or call 512.756.8471

City of Burnet

1001 Buchanan Drive  
 Suite #4  
 P.O. Box 1369  
 Phone: 512/756-6093  
 Fax: 512/756-8560  
 www.cityofburnet.com

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

The **City Council** regularly meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the City Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. *Watch the web page for changes to the schedule and special meetings.*

The **Burnet Tourism Alliance** regularly meets the first Monday of the month at 3:00 pm. at City Hall.

The **Planning & Zoning Commission** regularly meets the first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers.

The **Historical Board** meets the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the City Meeting Building, 303 E. Jackson.

The **Airport Advisory Board** meets at 3:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the FOB terminal, Burnet Municipal Airport.

Check the web site at [www.cityofburnet.com](http://www.cityofburnet.com) for special meetings and changes in meeting dates and times. For reprint permission email [mail@cityofburnet.com](mailto:mail@cityofburnet.com).

# Making History



## City to purchase electronic meter readers

The old electric plant that was Burnet's first source of electricity is a far cry from the new electronic meters currently being purchased by the City. The new meters will transmit power usage information to the City offices without having personnel physically go out to the location and read the meter. The City expects to replace all the city electric meters with the new meters this fiscal year with an expected completion date of late summer or early fall 2009. Subsequently, approximately 2,200 water meters will also be replaced with automated meters in later fiscal years.

The old electric plant that still stands on League Street across from the Community Center, was powered by a "dynamo" that was run by steam. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1916, the City Council moved to allow W. C. Galloway to commence the work of erecting an electric plant, giving him twelve months to get the system in place. Ordinance Number 105 helped bring Burnet into the 20th century by granting W.C. Galloway a fifty year exclusive franchise for the purpose of installing the system in the City.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1917, Mayor H.A. Burns appointed a committee consisting of R. W. Hoover, J.C. Lamien and C. A. Edman to "investigate and decide on what candle power of electric lights would be best and proper for the City of Burnet to install".

On February 6, 1917 the Council entered into an

agreement with "Burnet Power and Light Company", Galloway's company, to equip, maintain and furnish electric current for four one-hundred watt electric lamps to be located on each of four corners of the Public Square in Burnet.

Mrs. Lou Helen Box's 2001 account of the time period recalled that each area of town was allotted electricity one day a week during the day time and the whole town had electricity at night from dark to ten o'clock. After that the lights went out. She stated that, other than the amount and quality of the light, the best thing about having electricity was not having to clean the soot from the oil lamp glass.

Best wishes to Brenda Goble, wife of **John Goble**, at her recent surgery. John is the building inspector for the City.

Congratulations to **Lealand** and **Holly Raiford** at the birth of their son, Bowen. Lealand works for the fire department.

Best wishes to **Burl Young** at his recent illness. Burl works at the City's maintenance facility.