



# Main Street Matters

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

AUGUST 2009 • COMMUNITY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION • P.O. BOX 12276, AUSTIN, TX 78711 • 512.463.6092

## Spotlight on Waxahachie

(population 25,454)

### Fruits of Partnership

Can a justice center and parking garage be an opportunity for historic preservation and revitalization in downtown?



*Construction on the new justice center and parking garage is progressing and hopefully all will be complete by April, 2010.*

There are currently **three** cranes operating in downtown Waxahachie! All of this activity is the result of a successful partnership between Ellis County and the City of Waxahachie. The County, which occupies several buildings around the square as well as a couple of satellite offices, had outgrown its facilities and wanted to consolidate them all in one place. They were considering several locations — downtown being one of them. The City of Waxahachie recognized the importance of keeping the county employees and facilities in the central business district, so the city council offered to build a three story garage to accommodate the increased need for parking if the county would commit to building their new facilities downtown. A bond election was held to fund this major project and it passed—with the voters sanctioning the decision to build the new county buildings in the historic downtown.

Since the beginning, the city and county have worked together on every aspect of the project. This has allowed both entities to receive better pricing and contributed to the “campus” feel by designing the project together and as part of a larger plan for the entire site. The goal was to find a company that had experience in building all



*Once the new county justice center (top) and parking garage (bottom) are finished near downtown, numerous historic buildings currently occupied by county entities, will be available for commercial and retail opportunities — contributing to the continued revitalization of downtown Waxahachie.*

three types of facilities — jails, justice facilities, and parking garages. All through the process, there has been a multi-disciplinary team in place with representatives from each entity having input. It truly has been a partnership and the results are taking shape for all to see.

Two of the cranes downtown are working on new buildings one block east of the Ellis County Courthouse and another is south of the current jail. The new county buildings include a new justice/administration building

and an expansion to the existing jail facility. The new Ellis County Courts and Administration building will be on the same block as the new parking garage the city is constructing. It will house many of the county offices such as the tax assessor/collector, county clerk, district clerk, and county engineer. It will also contain four state of the art courtrooms and have the capacity for two more which may be built out in the future. The jail expansion will add another 288 beds to the existing jail.

The parking garage will be three stories and have the capacity to hold 317 vehicles. It has been designed so another story can be added in the future, which could accommodate another 106 vehicles. The garage will also contain an elevator and cutting edge security features like lights, cameras and 911 phones scattered through each floor of the garage. Another feature will be a concealed corridor linked to the existing jail facility, in which prisoners can be transported to the new justice center without being exposed to the public. This limits liability for the county in attempting to transport prisoners by vehicle or foot and allows for more security and control in getting them to the courts. It is another aspect of the project that serves as a great example of the city and county working together to meet the needs of each other and the community.

Estimated completion dates for these new facilities are: parking garage January 2010, jail expansion February 2010, and Justice and Administration Center April 2010.

When the new county buildings are finished and the workers move into them, several buildings around the beautiful Ellis County Courthouse will be vacant and ripe for development. This will be a great opportunity for us to revitalize our downtown even more by getting businesses in those buildings that are not just open Monday

through Friday, 8-5 and vacant all weekend like when the county offices occupied them. It will start a whole new phase in seeing the downtown Master plan to fruition and will complement the redevelopment that is already being spurred by this project.

*Thanks to Anita Williamson, manager of the Waxabachie Main Street Program for providing this article.*

## NEWS

### Galveston Architecture Named to America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has recently named the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America and the Cast-Iron Architecture in Galveston, Texas is on the list.

The late 19th century Greek Revival and Italianate-style buildings with elaborate cast-iron storefronts in Galveston's 12-block Strand/Mechanic National Historic Landmark District constitute one of the largest collections of historic commercial buildings in the country. More than 44% of the buildings in the district have cast iron storefronts, and these storefronts have been in jeopardy ever since Hurricane Ike hit in 2008. At that time, the downtown commercial district was flooded with 10 –13 feet of a noxious mix of salt water, oil and debris. Once the water receded, the full impact of the devastation could be seen to Galveston's trademark decorative cast-iron embellishments.

As of June 2009, the Galveston City Council has included \$775K in non-Housing Community Development Block Grant Disaster Funding in round one of its application process to help fund the restoration of the city's Cast Iron Architecture.

For more information on America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places visit [www.preservationnation.org/issues/11-most-endangered/](http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/11-most-endangered/).

## AROUND THE STATE

### Grapevine

The Palace Theatre in Grapevine's historic downtown welcomed back Edith's Follies for its third year! The event showcases up and coming talent from the Grapevine area and is in honor of Grapevine's Dr. Edith Pewitt, a prominent figure in the community. Dr. Pewitt has been committed to the arts and culture in Grapevine as well as the beautification of the community through the garden club and the Botanical Gardens. The event drew 300 people to the Palace Theatre and was a great success!

The Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau, which houses the Main Street program, is kicking off Summer Blast in Grapevine! There are fireworks every Friday from May to September and all over the town, there are fun things for families! In this time where saving money is crucial, Grapevine is promoting "stay-cations". Activities are planned at the Gaylord Texan Resort, Great Wolf Lodge, the Palace Theatre and the Grapevine Vintage Railroad, just to name a few.

The Grapevine Historic Township kicked off its first Porch Party of the season. This is a summer-long tradition, held every fourth Friday of the month from June thru September. Residents of the Township as well as members of the Grapevine Heritage Foundation meet at a host porch to enjoy wine, food and great company. Located just off Grapevine's historic Main Street, the township is truly a gem in Grapevine's crown.

## Kerrville

Kerrville just announced five new businesses in the downtown historic district: Two Sisters Boutique, Isabella's Expressions Salon and Boutique, Grape Juice Wine Shop, Hill Country Music and Adriatic Greek and Mediterranean Restaurant and Bar. How's that for a new variety and kick for downtown!

## EVENTS

Please remember if you want one of your Main Street events posted here, email [jill.robinson@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:jill.robinson@thc.state.tx.us) at least three weeks ahead of the month in which you want the posting.

### Aug. 15, Amarillo

Come to the Polk Street Block Party 4 p.m. to midnight — the city's biggest block party offers four stages with 25 live bands. More than 15,000 people are expected to enjoy the celebration. Call 806.372.6744 or visit [www.centercity.org/block\\_party.php](http://www.centercity.org/block_party.php)

### Sept. 4–6, Freeport

Cool blues to end a hot summer at the Summertime Blues Festival. This family-oriented event features live music, biker games, biker run, triathlon, kids area, stunt shows, great food, vendors, artwork, fireworks and more. Come enjoy Freeport's small-town hospitality. Call 979.233.3526 or visit <http://freeportmainstreet.com/summertimeblues.aspx>.

### Sept. 12, Mineola

A ten-year dream will come to fruition with the grand opening of the Mineola Museum of Transportation and History. From the time the city purchased the 1937 depression-era postal facility in 1998, ideas, dreams, fundraisers and hard work have been put forth to achieve the goal to make this building a historic museum. The results are a variety of scenes that display the memorabilia donated from through-

out, not only the community, but from areas across the states. Museum Board member, Sharon Chamblee, devoted years to encouraging the directors to help gather historic facts, memorabilia, and artifacts to fill the 14 different scenes. Chamblee also traced down California artist, Bernard Zakheim, whose father painted an original mural in 1938 titled, the Horse and Buggy Give Way to Modern Methods of Mail Transportation. The mural was exposed to water damage and deteriorated and could not be used, the son and grandson of Mr. Zakheim recreated the original, delivered it to Mineola and attended a special ceremony as the mural was hung in the future museum. This is an exciting event to host and a great tourist attraction. The event will be from 1-5 p.m. Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference attendees in November will have the opportunity of visiting this treasure.

### Sept. 12, Rockwall

Rockwall Rib Rub and Run will be held Sept. 12th from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. downtown. A barbecue competition (Rib Rub!), live music, fun run, children's activities and a Poker Stroll through the Old Town Shoppes on the Square are on tap for the all day event. For more information visit [www.rockwall.com](http://www.rockwall.com) and click on the "Happening Now" tab or call Bethany Golden at 972.772.6400.

### Sept. 26, McKinney

McKinney meets Bavaria on Sept. 26, 2009 for Oktoberfest. Drawing on the colorful tradition that began in Munich, Germany in 1810, the McKinney Oktoberfest will represent many things to many people. We will celebrate our diversity with a cultural event that reflects the many contributions of German immigrants who settled in Texas. We will enjoy a fun, family-friendly event that will offer authentic German music, food & drink, traditional costumes, dancing, children's activities, and much more.

Germans have a special word – Gemütlichkeit – suggesting a warm atmosphere of open and generous hospitality. That's how we will welcome residents and friends of McKinney, as well as thousands of guests from our sister cities including many who have not yet come to know the great things to be offered by our dynamic community. As they wander our over 161-year-old downtown streets enjoying the attractions during the fest, they will experience our diverse array of vibrant specialty shops and restaurants for them to experience on return visits throughout the year. Event will take place from 10 a.m. til 11 p.m. in historic downtown. For more information please visit [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com) or contact McKinney Main Street at 972.547.2660.

### Oct. 10, Mineola

Mineola will celebrate its 20th Anniversary of Main Street on Saturday in historic downtown. Walking tours of historic downtown and nature preserve tours will be available at 2 p.m. The Museum of Transportation and History and the Railroad Depot Museum will be open for public tours. To continue the celebration, the Main Street Board of Directors will host an evening event beginning at 6:30 p.m. The program will include the "1st Annual Mineola Main Street Idol" competition. A disc jockey with an open mic for the public will spin crowd-pleasing dance favorites following the Idol contest. Mineola has seen many Main Street successes in 20 years and this will be a time to reflect and celebrate its achievements.

### Bootstrap Bucks Header

### CONFERENCES/

### WORKSHOPS

### TTIA Regional Tourism

### Workshops

The Texas Travel Industry Association is offering regional workshops to



help you rein in the power of tourism in your communities. Each workshop will be an intense day with industry experts offering stimulating and information-packed presentations, including the latest information and innovative tools and strategies to help Texas communities build and sustain local tourism success.

Workshop information:

Aug. 5, Nacogdoches  
Aug. 26, San Angelo  
Oct. 15, Seguin  
Nov. 4, Rockport

See

[www.ttia.org/events/event\\_list.asp](http://www.ttia.org/events/event_list.asp).

### Texas Plains Trail Tourism and Preservation Regional Round-Up

The Texas Plains Trail in partnership with the City of Plainview Main Street/CVB Program, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and Preservation Texas present Tourism and Preservation Regional Round-Up on **August 11** in Plainview. This will be a one-day event packed with relevant information on marketing, promoting your community, social media hints, preserving your historic sites and sharing of best-practice tourism ideas. This will be a great opportunity for networking with other community and business leaders within the Texas Plains Trail Region who recognize the economic importance of tourism for rural Texas. You will leave with renewed excitement for your county and region. Event will be held at the Plainview Civic Center at 2902 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 by Aug. 7, \$30 after. See [www.texasplainstrail.com/home/index.asp?page=1088](http://www.texasplainstrail.com/home/index.asp?page=1088)

For more information you can contact Eric Turner at 806.296.1119 or [eturner@ci.plainview.tx.us](mailto:eturner@ci.plainview.tx.us)

### TTIA Summit

The Texas Travel Industry Association Summit 2009 will be held in Arlington **Sept. 27–30** with four value-packed days of education, inspiration, networking, business opportunities and more. See

[www.ttia.org/events/event\\_details.asp?id=31015](http://www.ttia.org/events/event_details.asp?id=31015).

### Destination Business Seminar by Jon Schallert in Nacogdoches

Business owners in Nacogdoches and surrounding areas have the opportunity to hear nationally known business consultant Jon Schallert when he comes to Nacogdoches, Texas on **Oct. 6**. Schallert will present his acclaimed business improvement session, “Increasing Your Profits to Become a Destination Business.” As part of his visit to the area, Schallert will also conduct a marketing roundtable with seminar attendees to discuss pertinent business issues.

Schallert’s sessions teach independent business owners how to turn their businesses into consumer “Destinations” that attract customers from many miles away, past other competitive outlets. Schallert’s consulting firm, The Schallert Group, Inc., is noted for providing competitive tools to independent business owners that are typically used exclusively by large corporate chains to dominate a marketplace. Those wanting to learn more about Schallert prior to his visit are encouraged to visit his company website at [www.JonSchallert.com](http://www.JonSchallert.com).

Business owners interested in attending may call the Nacogdoches CVB at 936.564.7351 or visit [www.visitnacogdoches.org](http://www.visitnacogdoches.org) for more information. Registration is \$125 for non-Nacogdoches residents, and \$50 for local residents.

Questions? Contact Jon Schallert at 303.774.6522, by fax at 866.653.1336, by email at [info@JonSchallert.com](mailto:info@JonSchallert.com).

### AWARD NOMINATIONS

#### First Lady’s Texas Treasures Award Nominations

Many communities realize significant social and economic benefits from actively preserving structures, landscapes and heritage. Consider nominating your authentic Texas place for the prestigious second annual First Lady’s Texas Treasures Award. First Lady Anita Perry, acting as honorary chair in partnership with the THC, is highlighting communities that show a high level of creativity and ingenuity in utilizing THC tools and programs to preserve their Texas sense of place.

Each year, up to five Texas communities will be presented with an award based on received nominations. The program recognizes historic preservation initiatives and projects that combine several resources offered by the THC and other preservation organizations or state agencies, helping to tell the real story of Texas by showcasing those communities that value and protect their heritage.

Be inspired by the inaugural winners Castroville, Georgetown and Mount Vernon in video clips found on the THC web site as well as download a 2010 application at [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) (click on First Lady’s Texas Treasures Award). The nomination deadline is **Aug. 31**. For more information, contact April Garner with the THC Heritage Tourism Program at [april.garner@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:april.garner@thc.state.tx.us) or call 512.463.2630.

#### Preservation Texas 2010 Honor Awards

This annual honor awards program recognizes accomplishments in his-

toric preservation across the state that inspire us all and encourage us in our efforts to protect the historic resources of Texas. It is our desire to give local communities the opportunity to honor their preservationists and share their accomplishments with others. Applications must be post-marked **Sept. 30, 2009**.

For more information, please visit [www.preservationtexas.org/programs/honor.htm](http://www.preservationtexas.org/programs/honor.htm).

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## 2009 Calendar of Events

- **August 4, Beeville**  
Texas Capital Fund Application workshop
- **August 5, Beeville**  
Interim Training for new managers who have not attended January New Manager Training
- **August 5–7, Beeville/Goliad**  
Texas Main Street Summer Workshop
- **November 3–6, Tyler**  
Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Annual Conference

## 2010 Calendar of Events

- **May 2–5, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**  
National Main Streets Conference
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## Web Sites of Interest

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)  
African American Heritage Preservation Foundation: [www.aahpfdn.org](http://www.aahpfdn.org)  
(The) Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation: [www.ahlp.org](http://www.ahlp.org)  
American Institute of Architects: [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)  
American Planning Association: [www.planning.org](http://www.planning.org)  
American Society of Landscape Architects: [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)  
(The) Cultural Landscape Foundation: [www.tclf.org](http://www.tclf.org)  
Handbook of Texas Online: [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/)  
Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies: [www.icls.harvard.edu](http://www.icls.harvard.edu)  
Keep Texas Beautiful: [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org)  
League of Historic American Theaters: [www.lhat.org](http://www.lhat.org)  
National Main Street Center: [www.mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org)  
National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)  
National Trust for Historic Preservation: [www.nthp.org](http://www.nthp.org)  
Office of Rural Community Affairs: [www.orca.state.tx.us](http://www.orca.state.tx.us)  
Preservation Easement Trust: [www.preservationeasement.org/home](http://www.preservationeasement.org/home)  
Preservation Directory: [www.preservationdirectory.com](http://www.preservationdirectory.com)  
Preservation Texas: [www.preservationtexas.org](http://www.preservationtexas.org)  
Project for Public Spaces: [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org)  
Rails to Trails: [www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)  
Sacred Places: [www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org)  
Scenic America: [www.scenic.org](http://www.scenic.org)  
Texas Commission on the Arts: [www.arts.state.tx.us](http://www.arts.state.tx.us)  
Texas Downtown Association: [www.texasdowntown.org](http://www.texasdowntown.org)  
Texas Folklife Resources: [www.texasfolklife.org](http://www.texasfolklife.org)  
Texas Historical Commission: [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)  
Texas Parks and Wildlife: [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)  
Texas Rural Leadership Program: [www.trlp.org](http://www.trlp.org)  
Texas State Preservation Board: [www.tspb.state.tx.us](http://www.tspb.state.tx.us)  
Urban Land Institute: [www.uli.org](http://www.uli.org)

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Texas Main Street Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276  
512/463-6092, Fax 512/463-5862



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