

The Burnet Bluebonnet



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1ST QUARTER 2008



CITY RECEIVES AIRPORT GRANT

The City of Burnet has been notified by the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division that their application for a Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP) grant has been awarded in the amount of \$50,000. The grant is a 50/50 matching grant reimbursement program that will match the City's investment in maintenance of the Burnet Municipal

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4B TAX TO GO BEFORE VOTERS

City Council members recently gave the go-ahead to proceed with a special election in May of 2008 to consider replacing the city's current 4A Economic Development sales tax with a 4B tax.

In January, the Burnet City Council is expected to consider an ordinance to order the special election which would be held concurrently with the city's general election. If successful, the amount of the tax will not change but the eligible uses will be broadened under Section 4B of the Development Corporation Act.

Burnet adopted the 4A tax in 1993 at the maximum cap of one-half cent. At that time, the 4B tax was limited to very specific cities but due to the popularity of the 4B tax, the legislature broadened its availability so that any city that qualifies to adopt the 4A can also adopt the 4B. In recent years, the adoption of the 4B tax has far outdistanced the adoption of the 4A and many cities that previously adopted the 4A are now moving to the 4B.

The primary difference between the two taxes is that in addition to being able to use proceeds for everything that a 4A corporation can use them for, 4B corporations can also use the tax to improve a community's quality of life including parks, professional and amateur sport and entertainment facilities, affordable housing, and other improvements or expenditures that promote new or expanded business activity that create or retain primary jobs. Another major difference is the oversight procedures that must be followed which are more stringent in the 4B than they are in the 4A. Both

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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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 CINDY YOUNG

BUILDING INSPECTOR
 JOHN GOBLE

(GRANT—Continued from page 1)
 Airport, dollar for dollar, up to the maximum amount of the grant. The grant can be used for such improvements as ramp and apron maintenance, building maintenance, security equipment, lighting, and others. According to Megan Caffall, TxDot Aviation Grant Manager for the program, 183 RAMP grants were awarded during last year's cycle.

"We are very excited to receive this

grant," says Airport Manager, Crista Bromley. "It allows us to complete work on the airport that we would not have been able to do under existing budget constraints." All improvements must be completed by August 2008 to be reimbursed for the improvements under this grant.

"You can build a mile of roadway and go a

mile," said Caffall, "but if you build a mile of runway, you can go anywhere."

NEED A FUND RAISER?

How about a golf tournament.
CALL DELAWARE SPRINGS

512.756.8471

CITY WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES



Winston McInnis was recently named as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Burnet. McInnis, who hails from Lampasas, comes to Burnet from the City of Lakeway where he served as Director of Parks and Recreation for nine years.



Another new face at the Galloway-Hammond Recreation Center is **Cathy Ryden** who was brought on as the Recreation Coordinator for the facility. Cathy comes to the City from Body Business Health and Club Spa in Austin. Welcome to the team, Winston and Cathy.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City of Burnet observes the following holidays.

- New Year's Day**-January 1st
- Martin Luther King Day**-3rd Monday in January
- Good Friday**-Friday before Easter
- Memorial Day**-Last Monday in May
- Independence Day**-July 4th
- Labor Day**-1st Monday in September
- Veterans Day**- Nov. 11th
- Thanksgiving Day**-4th Thurs in November
- Friday after Thanksgiving** - 4th Friday in November
- Christmas**-December 25th

Holidays falling on a Saturday are typically taken on Friday. Holidays falling on a Sunday are typically taken on Monday.

GARAGE SALE

GET YOUR GARAGE SALE PERMIT AT CITY HALL



SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FOREST SUCCESSFUL

The City of Burnet collected toys and non-perishable food items as well as cash for the benefit of the LaCare Food Bank and the Burnet County Brown Santa Program with this year's Christmas Tree Forest display. Businesses and non-profit groups decorated Christmas trees, which were voted on by visitors to the show. Admission to the display was a non-perishable food item, a new unwrapped toy or a cash donation to benefit the LaCare Food Bank and Burnet County's Brown Santa program. In addition to numerous toys and seven boxes of non-perishable food items, visitors donated \$100 to the coffers which was split equally between the two charities.

Four companies competed in the commercial division and ten non-profits vied for the non-profit division prizes. Over 275 ballots were cast by visitors to the display. First Place winners received a trophy and \$100 in cash, second place winners received a trophy and \$75 in cash and third place winners received a trophy and \$50. Many of the winners have elected to donate their winnings to a charity of their choice including LaCare and Brown Santa. The results were as follows:

Non-Profit Division — 1st Place – Burnet Middle School, 2nd Place – Literacy Highland Lakes, 3rd Place – Brown Santa

Commercial Division — 1st Place – ReMax-Burnet, 2nd Place – Northwood Health Center, 3rd Place – Bayside Floral

According to organizer, Crista Bromley, many participants are already planning their tree for next year. The project is open to non-profits and commercial enterprises in the entire county.



COMMERCIAL DIVISION

First Place—ReMax-Burnet
 Second Place—Northwood Health Center
 Third Place—Bayside Floral



NON-PROFIT DIVISION

First Place—Burnet Middle School
 Second Place—Literacy Highland Lakes
 Third Place—Brown Santa

City of Burnet

1001 Buchanan Drive
Suite #4
P.O. Box 1369
Burnet, TX. 78611

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 for special meetings and changes in meeting dates and times.

For reprint permission email mail@cityofburnet.com

For information on using the City Meeting Building at 303 E. Jackson Street contact the City Secretary at 512.756.6093, Ext. 209.

Making History



THE POST MOUNTAIN CROSS

Residents and visitors alike have asked about the cross that lights the Burnet night sky from the top of Post Mountain every night. While most people only notice it during the Easter or Christmas season, it burns year around (barring any accidental interruption in power.)

The cross was originally built in the mid to late forties to celebrate the Easter season. Area citizens gathered at the base of the cross for an annual Easter pageant. Some citizens recollect that it was not lit originally and that it was brought up to the mountain each Easter and

set in place temporarily. But it wasn't long before the cross was erected as a permanent fixture and electricity was brought up to the mountain. The cross would be lit a few days before Easter and would stay on until a day or so after. As the years passed, the tradition was extended to the Christmas season where it would be lit shortly after Thanksgiving until the new year began.

In the 1950's the cross received some much needed restoration and the old knob and tube wiring was replaced with modern wiring. The cross arm was also replaced at that time.

The tradition of lighting the cross year-around began in 1982 and has continued ever since. The cross has become more than just a symbol of two Christian celebrations. It stands as a beacon of welcome to residents and visitors as they descend into the valley where the City of Burnet is nestled.

As a little girl, when Christmases spent in Burnet were a treasured event, this writer sat on the edge of the seat of an old Chevrolet, watching eagerly for any sign of that cross, because sight of it meant we really were home again.

..... C. Bromley

(4B—Continued from page 1)

types of taxes require the establishment of a board to oversee disbursement of funds but the 4B tax can also require publication of proposed projects and a delay before implementation to allow public input.

The election will be held on the next municipal general election day which will be Saturday, May 10, 2008. For more information, go online at www.cityofburnet.com and click on the *4B Sales Tax FAQ* link.



Notes From CITY HALL

Well wishes to **Audrey Pope** and **Carl Boatright** at their recent illnesses and subsequent surgeries. Audrey works at the Police Department and Carl works for the Public Works Department.

Our sincerest condolences to **J.J.** and **Maria Gonzales** at the death of J.J.'s grandmother, Pauline Castillo. J.J. works for the Street Department and Maria is a Utility Clerk at City Hall.