

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

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Gonzales,
Texas
Permit No.98
Zip Code 78629



CALENDAR

MARCH 2001

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 5 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 5 | City Budget Hearing during
City Council Meeting | Council Chambers |
| 19 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |

APRIL 2001

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 2 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 13 | City Holiday | Good Friday |
| 16 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |

MAY 2001

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 7 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 21 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 28 | City Holiday | Memorial Day |

JUNE 2001

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 4 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |
| 18 | City Council Meeting - 6 p.m. | Council Chambers |

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q Does the city offer customers electronic payment of utility bills?

A Yes, utility customers may sign up at City Hall to have their utility bills paid automatically on the 10th of each month from their bank account. With the automatic draft you can be sure the bill is paid on time each month without writing and mailing a check or taking time to pay in person. The automatic payment will save you time and the expense of writing checks, and you will still receive a statement each month so you can record the correct amount in your checkbook.

Q Does the city offer an average monthly payment plan for utility bills?

A Yes. You may sign up for the average monthly payment plan which is designed to make your monthly utility bills more uniform throughout the year. Your average monthly bills will be based on a rolling average of your current month's bill and the bills for the previ-

ous 11 months. You can get more information about the calculation by calling or coming by the city office.

Q Do you refund utility deposits?

A After customers complete 12 months with a good pay record, their utility deposit will be applied to their utility account. The effect is to put that amount of money in your pocket, because your next utility bill will be reduced by the credited amount.

Q Does the city offer any assistance for residents who are interested in replacing their heating and cooling units with high-efficiency ones?

A The City participates in the TEXASWISTM Marketing Program, which offers rebates for both existing homes and new homes. Pick up a copy of the TEXASWISTM Residential Marketing Program brochure in the city office.



City of Gonzales

NEWS AND INFORMATION



Volume 3 Number 1

A TEXASWI\$E™ Publication

First Quarter 2001

MANAGER'S CORNER

Again it is time for the publication of *News and Information*. We hope this letter will encourage you, the citizens, to become more involved with your city government and help us with our goal to make Gonzales a better place to live. Our wish is to communicate with everyone and to help make "doing business" with City Hall more enjoyable.

This month we will discuss City Briefs, the J. B. Wells Park Project, our "Adopt A Pet Program," and will introduce some city employees. We also will recognize the good work the Emanuel Fellowship Church School Students did at the East Avenue Lions Park.

Thank you for taking the time to read your newsletter. Let us know what you think of the articles and information contained in this issue. Send your comments, questions and suggestions to Donna Irle, City of Gonzales, P. O. Box 547, Gonzales, Texas 78629.

Buddy Drake
City Manager

J B Wells Park Project Moves Ahead

How time flies! Just a year ago, the City of Gonzales submitted the successful Phase I grant application to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for upgrading J.B. Well Park. On January 31, the City submitted the Phase II grant application. Funding announcements will be released in August.

As you have been reading in the Gonzales Inquirer, Phase I is moving along, with ground breaking expected in the late spring or early summer. Phase II will include more multi-use trails, picnic sites, R.V. campsites, volleyball courts, playscape, and one more large picnic pavilion. The new recreational facilities in Phase II include soccer fields, basketball court and livestock facility. It is difficult to receive two grants from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the



The City of Gonzales City Councilmembers, Steve Hendershot, Mary Anne MacLean, Bobby O'Neal, Bobby Logan, and Russell Grant accepting a \$200,000 grant for Phase I of the J.B. Wells Project from the Lower Colorado River Authority representative Cynthia Martin.

Turn to J.B. Wells Park Project page 3

Meet the Revenue Collection Staff

Among the many outstanding departments at the City of Gonzales, we would like to introduce you to the Revenue Collection Department. The Revenue Collection Clerks include Roxanne Bean, Elizabeth Petras, Kimberly Shelton and Patricia Wilkerson. The Revenue Collection Supervisor is Donna Irle.



From Left to right: Revenue Collection Clerks, Roxanne Bean, Leann Wilkerson, Kimberly Shelton, Betty Petras, and Donna Irle, Revenue Collection Supervisor.

The clerks handle all incoming phone calls, connects and disconnects for utility services, permit requests, park reservations, collection of all revenue for the City and many other duties. This department also sends the utility bills. When a problem arises concerning your utility bill, the clerks are the ones who take the phone calls. If you have a question about your utility bill, please do not hesitate to call City Hall at 672-2815. Our goal is to provide you, the customer, with excellent service.



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
City Secretary

Raymie Zella
Director of Community Utilities

Bill Chenault
Chief of Police

Jackie Williamson
City Attorney

City Council Meetings
First and Third Mondays of each month
6 p.m., Council Chambers at City Hall



TEXASWIS[™] IS A PROGRAM TO HELP CONSUMER-OWNED
ELECTRIC UTILITIES OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND SAVE
THEIR CUSTOMERS ENERGY AND MONEY.

CITY BRIEFS

City Elections Announced

The City of Gonzales Regular Election will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2001 for City Council Districts 1 and 2, and for a Proposition to amend the City Charter. Candidate filing will begin February 19, through March 21, 2001.

Early Voting will be held at the City Municipal Building 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting April 18, through May 1, 2001.

Voting on Election Day will be held 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the following polling places:

District No. 1	High School Vocational Building, 1726 Seydler Street
District No. 2	North Avenue School Cafeteria, 1032 Saint Joseph Street
District No. 3	City Municipal Building, 820 Saint Joseph Street
District No. 4	Junior High School, 426 North College Street

Gonzales Public Library to Provide Public Internet Access

The Gonzales Public Library recently received a Telecommunications Infrastructure Grant (TIF) to purchase three computers, cabling and hardware. The grant will provide Internet access to the public.

The Gonzales Library Board and the Gonzales City Council has approved an Internet policy for patron use. This policy is available upon request at the Gonzales Public Library.

The Gonzales Public Library also provides new books, videos, area newspapers, The Wall Street Journal and magazines. The Library recently received a Laura Bush Grant for books on tape.

Visit us soon to see the large number of new titles available for check out.

City Hires New Animal Control Officer

The City of Gonzales has a new Animal Control Officer, Richard Simmers, who handles the Adopt-A-Pet Program. If you would like to adopt a dog or cat, please come by City Hall or call at 672-2815, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and ask for Richard or the Animal Control Officer.

You can make an appointment to meet with Richard and to look at and pick out a pet for adoption at the Animal Shelter located at the old landfill located off County Road 488.

Please help Richard and the Adopt-A-Pet Program find good homes for these animals.



Richard Simmers, the new Animal Control Officer for the City of Gonzales.

CITY HALL
672-2815
672-2813(FAX)

POLICE DEPARTMENT
672-8686

LIBRARY
672-6315

MUSEUM
672-6350

same project but the Phase II is a good application and is anticipated to score well.

The Phase II application received more than 100 letters of support. The following individuals and organizations donated cash and in-kind services or products to the project:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| City of Gonzales | Jim Patterson |
| Dorothy Ploeger | Mary Anne MacLean |
| Dorothy P. Walshak | In Memory of John R. Holt |
| Esther V. Simon | Gonzales County, Precinct 1 |
| City of Gonzales – Public Works | Polly Williams |
| Gonzales County, Precinct 3 | Gonzales Independent School District |
| Green Acres Nursery | E-Barr Feeds – Bo Ehrig |
| Burchard Abstract Corp. | Gonzales Wholesale Nursery |
| Joe F. Solansky Cemetery Service, Inc. | |
| Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. | |
| Gonzales Economic Development Corporation | |
| Barry Miller–Gonzales Co. Underground Water District | |

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who assisted with the completion of the Phase II application.

Emanuel Volunteers Make Park Improvements

On January 31, a group of volunteers from Emanuel Fellowship Church School completed a community service project for the City of



Top Row, left to right: Jim Kennedy, Jerod Carter, Angela Carter, Diane Rothbauer; **Bottom Row:** Michelle Boedeker, Katie Holmes, Tiffany Westmoreland; **Not Pictured:** Jeremy Gould

Gonzales at the East Avenue Lions Park. The volunteers included two staff members, Jim Kennedy, School Principal, and Diane Rothbauer, Yearbook Advisor. Also, six high school students on the yearbook staff helped: Katie Holmes, Editor; Jared Carter, Assistant Editor; Michelle Boedeker, Head Photographer; Angela Carter, Assistant Photographer; Jeremy Gould, Business Manager; and Tiffany Westmoreland, Assistant Business Manager.

The pavilion and tables had been tagged heavily by graffiti. The Emanuel Fellowship Church School uses the Lions Park for their physical fitness program and for recess time for the younger students and school personnel saw a way to defeat the vandalism. They sanded the tables to remove the graffiti and painted the tables and pavilion supports. Thanks, Emanuel, for a job well done.



Efficient Laundry Practices Can Save Money

Some of the largest and most expensive appliances in the home are used for doing the laundry. During times of the year when air conditioning and heat are not being used, these appliances represent a large portion of your total utility bill.

An electric clothes dryer at an average wattage of 4,856 watts costs 31.6 cents per hour to operate, while the next most expensive appliance is the electric water heater. Water heaters vary according to the type, with the most expensive being the quick-recovery type costing about 29.1 cents per hour to operate. Other water heaters cost about 16.1 cents per hour of operation.

By comparison, the automatic washer seems like a bargain because of the lower wattage. It costs about 3.3 cents per hour, and a hand iron at about 1,100 watts costs about 7.2 cents per hour.

A key to saving money on your utility bill is using these appliances efficiently:

- Run full loads rather than washing and drying only a few clothes at time. The cost to operate a washer and dryer is based on the time they run rather than the amount of laundry being done.
- Use cold water for washing clothes whenever possible to avoid the need for the water heater to operate.
- Iron all the clothes at one time to avoid heating the iron multiple times.

Compare and Save When Buying Electric Appliances

If plans for the 2001 include buying a new appliance, consider the cost of operation, as well as the purchase price when making a selection. Often, less expensive appliances are also less energy efficient, and that can cost you more in the long run.

Before selecting an appliance, compare the yellow EnergyGuide labels on each model. EnergyGuide labels list the estimated annual energy cost of the appliance. Over the life of the appliance, you may find that the energy savings of a more efficient model will outweigh the additional costs when purchasing the appliance.

EnergyGuide labels appear on all new furnaces, air conditioners, washing machines and dryers, water heaters, refrigerators and freezers, dishwashers, and heat pumps.

Make 2001 a good year with energy savings!

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