

The Burnet **Bluebonnet**



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Bluebonnet Festival 2007

Bluebonnet Festival celebrates 25 years

The Burnet Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 25th annual Bluebonnet Festival this year.

In 1983, as a part of the city's centennial celebration, Ladybird Johnson came to Burnet's "Bluebonnet Trail Weekend". Shortly thereafter, the Bluebonnet Trail Weekend became the Bluebonnet Festival. In February, 1985, then Bluebonnet Festival chairman, Pat Riddell, requested that the City Council pass a resolution



Bluebonnet Festival Parade, 1987

(See *FESTIVAL* on page 2)

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Bill Flynn
Councilman



William DeLeon
Councilman



Pat Riddell
Former Councilman

BURNET CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO TAKE OFFICE IN MAY

Two incumbents, Bill Flynn and William DeLeon, and a former council member, Pat Riddell, were the only candidates to sign up for the City's upcoming general election. Current City Council Member, Ken Graham, did not file for re-election.

According to City Secretary, Christy Fath, since only three seats were up for election and only three candidates filed for the seats, the seats are considered filled. However, because the City is holding a special election to consider a change to the economic development sales tax, the proposed council members will still be listed on the ballot.

Also on the ballot for the May election will be a proposition to change the current 4A sales tax to a 4B sales tax. This proposition will not change the current amount of the tax, but will broaden the scope of projects for which the tax can be used. For more information regarding the 4B sales tax proposition, call Crista Bromley at 512.715.3217 or go online at www.cityofburnet.com and click on 4B Sales Tax.

The election will be held on May 10 from 7 am until 7 pm. Early voting for the election will begin on April 28 and will run until May 6 from 9 am until 5 pm weekdays except for April 30 and May 5 which will be from 8 am until 8 pm. All voting will be held at the Burnet County Courthouse on the square in Burnet. April 10 is the last day to register to vote in this election.

THE BLUEBONNET

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THE BLUEBONNET EDITOR
 CRISTA GOBLE BROMLEY

BURNET CITY COUNCIL:

MAYOR ALAN SMITH,
 COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAM DELEON, BILL FLYNN, KEN GRAHAM, JAMES RITTER, PAUL SHELL, LINDA TURNER.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

- CITY MANAGER**
MICHAEL STEELE
- ASST. CITY MANAGER/
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEV.**
DAVID VAUGHN
- CITY SECRETARY**
CHRISTY FATH
- DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**
JOYCE LAUDENSCHLAGER
- ASST. FINANCE OFFICER**
CONNIE FOWLKES
- DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**
DANNY LESTER
- DIRECTOR OF GOLF**
DOUG FIPPS
- DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT / AIRPORT MGR.**
CRISTA GOBLE BROMLEY
- DIRECTOR PARKS & RECREATION**
WINSTON MCINNIS
- MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE**
PEGGY SIMON
- COURT CLERK**
TINA PEDEN
- FIRE MARSHAL**
JOHN PAUL ERSKINE
- CHIEF OF POLICE**
PAUL NELSON
- FIRE CHIEF**
MARK INGRAM
- BUILDING OFFICIAL**
ROY FYFFE
- CODE ENFORCEMENT**
CINDY YOUNG
- BUILDING INSPECTOR**
JOHN GOBLE

(FESTIVAL—Continued from page 1)

proclaiming the second weekend in April as Bluebonnet Festival Weekend, which, of course, they did. It has been held on that weekend since then.

A quarter of a century after Ladybird’s visit, what started out as primarily a celebration for the citizens of the city, has become a regional draw with more than 20,000 visitors, annually, from across the country. The event sprawls from the historic square all the way down Jackson Street to the railroad depot and features over 240 crafts and food vendors.

Officially named Bluebonnet Capital of Texas by the 67th Texas State Legislature in 1981, Burnet has captured the notoriety which the designation brought to the city. Bluebonnets are now featured on the City’s and the Chamber’s logos, banners, websites and is used for business names. Beginning in early spring, visitors regularly call the Chamber to ask if the Bluebonnets are blooming yet.

Call the Chamber for more information 512.756.4297 or go online at www.burnetchamber.org



L-r Chad Nelson, Greg Haley, Shawn Nelson, Michael Steele, Councilman Bill Flynn, Councilman William DeLeon, Winston McInnis, Crista Bromley, Ida Carter (L.C.R.A. Board Member), Mayor Alan Smith

**GROUND BREAKING HELD FOR
 HALEY NELSON PARK**

Officials from the City of Burnet, the Lower Colorado River Authority and Haley Nelson Construction LLC recently held a ground breaking ceremony to kick off construction of a 51-acre park dubbed Haley Nelson Park. The park was named for Haley Nelson Construction LLC who have volunteered to complete the construction work on the project as a gift to the people of the City.

Also recognized were representatives from the Lower Colorado River Authority who provided a \$200,000 grant for the project.

The property for the park was obtained through a land exchange with a local benefactor who traded the 51 acres for a downtown lot.

The park will include soccer fields, walking and nature trails, disk golf, picnic areas, restroom facilities and a horseshoe complex. Also included, if funds are available, is an outdoor amphitheatre.

Persons wishing more information or to make a donation toward materials for the amphitheatre are encouraged to contact Crista Bromley at 512.715.3217.

GARAGE
SALE

GET YOUR GARAGE SALE
 PERMIT AT CITY HALL

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALES TAX: 4A vs 4B

HISTORY OF THE TAX

In 1989, the Texas Legislature amended the Development Corporation Act of 1979 by adding Section 4A which allowed the creation of a new type of development corporation. This development corporation could be funded by the adoption of a local sales and use tax dedicated to economic development. In 1991, the legislature amended the 4A tax and adopted a 4B tax but the 4B was limited to a very specific criteria. Burnet adopted the 4A tax in 1993 at the maximum cap of one-half cent. Due to the popularity of the Section 4B sales tax, in 1993, the legislature broadened its availability to any city that was eligible to adopt a 4A sales tax.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO TAXES

There are a number of important differences between the 4A and the 4B taxes. In broad terms, Section 4A and Section 4B taxes can be distinguished as follows: 1) the authorized uses of the tax proceeds; 2) the oversight procedures regarding project expenditures; and 3) the means for adopting and altering the tax by election. The 4A tax is generally considered the more restrictive of the two taxes in terms of types of allowable expenditures; however the 4B is more restrictive in the oversight procedures. Both 4A and 4B monies are overseen by the development corporation's board of directors and by the city council. The process for the selection of qualified projects, the time frames for publication, and public recourse for repeal of a project are also more restrictive in 4B.

4A PROJECTS VS 4B PROJECTS

4A Corporations can use proceeds of the tax for creation of primary jobs (with a few exceptions) including land, buildings, equipment, facilities, improvements, and expenditures related to:

- ◆ Manufacturing, industrial, research & development, recycling, small warehouse and corporate headquarter facilities and distribution centers
- ◆ Closed or realigned military bases
- ◆ Job training for primary jobs and commercial / retail
- ◆ Business airport facilities (located in industrial parks)

- ◆ Port related facilities
- ◆ Clean up of contaminated project sites (limited)
- ◆ Infrastructure assistance to retail or commercial projects
- ◆ Business-related sewer utilities and site improvement
- ◆ Beach remediation in Gulf of Mexico communities required or suitable to promote or develop new or expanded business enterprises
- ◆ Projects designed to attract new military missions, prevent the closure of existing missions, and redevelop a closed or realigned military base
- ◆ General airport facilities for communities located 25 miles from US/Mexico border only
- ◆ All 4B projects with voter approval

4B Corporations can use proceeds of the tax for:

- ◆ Everything under 4A, including retail and commercial projects with the same restrictions
- ◆ Water supply facilities (with a special election and specific ballot language)
- ◆ Projects that improve a community's quality of life, including parks, professional and amateur sport and athletic facilities, tourism and entertainment facilities, affordable housing, and other improvements or expenditures that promote new or expanded business activity that create or retain primary jobs.
- ◆ Projects designed to attract new military missions, prevent the closure of existing missions, and redevelop a closed or realigned military base
- ◆ Solid waste disposal facilities in Hildago County
- ◆ Direct incentives for retail development in communities with fewer than 20,000 residents and certain land-locked cities in Dallas and Harris Counties.

Citizens will be able to vote on changing the city's current 4A tax to a 4B tax in the May 10, 2008 special election. The proposition does not change the amount of the tax, only the uses for the tax.

More information can be obtained by contacting Crista Bromley at the City of Burnet (512.715.3217) or by going online at www.cityofburnet.com and clicking on **4B Sales Tax**.

City of Burnet

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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.

Making History



Bluebonnet Air Show brings aviation history to life

—Printed courtesy Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force —
www.highlandlakessquadron.com

The 2008 Bluebonnet Air Show, part of Burnet's Bluebonnet Festival, will be held at the Burnet Airport on Saturday April 12. In addition to the aircraft the Air Show will feature ex-military aircraft, principally World War II, from CAF Wings and Squadrons in Texas and surrounding states. The ex-US military aircraft participate in the re-enactment of historic air battles.

Aircraft from foreign countries, including former enemies, and acrobatic aircraft will participate in both the flying portion and are on static display. This is a fun and educational event you do not want to miss. Start making plans now to attend.

The flying portion of the 2008 show will feature aircraft of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam. This includes aerobatic acts by Warbirds and others; along with noise, smoke and explosions created by the CAF's Explosive Ordinance Detachment, "the Blastards".

Among the World War II aircraft that are expected to be present in 2008:

◆Douglas A-26 Invader. One of the very few aircraft to be entirely conceived, designed, developed, produced in quantity, and used in large numbers all during WW-II.

◆North American B-25 Mitchell. This is the aircraft used in the carrier-launched Tokyo raid.

◆Grumman F8F Bearcat. Arguably the ultimate piston engine fighter.

◆British Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX. Probably the most famous combat aircraft in history.

Be sure to put April 12, 2008 on your calendar now. Plan to come early and bring the kids. Inspect the aircraft, vehicles, and gear "up close and personal".

Notes From CITY HALL

Congratulations to Johnny (J.J.) and Maria Gonzales on the birth of their son, Grady Michael, on March 11, 2008. Grady weighed in at 6 lbs 3 oz and was 20" long. J.J. works for the street department and Maria works in the utility department.

Our condolences go out to Audrey Pope, Robert Smith and Paul

Nelson on the death of their family members. Audrey lost her mother-in-law, Robert lost his grandmother, and Paul lost his grandmother. Audrey and Paul both work for the Burnet Police Department and Robert works for the water department.

Best wishes to Wanda Herren, mother of Randy Box, on her recent surgery. Randy works for the electric department.

Congratulations to

Dewain and Lana Everett on their recent marriage. Dewain works for the water department.

Our condolences go out to Burnet County Commissioner, Ronny Hibler, at the death of his grandson, Randall Hibler.

We recently said good-bye to a good friend and former co-worker, Bobby Bradshaw. Bobby passed after a long illness and we will miss him and his generous smile. Our condolences to his family.