

Complimentary
2022 Edition

your **PARKER COUNTY**

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An Information Guide

- Aledo • The Annettas • Brock
- Hudson Oaks • Millsap
- Peaster • Poolville
- Springtown • Weatherford
- Willow Park



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ABOUT OUR COVER: Parker County is home to a wide variety of plant life such as this prickly pear found north of Aledo

Photo by Kathy Chruscielski

Your Parker County is published annually by *The Community News* in Aledo, Texas.

As Parker County's only locally-owned newspaper, we strive to provide our readers in east Parker County with the best possible newspaper each week. We carry that same dedication each year into production of *Your Parker County*.

If you have questions or comments about this publication, please email rkeck@community-news.com.

We are proud to live and work in Parker County.

RANDY KECK, PUBLISHER

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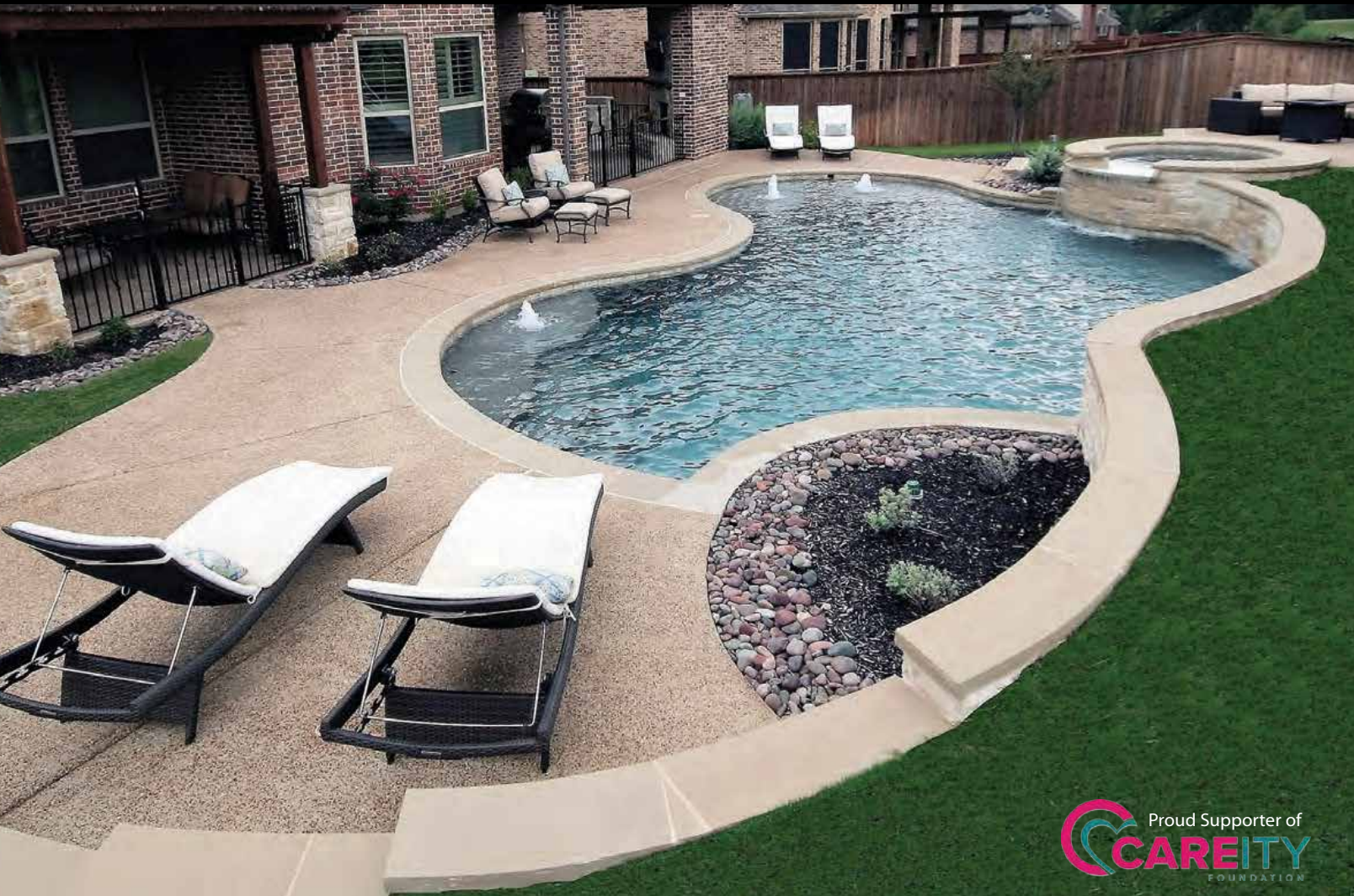


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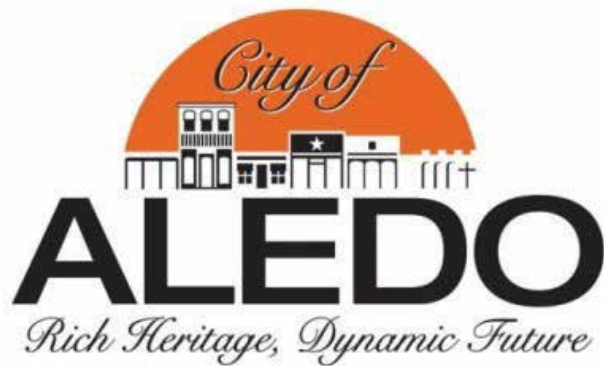


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Christmas Tyme in Aledo— First Saturday in December, 5-9 pm



The City of Aledo and its “DNA of Place” is convenient to Fort Worth and Weatherford, and close to major thoroughfares: Highways I-20, I-30 and Loop 820. Planned commercial corridors featuring prominent businesses at which to work and shop, and expansive residential neighborhoods are all within the highly-acclaimed Aledo Independent School District. The City Council and staff care for Aledo residents by providing clean, quality water, reliable sewer service, superior customer service, committed leadership, and free community events several times a year.

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Aledo



By Rebecca Lu
The Community News

Previously known as Parker Station, Aledo found its beginnings as a refueling stop along the Texas & Pacific Railroad during the mid-1800s. As the settlement continued to grow, a post office was established in 1882 with the name “Aledo” to avoid mail confusion with Parker County. The city of Aledo was officially incorporated in 1964, just south of I-20 on FM 1187, between Fort Worth and Weatherford, the oldest community in Parker County.

With its growing housing developments, close proximity to both Fort Worth and Weatherford, and academically and athletically successful school district, Aledo has seen much growth over the past two decades. Its motto, “Rich Heritage, Dynamic

KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A limestone formation near the Aledo Community Center provides a mini waterfall after heavy rains.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A view of Front Street from the patio at Bistro 1031 in Aledo illustrates the eclectic mix of old and new that exemplifies the city.

Future,” describes the tight-knit community that a growing number of people call home.

Aledo has seen significant residential growth fueled by continued expansion of the Parks of Aledo.

Construction began on “The Bluff,” an addition to Parks of Aledo at the western end of Bailey Ranch Road beyond Aledo High School.

“The first phase of development for ‘The Bluff’ includes 73 of the 202 homes and eight open green spaces for parks and recreation areas that can be expected by the completion of the project,” City Secretary Deana McMullen said. “This addition is expected to pick up where Point Vista ends and accompany plans to create a connection on Pine Street that ties into the Parks of Aledo Trail System as well as expand the trails from approximately 6.3 miles long to 11 miles long

for the public to enjoy for free.”

Additionally, the Villas of Aledo near city hall will consist of townhomes, with 37 units in the process of being built.

The growth in population led Aledo residents to approve becoming a Home Rule City in 2021. The city expects to see additional growth along the east side of FM 1187 with the addition of 243 acres into the city’s Extraterritorial Jurisdiction that was formerly in Fort Worth’s jurisdiction.

Aledo has seen growth in its commercial sector as well: Aledo has welcomed CVS, Tri-County Electric Cooperative, First Bank, Champions Business Park, Aledo Workspace, Taco Bell, and a Baylor Scott & White Rehabilitation Center all on Bailey Ranch. A new senior living facility called “Harvest of Aledo Senior Living” started construction on Bailey Ranch

Aledo

Population: 4,570

Phone: 817-441-7016

Mayor: Kit Marshall

Council Members:

- Shane Davis
- Matt Ribitzki
- Nick Stanley
- Kim Hiebert
(Mayor Pro Tem)
- Daniel Herbert

City Administrator:

Sharon Hayes

City Secretary:

Deana McMullen

City Hall:

200 Old Annetta Road
Aledo, Texas 76008

Monthly Council Meeting:

7 p.m. fourth Thursday of the month, Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Court, Aledo

City Website:

www.aledo-texas.com

Trash Pickup: Mondays

Recycling: Thursdays
(Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: city

Electricity: Oncor (Choice of Providers)

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Road. This 325,805 square foot facility will include one main building and nine duplex style cottages built around it for senior citizens to enjoy. It is located beside Aledo Reading Friends.



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“Serve,” a new coffee shop, opened at the yellow house. On FM 1187, “The Cultivate Club,” a coffee shop and workspace, and Vinoco, a wine shop, opened on FM 1187.

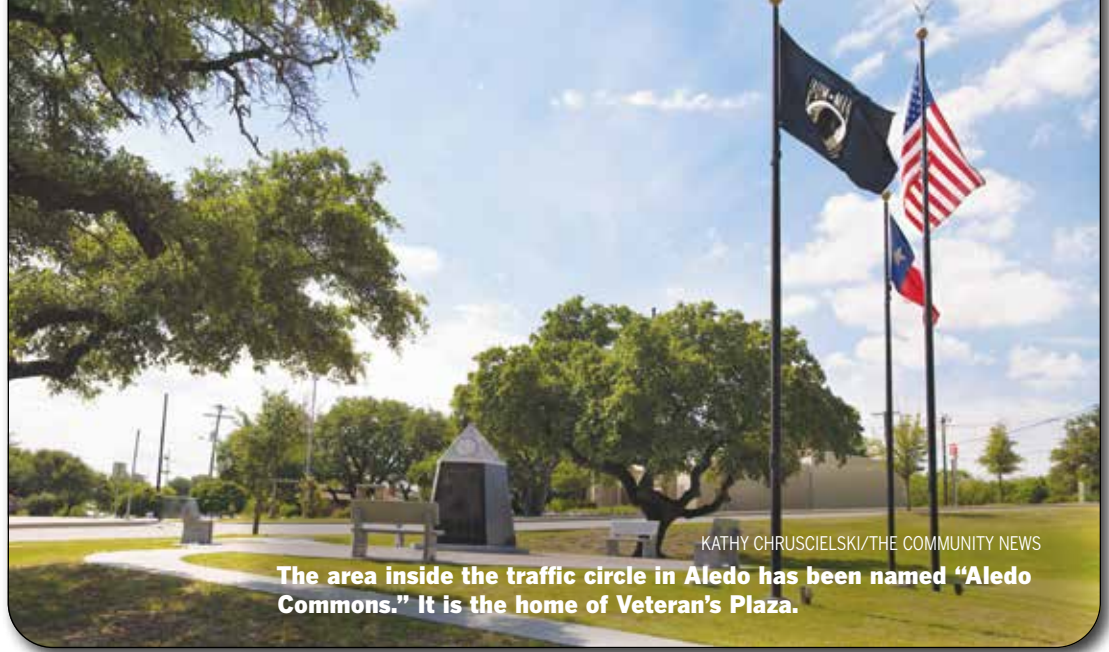
TxDOT began design for a widening project of 1187 FM South from the railroad tracks passing in front of Vandagriff Elementary School (which will become an early learning center) to include the 1187 intersection, Darnell Lane, and FM 5.

Aledo continues to see rapid development with a “safe routes to school” sidewalk project. The sidewalk project on Old Annetta Road created

connections from city hall all the way around to city limits in light of the “safe routes to school” initiative.

With all these new developments in progress, however, there are some Aledo traditions that will remain the same.

The Farmers’ Market will continue to meet in the community center parking lot from 3-7 p.m. every Monday as the weather permits. Aledo also hosts the Aledo Summer Blast fireworks show, Aledo Fest in the fall, and Christmas Time in Aledo.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The area inside the traffic circle in Aledo has been named “Aledo Commons.” It is the home of Veteran’s Plaza.

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Annettas

By **Rebecca Lu**
The Community News

“**T**he Annettas” refers to the unique juxtaposition of modern living and untouched natural beauty encompassed by the municipalities of Annetta, Annetta North, and Annetta South in East Parker County. These three municipalities originally began in the 1870s as a single entity established by A.B. Fraser as a freight station and store named after his daughter, Anneta. (The town’s spelling underwent many modifications and eventually changed to “Annetta” as it is today.) As more people began to migrate west looking for a simpler way of life away from the chaos of the city, Annetta became the obvious choice with its rural atmosphere and open, inviting spaces.

In 1979, the Annetta Community separated to become three different cities, Annetta, Annetta North, and Annetta South in order to avoid annexation by other taxing entities, such as rapidly-growing Fort Worth, and to preserve the quiet simplicity of country life. Today, the Annettas continue to offer vibrant community and open spaces along with a variety of new opportunities springing up such as the new Annetta Elementary School, part of the growing Aledo ISD which opened in the fall of 2021.

Just to the south of Annetta, Annetta South continues to retain a small-town atmosphere focused on preserving the Texas way of life. By focusing their comprehensive plan on emphasizing beautiful sunsets and quiet open spaces, the area attracts many people who are interested in animals and native plants. Most of the land within city limits has been

developed, and developers adhere to the minimum lot sizes required for water wells and septic systems, to maintain the rural environment.

Recently Annetta South worked to update ordinances for current building requirements in order to make them look more like those of neighboring towns. In addition, the city put in measures to protect residents from water drainage issues and ensured that water runoff efficiency for developed

land was no worse than predevelopment runoff.

City residents continue to proudly exemplify the motto of Mayor Charles "Chaz" Marsh: they truly do "help each other." In the future, Marsh hopes to see the Annettas eventually all come back together as one municipality.

"The original vision was to unite the Annettas and due to the laws back then, the cities were limited to a maximum number," Marsh said. "So that's why the separation."

Annetta North is an agricultural and equestrian community with very little business development.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Deer Crossing in Annetta

"It's focus has been to serve as a community for residents who live and work in Parker County or Fort Worth to also enjoy an equestrian or

agricultural lifestyle," Mayor Robert Schmidt said. "There are still working farms and stables here and there's really little commercial development."



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Schmidt suggests that the goal for the community going forward is to maintain that equestrian, agrarian lifestyle through fostering nature preservation and resource conservation. Like its neighbors, the city has no water and sewer system -- homeowners have wells and septic systems -- so the minimum lot size requirement is essential. In the future, the city anticipates expanding the minimum lot size to four or five acres as water in the

Paluxy aquifer gets scarcer. These measures will promote the conservation of water, which Schmidt anticipates will become more valuable than oil and gas over time.

“One of the special aspects of Annetta North is that it is one of the few towns that has taken an active role in fostering conservation easements,” Schmidt added. “This means that residents can actually donate some of their property to the town for the preservation of green spaces, fresh air, and clean rivers.”

Annetta

Population: 2,800

Phone: 817-441-5770

Mayor: Sandy Roberts

Council Members:

Shane Mudge
 Danny Coffman
 Bruce Pinckard
 Jim Causey
 Kent Stasey (Mayor Pro Tem)

City Secretary

Jamee Long

City Hall:

450 Thunder Head Lane
 Annetta, Texas 76008

Monthly Council Meeting: 7 p.m. third Thursday of the month, Annetta City Hall, 450 Thunder Head Lane, Annetta

City Website: www.annettatx.gov

Trash and Recycling: Mondays

Trash Only: Thursdays

(Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: city

Electricity: Oncor (Choice of Providers)
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Annetta North

Population: 567 (US Census Bureau 2019)

Phone: 817-222-8405

Mayor: Robert Schmidt

Council Members:

Len Callaway
 Rob Watson (Mayor pro-tem)
 Dr. John Johnson
 Stonie Hamilton
 Ken Hall

City Secretary:

Sheila Elmore

City Hall:

PO Box 1238
 Aledo, Texas 76008

Monthly Council Meeting: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, in the fellowship hall of the Annetta Methodist Church, 1273 W Farm Road 5, Annetta

City Website: www.annettanorth.com

Trash and Recycling:

(Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: well and septic

Electricity: Oncor (Choice of Providers)
www.powertochoose.org

888-313-6832; Emergency number 888-313-4747

Annetta South

Population: 493

Phone: 682-352-5442

Mayor: Charles Marsh

Council Members:

Philip Kuntz
 Don Larson
 Scott Hayes
 David Goolsby
 Bill Gordon (Mayor Pro Tem)

City Secretary:

Ellen Woodward

City Hall:

PO Box 61
 Aledo, Texas 76008

Monthly Council Meeting: Second Tuesday of the every month at New Faith Baptist Church, 3033 West FM 5.

City Website: www.annettasouth.org

Trash Only: Tuesday

Trash and Recycling: Friday

(Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: city

Electricity: Oncor (Choice of Providers)
www.powertochoose.org

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Recently, most of the energy of the city council has been focused on updating the master plan and zoning and subdivision ordinances in anticipation of the new residential growth that Annetta North expects over the next decade. Going forward, the city can expect the subdivision of family farms in order to build housing communities, and zoning requirements have been updated to address this trend. Schmidt suggests that these divisions will be welcomed as long as they remain consistent with the town philosophy and goals of preserving nature and the environment.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

ABOVE: McDavid Springs in Annetta South | FACING PAGE: Sunset in Annetta North



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Brock

By **Rebecca Lu**
The Community News

Located in southwest Parker County 11 miles southwest of Weatherford, the city of Brock found its beginnings in 1871 when John Brock, a carpenter and cabinet maker, moved to begin a new life in the area. He eventually partnered with a man named Willie Brannon, and together, they built a gin and mill in 1880 near Grissom Springs. By the 1890s Brock was quickly growing to include a post office, blacksmith, cotton gin, gristmill, grocery store, post office, a flour mill and even an institute of higher education.

Today, the city of Brock has about 250 residents with a school district that educates about 1,500 students over



Brock

Population: * **Phone:** 817-596-4200

Mayor: Jay Hamilton

Commissioners:

Ben Davis

Debbie Scrimshire

Town Clerk:

Kerri Prentice

City Hall:

102 Houston Avenue, Suite 300
Weatherford, TX 76086

Monthly Council Meeting: Third Monday of each month at Brock Community Center.

* The official population count for the newly incorporated area has not been determined.



four campuses. Guided by their traditions and inspired by their possibilities, Brock students have won “19 team State Championships, including gold medals in math, basketball, football, volleyball, baseball, softball, tennis and golf.” Brock ISD has also won five Lone Star Cups, an award given to the school that scores the most points for victories in athletics, fine arts, and academics, as well as several individual state medals in track, tennis, and cross country. With nearly 70% of the schools in this district rating above average in the state of Texas, Brock Independent School District continues to “empower every student



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Hummingbird Ranch store on FM 1189 in Brock

to discover and pursue their passion” as their motto states.

While in 2017, the area saw the two communities of Brock and Brock West incorporated

in order to avoid annexation by Weatherford, Brock West recently merged with another small Parker County town near the Brazos River to form what is now known as Dennis, Texas.

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Jason Needham CLU ChFC, Agent
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Hudson Oaks

Founded in 1978, Hudson Oaks lies five miles east of Weatherford on U.S. Highway 80 and Interstate Highway 20. With its nonexistent property taxes, Hudson Oaks has truly become a “boom town” for commercial real estate, business development, and home building in the past 30 years.

Originally, the city came about when the Oakridge and Hudson Heights neighborhoods united to fulfill their visions of low taxes and a government adhering to the desires of the residents. Through retail-generated sales tax and fast-paced development, the city of Hudson Oaks has been able to realize those dreams and has become home to many long-term sources of revenue and other successful business developments such as several car dealerships, restaurants, a Walmart, a movie theater, a water park, a John Deere dealership and more recently, a new H-E-B supermarket that opened in May of 2019.

By **Rebecca Lu**
The Community News





In addition to these factors, the traffic flow catalyzing a fast-growing commercial district as well as infrastructure providing high-speed internet for corporate offices and businesses involving large amounts of data processing continue to make Hudson Oaks an attractive place for potential residents. In fact, current and potential residents now have the option of Hudson

Oaks' first major multi-family development as the Creekside Apartments near Splash Kingdom Wild West,

The city is also in the process of extending Cinema Drive all the way to the north side of Fort Worth Highway as well as





entering the beginning phases of planning for a trail grant recently awarded through TxDOT that will connect Inspiration Drive up to Mary Martin Elementary School.

Today, Hudson Oaks continues to build a name for

itself as a vibrant community. With its annual Boomin' 4th celebration, Craft&Cork, and CoHoHo bringing the whole community together, there is no doubt that this city is a place where family is valued and unified growth is prioritized.

Hudson Oaks

Population: 1,860
Phone: 682-229-2400
Mayor: Marc Povero

Council Members:
 Tom Fitzpatrick
 (Mayor Pro Tem)
 Brian Lixey
 Tom Marquardt
 Marty Schrantz
 Daniel Cross

City Administrator:
 Sterling Naron

City Hall:
 210 Hudson Oaks Drive
 Hudson Oaks, Texas
 76087

Monthly Council Meeting: 7 p.m. fourth Thursday, Hudson Oaks City Hall, 210 Hudson Oaks Drive, Hudson Oaks

City Website:
www.hudsonoaks.com

Trash Pickup: Mondays
Recycling: Thursdays
 (Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: city
Electricity: Tri-County Electric Cooperative
www.tcectexas.com
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Millsap

By Rebecca Lu
The Community News

Millsap

Population: 401

Phone: 940-682-7446

Mayor: Jamie French

Mayor Pro Tem: Michael Kinman

Council Members:

Stella Casey
Erica Lockhart
Chad Martin
Alissa McMinn

City Manager/Secretary:

Ashley Davis

City Hall:

208 Fannin
Millsap, Texas 76066

Monthly Council Meeting:

7 p.m. last Tuesday of the month, Millsap City Hall, 208 Fannin, Millsap

The city of Millsap, located on the west side of Parker County, began as a bustling business center at the intersection of the rail line and the United States' first transcontinental highway. As the highway was updated and businesses began to move elsewhere during the 1930s, commerce began to die down and the city began to dwindle to become the small town we see today.

Throughout the years, however, Millsap has been able to retain its rural atmosphere and honor its town history through the original cabin and post office that proudly stand in Heritage Park in the center of town and the railroad tracks that still remain to commemorate its beginnings.

In addition to retaining its historical

significance, Millsap has also built a well-respected independent school district that serves as the "cornerstone of the community." Located 15 miles west of Weatherford and nine miles east of Mineral Wells, Millsap ISD is a convenient 45 minutes from Fort Worth and has approximately 1,000 students. The schools seek to "inspire, develop, and educate every student in a safe environment to be a productive, responsible citizen prepared for lifelong success." With its above-average test scores, AP classes, partnership with Weatherford College that allows students to obtain college credit while still in high school, and plethora of other opportunities available for students to take advantage of, the district partners with the younger generation to empower them and help them achieve their dreams through a solid education.



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Peaster

By Rebecca Lu
The Community News

Peaster originally came into being as Freeman, Texas after John and Elizabeth Freeman came from Arkansas to settle the area. As time went on, the Freemans returned to Arkansas and the community's name was changed to Fremont and then eventually Peaster after a post office was established under that name.

Around the year 1870, H.H. Peaster and his sister and uncle migrated to the area from Georgia and began to develop the land to promote settlement. He purchased 160 acres, established a home, and

began to sell the lots to other buyers interested in building a new life in the northwest part of Parker County.

Later in the early 1890s, Peaster's Uncle Henry, along with Tom Hunt, donated four acres to build a cemetery and Peaster College. This college served as a secondary school for 25 years until it was replaced by the current Peaster School campus that stands today. As the town increased in size, a cotton gin was also built after the discovery of the area's suitability for growing



cotton. A general store, a bank, several churches, and other businesses were soon to follow. Unfortunately, in 1920s, boll weevils, a type of beetle that feeds on cotton buds and flowers, destroyed the cotton crops before harvest season and residents were forced to find means of income elsewhere. This led to the closure of the bank in 1936, leaving few businesses remaining in the town. Those who remained began to invest their time away from commerce and more into farming and agriculture.

Since its official incorporation in 2017, Peaster has been quickly growing while still retaining its small-town

atmosphere. With its expanding school district and increasing housing availability, there is no sign of that growth stopping. Residents have seen an expansion of the Kwik Mart store to more than three times its original size with the addition of restaurants and other amenities. In addition, the North Texas Veterinary Hospital completed a significant expansion, adding a surgery suite and radiology area. There are also two new developments in the works, both with 50 upscale houses, that are sure to bring new opportunities to the small town.

“We currently have 12 different developments in the works,

and growth and expansion in Peaster ISD that we can barely keep up with. We are what Aledo used to be,” said Mayor Don Smelley. “The growth is phenomenal, and we’re not used to that.”

Peaster

Population: 385

Phone: 817-597-7008

Mayor: Don Smelley

Commissioners:

Gerald Hobson

Paul Casey

Secretary:

Shirley Smelley

Monthly Council Meeting:

6 p.m. second Monday of

the month, Peaster High

School Library, 3600

Harwell Lake Road

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Springtown



Springtown

Population: 2,665

Phone: 817-220-4834

Mayor: Greg Hood

Council Members:

Ted Martinez
Michele Chandler Kelley
Walter Roberson,
Richelle Pruitt (Mayor
Pro Tem)
Bill White

City Administrator:

David Miller

City Secretary:

Jhanna Bogan

City Hall:

102 East Second Street
Springtown, Texas 76082

Monthly Council

Meeting: 6:30 p.m.
fourth Thursday,
Springtown City Hall, 102
East Second Street

City Website:

www.cityofspringtown.com

Trash and Recycling:

IESI
817-222-2221

Trash Pickup: Tuesdays

Recycling: The city has a
recycle bin at 501 Martin

(Call City Hall to estab-
lish trash pickup or for
service)

Water: city

Electricity: Tri-County
Electric Cooperative

www.tcectexas.com

800-367-8232 **OR**

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Emergency number
888-313-4747

Gas: Atmos Energy 800-
460-3030



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District serves four counties from the Springtown office. Doug Shaw is the General Manager.

By Rebecca Lu
The Community News

The city of Springtown, located near the northern border of Parker County, sits 27 miles northwest of Fort Worth at the intersection of Hwy. 199 and Hwy. 51. Originally known as Littleton's Springs after a pioneer family in 1859, Springtown was started by a man named Joseph Ward in 1856 on a creek fed by several springs on the northeast side of Weatherford. Later during the 1870s, 200 residents signed a petition and the town's name was officially changed to Springtown. In 1875 a post office was established that continues to run today as one of the oldest continually-operated post offices in Texas, and finally in 1884, the city was officially

incorporated with J. A. Graves as its first mayor. It wasn't long before a newspaper, multiple churches, two cotton gins, a steam corn mill, and eventually a high school were established, and people began to build a strong community on their rich heritage and values.

Today, Springtown continues to see growth and change with many families and commercial developers looking to put down roots in the not-so-small town. In fact, there are several infrastructure projects in the works to further ready the city for anticipated growth and deal with current issues. The first of those is the extensive FM 51 TxDOT project which will include the installation of a 6 foot by 10-foot storm drain box from north of Fifth

Street to Walnut Creek. This update is “expected to alleviate some of the flooding issues we experience during heavy rain,” said Administrative Specialist Christina Derr. Derr said the extensive state project to redo Highway 51 from SH 199 north and replace the bridge over Walnut Creek is getting closer to completion. This project includes the addition of a center turn lane, sidewalks, and the reworking of the FM 51 Highway 199 intersection to allow for better traffic flow. When it is complete, the intersection will have one lane northbound and two dedicated

left turn lanes, a strictly southbound lane, and a right turn lane. In addition, it will be raised five feet “in order to get it out of the flood plain.”

Aside from this project, there is also a major water treatment plan in the works and two subdivisions with planning and construction underway. The first of these is called “Inheritance Estates” and is a single-family residential subdivision with 178 lots. The infrastructure for this subdivision has been completed and the homes are currently being built, so potential residents can anticipate the

growth of that area as the project is moving along rather quickly. The second of these subdivisions is a 114 lot single family residential subdivision known as “Holbrook Farm.”

Overall, Springtown has done a phenomenal job of retaining its historical significance and rich foundations in the midst of its rapid growth. Residents and visitors can enjoy Springtown’s historic downtown square, local restaurants, and entertainment and see how the small town has grown and is continuing to grow to pave the way for many future opportunities.



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Weatherford

By Jeri Petersen
The Community Mews

Named by the Texas Legislature as the Peach Capital of Texas, Weatherford welcomes 35,000 visitors each July to Parker County Peach Festival, one of the city's larger events. But Weatherford is also known



Weatherford

Population: 27,080

Phone: 817-598-4000

Mayor: Paul Paschall

Council Members:

Paul Paschall

Heidi Wilder

Jeff Robinson

Matt Ticzkus

Kevin Cleveland

City Manager:

James Hotopp

City Secretary:

Malinda Nowell

City Hall:

303 Palo Pinto Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Council Meetings: 6:30

p.m. second and fourth
Tuesday of the month,
Weatherford City Hall,
303 Palo Pinto Street,
Weatherford

City Website: ci.weatherford.tx.us

Trash and Recycling:

City; call Sanitation
Department at 817-598-
4145 for trash and recy-
cling pickup schedule

Water: City; call
817-598-4257

Electricity: City;
call 817-598-4257

Gas: Texas Gas www.texasgasservice.com

800-700-2443;
Emergency number 800-
959-5325

as the Cutting Horse capital of the world, and its rich Western heritage is filled with colorful characters.

Legendary cattle drovers Oliver Loving and Bose Ikard, who, with Charles Goodnight inspired Larry McMurtry's novel "Lonesome Dove," are buried in Weatherford's Greenwood Cemetery. Renowned modern-day Weatherford natives include Broadway star Mary Martin, immortalized for her role as Peter Pan; her actor son Larry Hagman, the infamous J. R. Ewing on the "Dallas" television series; and former U.S. Speaker of the House Jim Wright.

English portrait artist Douglas Chandor, known for his paintings of historical figures like Queen Elizabeth, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, and Winston Churchill, met and married Weatherford native Ina Kuteman Hill. The couple settled in Weatherford in 1936 and built their home and surrounding "garden rooms." The restored Chandor Gardens is a treasured Weatherford public landmark.

Settlers began arriving in the area in 1845. Parker County was named after Isaac Parker, a Texas Legislator representing Ellis and Tarrant Counties in 1855-56 who introduced the bill to establish Parker County. When Parker County was formed in 1856, the territory was in the state Senate district of Jefferson Weatherford,

and the county seat was named Weatherford in his honor.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

A statue of Larry Hagman stands at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center.

The Texas and Pacific Railroad arrived in 1880. Two other lines came in the next 11 years, establishing the county seat as a shipping point for Parker County farmers and ranchers. The Santa Fe depot today houses the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

Located in the center of Parker County, Weatherford is the largest city in the county. The historic Parker County Courthouse sits at the geographic center of Weatherford, surrounded by other historic buildings that now house locally-owned shops and



restaurants. Southwest of the courthouse, tree-lined streets with charming Victorian-style homes built in the late 1800s make up the historic district. East of Main Street, well-established neighborhoods surround Medical City Weatherford hospital and Weatherford College.

New development is springing up along U.S. Hwy 180 and the I-20 corridor, greatly

increasing traffic through the center of town. A bypass road project is being planned to divert east-west traffic on Hwy 180 around the courthouse to make the downtown Heritage Square area less congested and more pedestrian-friendly.

Blake Rexroat, Weatherford director of communications and marketing, says the city has seen steady growth over

the last 10 years. “When you look at Dallas/Fort Worth, we’re unsettled territory if you will; we have available land out here, so lots of people are moving this direction, which brings businesses, too,” he says. “Part of the challenge we have is how to preserve that historical aspect, because we are a historical community.”

Popular seasonal events at the city’s Heritage Park draw large crowds, including fall concerts at the park’s amphitheater, and food trucks in the spring, summer and fall. For December’s “Holiday in the Park,” the city lights up the whole park and brings in snow for carriage rides and children’s activities. The biggest annual event is “Spark in the Park” on July 4, with a live big-act concert and Parker County’s largest fireworks display. The free event attracts close to 20,000 people, Rexroat says.

The annual Parker County Sheriff’s Posse Frontier Days Rodeo is one of the largest in Texas and is a tribute to the county’s deep cowboy roots. A large farmer’s market operates year-round a few blocks east of the town square.

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Willow Park





The Shops at Willow Park serve as a hub for dining and shopping in the city, and the focal point of Crown Pointe Boulevard.

KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS



Staff Reports

The Community News

Willow Park

Population: 4,738

Phone: 817-441-7108

Mayor: Doyle Moss

Council Members:

Eric Contreras
Greg Runnebaum
Lea Young
Nathan Crummel
Tyler VanSant

City Administrator:

Bryan Grimes

City Secretary:

Crystal Dozier

City Hall:

516 Ranch House Road
Willow Park, Texas 76087

Monthly Council Meeting:

7 p.m. second Tuesday of every month, Willow Park Municipal Complex, 516 Ranch House Road, Willow Park, Texas 76087

City Website:

www.willowpark.org

Trash & Recycling: Tuesdays and Fridays

(Call City Hall to establish trash pickup or for service)

Water: city

Electricity: Oncor (Choice of Providers)

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Willow Park first emerged in the late 1800s as a small rural community called Willow Springs. Located eight miles east of Weatherford on the north side of Interstate 20, the area remained largely unsettled until the 1960s when it was officially incorporated after the establishment of El Chico Ranch Estates, Lake Weatherford, and U.S. Highway 80 shed more light on the little town. During the 70s and 80s the community grew exponentially and added a golf course, fire department, police department, several churches, housing subdivisions, and other businesses.

Today, Willow Park is an incredibly attractive place to settle for individuals and families alike. Residents of Willow Park have access to both Aledo and Weatherford school districts depending on which part of the city

residents live, as well as Trinity Christian Academy, which is located in the city.

Another factor that is unique to Willow Park is that less than 50 percent of the 7,424-acre area is developed, indicating significant development opportunities to come in the future as the area grows.

Willow Park's commercial, residential, and public service sectors have all seen significant growth in recent years.

The most significant growth has come in the Crown Pointe/Willow Park North area, much of which sits on ground that was once Squaw Creek Downs race track.

A new apartment complex and houses are springing up amid a destination shopping area which includes shops, restaurants, and the Texas Health medical facility.

Willow Park Baptist Church's new church and facilities have taken physical shape

in an 82-acre development that will include a gymnasium, worship center, outdoor activity fields, a wedding chapel, and amphitheater.

On the south side of Interstate 20, the Willow Springs area is home to First Bank Texas' new corporate headquarters as well as new dining and shopping venues opening on a regular basis. In addition, Brookshire's completed a remodeling to offer new amenities to its customers.

Work has also begun on town homes in the area.

In the public service arena, Willow Park recently completed rebuilding Ranch

House Road, and is implementing a comprehensive street improvement plan.

A new Public Safety Building was recently completed to house the police and fire departments, and the old location was transformed into a park and playground.

A new pipeline bringing much-needed water to Willow Park and Hudson Oaks was completed in 2021. The city and Willow Park Baptist Church also completed negotiations for a land swap that will allow the city to build an expanded sewer treatment facility near the older, near-capacity system.



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gage Andress scampered out of one of the covered slides at the grand opening of Cross Timbers Park in April 2021.

Willow Park continues to aggressively court new business development, adding to a growing tax base.



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County Government



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

While the Parker County Courthouse has long served as the seat of local government, county government functions long ago outgrew the structure. In addition to the courthouse annex and District Courts Building, substations have been established around the county for services such as auto licenses.

COUNTYWIDE OFFICIALS

Pat Deen
County Judge
One Courthouse Square
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6148
Fax: 817-598-6199
pat.deen@parkercountytx.com

John Forrest
County Attorney
118 West Columbia Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-8409
Fax: 817-594-8414
John.forrest@parkercountytx.com

Judge Jerry Buckner
County Court at Law 1
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6179
Fax: 817-598-6119
Judge.buckner@parkercountytx.com

Lynn Marie Johnson
County Court at Law 2
One Courthouse Square
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6195
Fax: 817-598-6164
lynn.johnson@parkercountytx.com

Lila Deakle
County Clerk
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Deeds and Records: 817-594-7461
Fax: 817-594-9540
lila.deakle@parkercountytx.com
Civil & Criminal 1: 817-598-6059
Civil & Criminal 2: 817-598-6035
Court Documents: 817-598-6056

Russ Authier
Sheriff
129 Hogle Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-8845
Fax: 817-594-7809
russ.authier@parkercountytx.com

Jenny Gentry
Tax Assessor-Collector
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6139
Fax: 817-598-6133
Jenny.Gentry@parkercountytx.com

Jenny Barnwell
Treasurer
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6150
Fax: 817-598-6180
Jenny.barnwell@parkercountytx.com

Brianna Fowler
County Auditor
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6104
Fax: 817-598-6181
brianna.fowler@parkercountytx.com

Crickett Miller
Election Administrator
1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6185
Fax: 817-598-6183
crickett.miller@parkercountytx.com

Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
Doug Shaw, Director
1250 E. Hwy. 199
P.O. Box 1749
Springtown Texas 76082
817-523-5200
Toll Free: 877-388-8423
www.uppertrinitygcd.com

JUDICIARY
Craig Towson
43rd District Court Judge
117 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6069
Fax: 817-598-6108
jolene.duboise@parkercountytx.com

Graham Quisenberry
415th District Court Judge
117 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6162
Fax: 817-598-6161
dawn.ryle@parkercountytx.com

Sharena Gilliland
District Clerk
117 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
(Civil) 817-598-6114
(Felony) 817-598-6194
Fax: 817-598-6131

Jeff Swain
District Attorney
117 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6124
Fax: 817-599-7628
da@parkercountytx.com

PRECINCT 1
George Conley
Commissioner
3000 Veal Station Road / P.O. Box 681
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-220-7218
Fax: 817-220-7220
George.conley@parkercountytx.com

Kelvin Miles
Justice of the Peace
1020 East Hwy. 199
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-220-5857
Fax: 817-220-2000

Ray Wright
Constable
1020 East Hwy. 199
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-523-0027

PRECINCT 2
Craig Peacock
Commissioner
3033 FM 1885
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-594-4022
Fax: 817-599-0076
craig.peacock@parkercountytx.com

Kelly Green
Justice of the Peace
207 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-0496

Joe Harris, Jr.
Constable
207 Fort Worth Hwy.
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682-229-2167
joe.harris@parkercountytx.com

PRECINCT 3
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817-594-0371
Fax: 817-594-4496
larrywalden@parkercountytx.com

Dusty Vinson
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1112 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6192
Fax: 817-598-6112

Glen Praytor
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PRECINCT 4
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5189 East I-20 Service Road North
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Fax: 817-441-4170
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Scott Jones
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5189 East I-20 Service Road North
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Public Safety

RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Willow Park Fire Department obtained a new 75,000-pound ladder truck and a new Public Safety Building to park it in late in 2019.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Aledo ISD Police Department

Fred D. Collie (Chief)
117 Vernon Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-5147

Hudson Oaks Police Department

Michael Baldwin (Chief)
150 N. Oakridge Drive
Hudson Oaks, Texas 76087
682-229-2400

Parker County Sheriff's Department

Russ Authier (Sheriff)
129 Hogle Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-8845

Reno Police Department

Jeremy Massey (Chief)
195 W. Reno Road
Azle, Texas 76020
817-221-2500

Springtown Police Department

Cres Salazar (Chief)
220 Hilltop
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-220-1534

Weatherford Police Department

Lance Arnold (Chief)
801 Santa Fe Drive,
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4310

Willow Park Police Department

Carrie West (Chief)
101 W. Stage Coach Trail
Willow Park, Texas 76087
817-441-9747

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Weatherford

Jonathan Peacock (Chief)

Station 1:

122 S Alamo
Weatherford, TX 76086
817-598-4280
jpeacock@weatherfordtx.gov

Station 2:

122 West Lake Drive
Weatherford, TX 76086
817-598-4014

Station 3:

122 Atwood Court
Weatherford, TX 76086
817-598-4112

Station 4:

905 West Park Avenue
Weatherford, TX 76086
817-598-4180

Willow Park

Mike LeNoir
101 Stagecoach Trail
Willow Park, Texas 76087
817-441-8020
mle Noir@willowpark.org

EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS

ESD 1

ESD 1 Administration

P.O. Box 323
315 Morrow Road
Springtown, Texas 76082
Stephen Watson, District Fire Chief
817-523-7598
swatson@pcesd1.com

Aledo
P.O. Box 100
Aledo, Texas 76008
Stn. 34 - 991 Bailey Ranch Road,
Aledo
ST 37 - 701 Thunder Head Lane,
Annetta
817-441-7284

Springtown
P.O. Box 282
Springtown, Texas 76082
ST1 - 215 Goshen Road
ST2 - 3004 HWY 199 W
817-523-0257
La Junta
P.O. Box 1891
Springtown, Texas 76082
ST1 - 4480 E. Hwy. 199
817-677-2290

Peaster
P.O. Box 6
Peaster, Texas 76485
817-594-4551

Poolville
P.O. Box 277
16140 FM 1920
Poolville, Texas 76487
817-598-4310

Silver Creek
6901 S. FM 730
Azle, Texas 76020
817-523-7598

ESD3

ESD 3 Administration
Donna Lambert
817-599-0576
dlambert@esd3.org

Hudson Oaks
Pat English
150 N. Oakridge Drive
Hudson Oaks, Texas 76087
817-599-0576
hudsonoaksfire@yahoo.com
penglish@esd3.org

ESD 6

ESD 6 Administration
George Teague
817-594-5500
gbteague44@aol.com

Station 44
George Teague
6300 Granbury Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76087
817-594-5500
gbteague44@aol.com
djs0236@yahoo.com

Station 244
4970 Tin Top Rd
Weatherford Tx 76087

Station 344
7001 Brazos Trl
Weatherford Tx 76087

ESD 7

ESD 7 Administration
817-594-9473

Cool-Garner
2290 Garner School Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-458-0343
station43@coolgarnervfd.org

Greenwood
John Burgoyne
1418 Greenwood Cut-off Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-594-9473
johnburgoyne@ymail.com

Millsap
P.O. Box 172
Millsap, Texas 76066
817-682-4390
ST1-407 S. Houston Street
millsapfd@embarqmail.com

ESD 8

Central
David Chilcutt
ST1-4100 Old Agnes Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
ST1-817-599-0818
ST2-3641 FM 51 North
ST2- 817-599-0881
dcff55@aol.com
gstone@mypbmail.com

Adell-Whitt
Curtis Goen
P.O. Box 72
4312 N. FM 52
Whitt, Texas 76490
940-798-3055
awfd4537@yahoo.com

ESD 9

Brock-Dennis
1107 FM 1189
Brock, Texas 76087
817-341-7368
ST1 - 1107 FM 1189
ST2 - 2506 Dennis Road
ST3 - 8400 FM 1189 Dennis
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Education



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Springtown Middle School

ALEDO ISD

Administration

Superintendent Dr. Susan Bohn
1008 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-8327
aledoisd.org

The Aledo ISD School Board meets on the third Monday of the month unless otherwise announced.

Annetta Elementary School (Opening Fall 2021)

Principal: Holly Elgin
2533 West FM 5
Annetta, Texas 76008
817-207-3405
Grades: Pre-K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Coder Elementary School

Principal: Tanner Holmes
12 Vernon Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-6095
Grades: Pre-K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Stuard Elementary School

Principal: Ron Shelton
200 Thunderhead Lane
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-5103
Grades: K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Vandagriff Elementary School

Principal: Stephanie Maroney
408 FM 1187 South
Aledo, Texas, 76008
817-441-8771
Grades: K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

McCall Elementary School

Principal: Amy Sadler
400 Scenic Trail
Willow Park, Texas, 76087
817-441-4500
Grades: K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Walsh Elementary School

Principal: Heather Street
14113 Walsh Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76108
817-207-3355
Grades: K through 5
Starting/Closing Times:
7:40 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

McAnally Intermediate School

Principal: Joshua Jenkins
151 FM 5 South
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-8347
Grade: 6
Starting/Closing Times:
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.aledoisd.org/McAnally

Aledo Middle School

Principal: Mandy Musselwhite
416 FM 1187 South
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-5198
Grades: 7 and 8
Starting/Closing Times:
8:40 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.
www.aledoisd.org/AMS

Don Daniel Ninth Grade Center

Principal: Carolyn Ansley
990 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-4504
Grade: 9
Start/Closing Times:
8:40 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.
Pick up/Drop off: At the front of the school.

The Learning Center

Principal: Cheryl Jones
1016 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-5176
Start/Closing Times:
8:40 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.
www.aledoisd.org/domain/146

Aledo High School

Principal: Angi Tims
1000 Bailey Ranch Road
Aledo, Texas, 76008
817-441-8711
Grades: 10 through 12
Starting/Closing Times:
8:40 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.aledoisd.org/AHS

BROCK ISD

Administration

Superintendent Cade Smith
410 Eagle Spirit Lane
Brock, Texas 76087
817-594-7642
www.brockisd.net

The Brock ISD School Board meets on the second Monday of the month.

Brock Elementary School

Principal: Erin Griffith
100 Grindstone Road
Brock, Texas 76087
817-594-8017, Metro: 817-596-8372
Grades: Pre-K-2
Starting/Closing Times:
7:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Brock Intermediate School

Principal: Lane Ranea
100 Grindstone Road
Brock, Texas 76087
817-594-8017
Grades: 3-6
Starting/Closing Times:
7:55 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Brock Junior High School

Principal: Andy Hudson
300 Grindstone Road
Brock, Texas, 76087
817-594-3195, Metro: 817-596-2916
Grades: 6-8
Starting/Closing Times:
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Brock High School

Principal: Bobby Atchley
400 Eagle Spirit Lane
Brock, Texas 76087
817-596-7425
Grades: 9-12
Starting/Closing Times:
8:05 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

GARNER ISD

Personnel

Superintendent Rebecca Hallmark
Principal: Diane Shaw
2222 Garner School Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
940-682-4251
Grades: PreK-8
Starting/Closing Times: 8 to 3:45
Ninth Grade added Fall of 2021

The Garner ISD School Board meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the school library.

MILLSAP ISD

Administration

Superintendent Deann Lee
201 East Brazos Street
Millsap, Texas 76066
940-682-3101
Call Tree 940-682-3100
www.millsapisd.net
Millsap ISD School Board meets on the fourth Monday of the month.

Millsap Elementary School

Principal: Cathy Bradshaw
101 Wilson Bend Road
Millsap, Texas 76066
940-682-3121
Grades: EC-5
Starting/Closing Times:
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (After school program until 5:30 p.m.)

Millsap Middle School

Principal: Jeff Clark
301 East Brazos Street
Millsap, Texas, 76066
940-682-3161
Grades: 6-8
Starting/Closing Times:
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Millsap High School

Principal: Tammy Addison
600 Bulldog Blvd.
Millsap, Texas 76066
940-682-3182
Grades: 9-12
Starting/Closing Times:
8 a.m. to 3:35 p.m.

PEASTER ISD

Administration

Superintendent Lance Johnson
3602 Harwell Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-341-5000 ext. 1
www.peaster.net
The Peaster ISD School Board meets on the third Thursday of the month.

Peaster Elementary School

Principal: Becky Glenn
3400 Harwell Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-594-1884
Grades: Pre-K-5
Starting/Closing Times:
8:05 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.



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Fax: 817.441.2491
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Springtown Middle School

Principal: Mark Wilson
 500 Pojo Drive
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 817-220-7455
 Grades: 7 and 8
 Starting/Closing Times: 8 a.m. - 3:46 p.m.

Springtown High School

Principal: Melissa Hutchison
 915 W. Hwy. 199
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 817-220-3888
 Grades: 9 through 12
 Starting/Closing Times: 8 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

**WEATHERFORD
 ISD**

Administration

Superintendent Dr. Beau Rees
 1100 Longhorn Drive
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 www.weatherfordisd.com
 Phone: 817-598-2800
 Fax: 817-598-2955

The Weatherford ISD School Board meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Austin Elementary School

Principal: Jenny Morris (Interim)
 1776 Texas Drive
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2848
 Grades: K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Crockett Elementary School

Principal: Marilisa Moore
 1015 Jameson Street
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2811
 Grades: Pre-K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Curtis Elementary School

Principal: Lorie Bratcher
 501 W. Russell
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2838
 Grades: K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aledo High School

Peaster Junior High

Principal: Jimmy Steen
 8512 FM 920
 Peaster, Texas 76485
 817-341-5000 ext. 3
 Grades: 6 through 8
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Peaster High School

Principal: Doug McCollough
 3600 Harwell Lake Road
 Peaster, Texas 76485
 817-341-5000 ext. 2
 Grades: 9 through 12
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Poolville Junior High

Principal: Jamie Dunnam
 16025 FM 920
 Poolville, Texas 76487
 817-594-4539
 Grades: 6 through 8
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Poolville High School

Principal: Jennifer Shiflett
 1001 Lone Star Road
 Poolville, Texas 76487
 817-599-5134
 Grades: 9 through 12
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8:05 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Goshen Creek Elementary School

Principal: Kelly Jones
 401 S. Pojo Drive
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 817-220-0272
 Grades: Pre-K through 4
 Starting/Closing times: 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Reno Elementary School

Principal: Jenna Showers
 172 W. Reno Road
 Azle, Texas 76020
 817-221-5001
 Grades: Pre K through 4
 Starting/Closing Times: 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Springtown Elementary School

Principal: Pearl Russell
 416 E. Third Street
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 817-220-2498
 Grades: Pre-K through 4
 Starting/Closing Times: 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Springtown Intermediate School

Principal: Joe Brown
 300 Pojo Drive
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 817-220-1219
 Grades: 5 and 6
 Starting/Closing Times: 7:55 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.

POOLVILLE ISD

Administration

Superintendent Jeff Kirby
 16025 FM 920
 Poolville, Texas 76487
 817-594-4452
 www.poolville.net
The Poolville ISD School Board meets the second Thursday of the month.

Poolville Elementary School

Principal: Jason Cheslock
 16025 FM 920
 Poolville, Texas 76487
 817-599-3308
 Grades: Pre-K through 5
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**SPRINGTOWN
 ISD**

Administration

Superintendent Mike Kelley
 301 East 5th Street
 Springtown, Texas 76082
 Phone: 817-220-7243
 Fax: 817-523-5766
 www.springtownisd.net
The Springtown ISD School Board meets on the fourth Monday of the month.



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

Weatherford High School

Ikard Elementary School

Principal: Christy Burton
 100 Ikard Lane
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2818
 Grades: Pre-K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Seguin Elementary School

Principal: Jessica Shugart
 499 E. Eighth Street
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2814
 Grades: Pre-K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Hall Middle School

Principal: Stephanie Wynne
 823 S. Bowie Drive
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2822
 Grades: 7 and 8
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8:05 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WHS Ninth Grade Center

Associate Principal: Brannon Kidd
 1007 S. Main
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2847
 Grade: 9
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8:15 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

Martin Elementary School

Principal: Amy Crippen
 719 N. Oakridge Driv
 Weatherford, Texas 76087
 817-598-2910
 Grades: K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Wright Elementary School

Principal: Tra Hall
 1309 W. Charles Street
 Weatherford, Texas 76086
 817-598-2828
 Grades: Pre-K through 6
 Starting/Closing Times:
 7:40 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Tison Middle School

Principal: Renee Treat
 102 Meadowview Road
 Weatherford, Texas 76087
 817-598-2960
 Grades: 7 and 8
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Weatherford High School

Principal: Brannon Kidd
 2121 Bethel Road
 Weatherford, Texas 76087
 817-598-2858
 Grades: 10 through 12
 Starting/Closing Times:
 8:15 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.

What's in a name?

Stories behind the mascots, nicknames of Parker County high schools

By **Tony Eierdam**
The Community News

Here in Parker County, folks are proud of their Bearcats, Kangaroos, Eagles, Greyhounds, Bulldogs and Monarchs, the nicknames/mascots of the respective high schools.

But did you ever wonder how and why these names came about?

Professional sports teams often try to link their team's mascot to the heritage of the area they play in. Locally, the Fort Worth/Dallas pro sports teams have a Texas tie to their nicknames such as the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers and Dallas Mavericks.

Even the latest "move-in" team, the Dallas Stars – formerly the Minnesota North Stars – decided to keep the latter part of the original name, linking Stars to the lone star on the state flag. The Cowboys and Mavericks were expansion teams while the Rangers changed their name from the Senators as the MLB team transferred to Arlington from Washington D.C. in 1972.

In fact, the "Cowboys" were not originally called the Cowboys. The original nickname was the Rangers, and that is the name then general manager Tex Schramm sent to the NFL office. But according to The Dallas Morning News, Schramm did not want to use the name when he realized Dallas' minor league baseball team was called the Rangers.

Cowboys, according to DMN, was actually the third choice. Schramm had decided

on Steers before settling on the Cowboys.

The word "mascot" originates from the French term "mascotte" which means "lucky charm." This was used to describe anything that brought luck to a household. The word was first recorded in 1867 and popularized by a French composer Edmond Audran who wrote the opera *La mascotte*, performed in December 1880.

Historical accounts point to Cincinnati's National League team (1869) as the first professional team to have a nickname, the "Red Stockings." The team's uniform of knickerbockers with colored socks also inspired the use of team colors serving a dual role as a team nickname for the sportswriters of the day.

A mascot or nickname becomes a part of the school community, and each one has a story. The following are researched reasons why Aledo, Brock, Millsap, Peaster, Poolville, Springtown and Weatherford chose their nicknames/mascots.

Aledo Bearcats

Although a "bearcat" is not an animal, several local sources have said the nickname and mascot were the combination of "bear" and "cat" meaning, "big as a bear; but quick as a cat," hence, Bearcats.

In comparison, the University of Cincinnati has called its athletic teams "Bearcats" since 1914. According to the university's web site, the word first appeared in print, circa 1889, as a synonym for the giant panda. In this case, "bearcat" is a simple translation of the Chinese word for panda - xiong mao - which means "bear-cat."



By 1895, the naturalist H.N. Ridley reported that the binturong - a large civet from Malaysia - was known as the "bear-cat." There is a binturong at the Cincinnati Zoo, and it's sometimes brought out to University of Cincinnati games.

The word entered American slang as a descriptive term for an aggressive or forceful person. One of the first to adopt this slang expression was P.G. Wodehouse, a popular author of the day. And then, of course, there was the Stutz Bearcat - the reigning sports car of the pre-World War I era, a great-grandfather of the Corvette.

Although many longtime Aledo residents and former graduates surveyed for this article cannot recall or never knew the story behind Aledo calling its sports teams Bearcats, former Aledo Ladycats basketball and softball player Rebecca Hissam was told the meaning from her grandfather, longtime Aledo resident Doug Koldin.

"My grandfather told me - and I heard him say this several times - that the reason the teams are called the Bearcats because they wanted a mascot

that was unique," she said. "Bearcats was chosen because they wanted a mascot that was as strong as a bear but quick and fast as a cat. That is the only story I have ever heard about the origination of Bearcats."

Another longtime Aledo resident, Terry Hyles, said he has in his possession a letter "sweater" from either 1935 or '36, and the patch on the letter sweater depicts a "Bearcat."

"I honestly never have known the origination of how making our mascot Bearcats came about," Hyles said. "But I can tell you my third-grade teacher, Martha Haynes, wrote the alma mater in 1945."

Brock Eagles

When Brock began its first boys' basketball team in 1911, little was thought about what they would wear, according to an article written by Kay Hull Cole, with assistance from Geneva Young, Willie Jean Jones Hull, Eddie Ruth Wilkerson, and Fern Jones. The only thing on their mind was a basketball. So, they hitched up a wagon for a trip into Weatherford to purchase



one. Two goals were erected on a dirt surface located just west of the corner of 1189 and Grindstone Road. Three years later, in 1914, the girls decided they wanted in on the action.

The boys' uniforms consisted of black shorts and black sleeveless shirts, while the girls wore black "bloomers" with white tops. One day in the late 1930s, Geneva Young, the English teacher, decided that it was time to establish a new tradition at Brock High School. She felt that Brock needed their own identity, since many times when playing other schools, black and white were the primary colors. A contest was held to choose a mascot and new school colors.

One student, Willie Jean Jones, wrote down her suggestions, and her classmates did as well. When Mrs. Young opened up Willie Jean's paper, she knew her selections were special. In fact, all of the other students agreed. Everyone voted unanimously for Willie Jean's nominations – the "Brock Eagle" and "Blue and Gold". When asked why Willie Jean selected these as her

choices, she responded, "I thought that blue and gold went great together, and there's nothing more majestic than the Eagle."

Mrs. Geneva Young, and Willie Jean Jones and her classmates, started a tradition that may be the most integral part of Brock High School history – the high-flying "Brock Eagle" and the mighty "Blue and Gold."

Willie Jean Jones is a direct descendant of the Maddux family, founders of Brock, who also donated the land for the Brock School. Her father, George Jones, and her mother, Ada Dent, were both members of Brock's first basketball teams in 1911 and 1914. When George and Ada married, they started a tradition of Brock basketball players that might not ever end. Their three daughters played, and their grandchildren played, most of them on state semi or state finalist teams. Four of their great-granddaughters played for Brock's state championship teams in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2009.

Millsap Bulldogs

It is believed the nickname Bulldogs dates back to at least 1941. According to Dr. Joe Pat Strain, son of former Millsap student Vinson Strain, Vinson Strain was the Millsap girls' basketball coach in 1941 when the team decided it needed a mascot. The Strains had a bulldog that "was a pet to all of the town" and the team decided to adopt the name Bulldogs, which eventually became the nickname of all the Millsap sports teams.

Peaster Greyhounds

As far as anyone in Peaster can remember, Greyhounds has always been the nickname and mascot. Most feel the reason was to associate the team with a mascot that was slim but powerful, fast and quick. Greyhounds can reach average speeds of 35 miles per hour.

Poolville Monarchs

Former Poolville superintendent Jimmy Dobbs held the district's top leader for more than 10 years, but he also

taught and went to school at Poolville ISD.

While admitting Poolville's sports teams have a unique mascot nickname, he also stated that the name "Monarchs" gets misunderstood.

"People ask us if we are butterflies," Dobbs said. "I always tell them a monarch is a Lion – the King of the Jungle."

Dobbs believes Poolville adopted the name Monarchs in the late 1920s or early 1930s, but how the name originated remains unclear.

"Monarch represents the King of the Jungle," he said. "Who doesn't want to be King of the Jungle? I have asked several old timers still around where the name originated but nobody seems to know."

Springtown Porcupines

The history behind the quilled creature dates back to the 1920s and a basketball team coached by Paul Montgomery.

According to school lore, Montgomery suggested one





day that the team skip a practice and go decide on a mascot for the school. When the players returned, names were suggested, including one suggestion by C.M. "Snake" Hutcheson — the porcupine.

When asked why the porcupine, Snake replied, "No one wants to get near a porcupine because they don't want quills in them, nor do they want to become a target for quills."

The group voted, with the porcupine selected by the majority.

While the mascot itself is a rarity, Springtown adds a dimension of the school spirit with POJO, a nickname prominently displayed on the campuses in Springtown, including the 50-yard line of Porcupine Stadium.

"Pojo," a rally chant, started as a joke among teammates but soon caught on to be a team spirit call.

Orange and black were chosen as

Springtown's colors in the mid-1920s as well. Several different color combinations were voted on, but orange and black came out the winner and those colors have remained.

Weatherford Kangaroos

In the early 1920s, Ray Morrison, a beloved coach at Weatherford High School, accepted a position at Austin College in Sherman. Since Coach Morrison was so

admired, Weatherford High School adopted the mascot of his new school, the kangaroo, as its own.

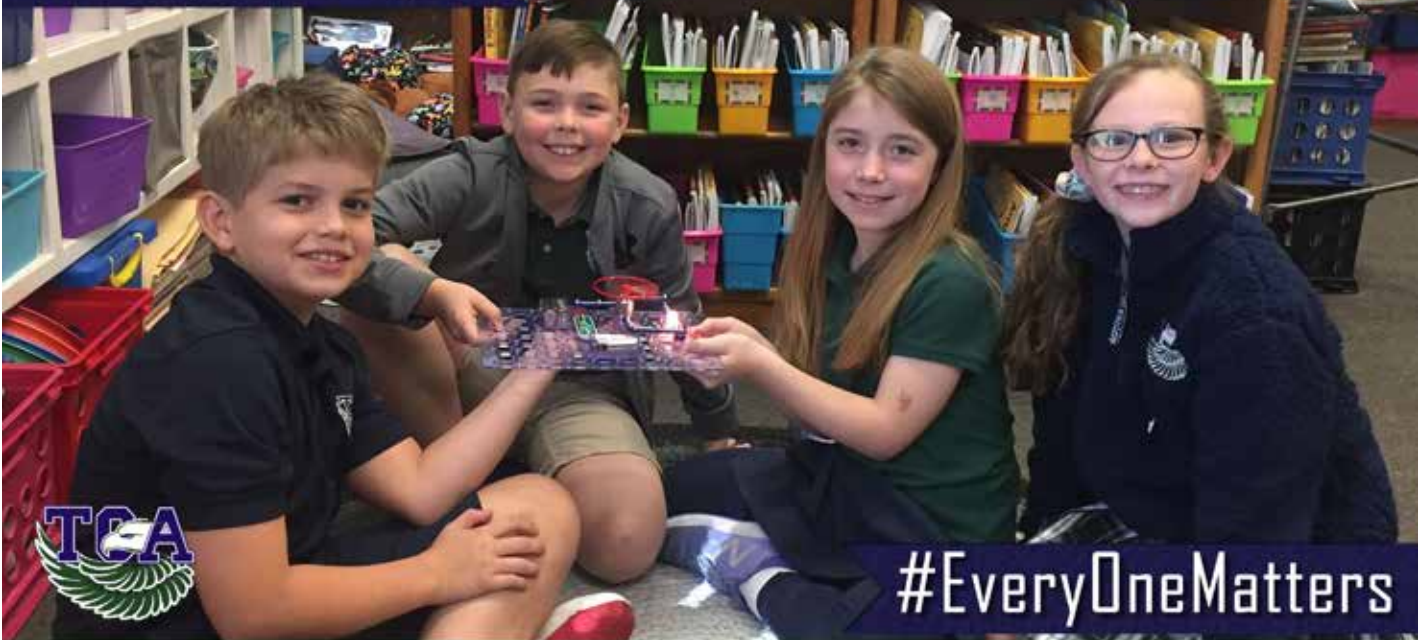
All schools in Weatherford ISD embrace the kangaroo mascot with school colors of Roo Blue and White.

Kangaroo Stadium, built in 1949, is still home to Roo football, soccer, and track and field.



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Weatherford College



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building nears completion.

Staff Reports
The Community News

Weatherford College has long been a hub for higher education, not only in Parker County, but in Wise, Hood, and Palo Pinto Counties where it has facilities as well.

Founded in 1869, Weatherford College in its history was operated under the auspices of Phoenix Lodge No. 273 and the Methodist Church until 1943, when it was merged with Southwestern University in Georgetown. In 1949, a junior college district was formed, and that entity is now the governing body of Weatherford College.

The college has established itself not only as a premiere education facility, but also as a place students can obtain college credit hours at a fraction of the cost of

a four-year university.

The college looks forward to the opening of the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building, and has added two bachelor degrees: Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Organizational Leadership.

The college recently opened the Wiggs School of Nursing thanks to a large endowment from the Wiggs family.

The Weatherford College Foundation, and corresponding ability to offer financial aid to students, has grown exponentially over the past four years, reaching a record \$2.2 million in donations in the fiscal year ended Aug. 2021.

In addition to academics, fine arts and sports have flourished at Weatherford College. The

school has competitive, if not ranked, baseball, basketball, golf, rodeo, tennis, softball, and volleyball programs.

The Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center hosts a variety of student recitals and productions as well as the International Piano Competition and Coyote Jazz Fest.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Main Campus

225 College Park Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-5471
800-271-5471

Wise County Campus

5180 Hwy. 380
Bridgeport, Texas 76426
940-627-2690

Granbury Campus

210 N. Jones Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
817-598-6339

Mineral Wells Campus

704 Hood Road
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067
940-325-259

History



Local author chronicles early Parker County history

By Randy Keck
The Community News

For people interested in the history of Parker County, a great place to begin is to study where Parker County began. *Around Veal's Station: An Illustrated History of Parker County's Oldest Town*, chronicles the history of the community in the northeast portion of the county where it all started.

For author Laurie Chance Smith, the book and the research behind it was a labor of love that traced some of her family ancestors.

"I'm a lifelong Parker County resident and I'm a descendant of the Cockburn, the Tucker, the Gilley, and the Wright families. And all four of those families

were early settler families in Parker County," she said.

The book covers the area including Veal's Station, Slover, Sabathany, Dicey, Wright, Cartersville, and Silver Creek communities. Smith interviewed folks in these communities, hunted down historic photographs and records, and photographed near-forgotten sites. Parker County artist Diane Brown provided the cover illustration of historic Veal's Station Hall, as well as illustrations throughout the book.

Smith said she decided to write the book when she and her mom were visiting the Veal's Station Cemetery, paying respects to members of those four families buried there.

"I asked her why there was no historical marker for the cemetery. And she gave me a wink

and said that would be a big job for someone," Smith said. "And so I started a quest to get the marker to the cemetery."

To request a historical marker, the State of Texas requires a bare-bones, two-page report with no photos.

"People were handing me suitcases filled with historical records, photographs. And everyone, the community just was so enthusiastic in sharing the history of Veal's Station and the surrounding area" Smith said. "So when I saw how much information there was, I saw a book in it instead of just the little two-page report to the state."

Smith was successful in getting the marker for Veal's Station. It was unveiled on Dec. 12, 2020 (see sidebar).

"The book is a gift to the

community just to gather all of that history because I could see that if I didn't record it, it was just going to be lost," Smith said. "Historians say that Veal's Station is where the first permanent settlers settled. There are stories of people coming through Parker county and traveling on, but Veal's Station is the first place where the settlers dug the root cellars, built their log cabins, put down their roots. They started tilling their farms and they stayed. And when people saw that THEY were going to stay, they were inspired to put down THEIR roots, and then Parker County began from there."

Some names in that history may be familiar to present Parker County

residents, and some may not.

"Jeremiah Cockburn was one of six men who hand-carried the petition to Austin that formed Parker County, and he was he was here in 1851," Smith said. "He's the earliest settler that we know of that was here. And so these six men rode their horses with this paper scroll and went to Austin. Isaac Parker was a representative. He presented the petition in the House of Representatives and the state created an act to create the County of Parker and it was passed Dec. 12, 1855."

The residents of Veal's Station also played a role in constructing Parker County's seat of government.

"Two of the other members in the community helped build Parker County's first two courthouses. There are four courthouses in Parker County: the one we see today, the beautiful architecture, that's our fourth courthouse. So the entire history of the courthouses is included in the book, that two members of this community helped build the first two. There are so many stories that should be interesting to everyone in Parker County," Smith said.

It took about three years to write the book.

"It's been a long process," Smith said. "It was a community effort; a lot of people came together to help me. Everybody shared



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information, oral histories, photographs, records. And then I just did a lot of legwork. I went to historic sites and photographed things that are still historic treasures that may be deteriorating. I just wanted to record as much as I could and did a lot of research in libraries and the county clerk, the Parker County Appraisal District, we just have a very neighborly place to live. And everybody was just so gracious and helpful. Everybody came together to help me.”

Smith said she would like to write another book on our county’s history in the future.

“When the right subject presents itself, I’ll be on that with both hands. I would love to do that,” she said.

The experience of writing the book was rewarding for Smith.

“It was the experience of a lifetime for me,” she said. “I got to know so many people in the community and I got to know my home so much better.”

Around Veal’s Station: An Illustrated History of Parker County’s Oldest Town is available at the Museum of the Americas in Weatherford, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce office, the Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth, the Stockyards Museum in Fort Worth, the Azle News, The Community News office in Aledo, or online at lauriechancesmith.com.



The Historic Texas Cemetery marker for Veal’s Station Cemetery was dedicated at an outdoor ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. The dedication was held at the historic William and Elisabeth Woody Homestead near Springtown. The Woody family donated the cemetery to the community by 1857, and it has been an active burial ground since. County Judge Pat Deen was the master of ceremonies for the event. Other distinguished guests included Charlie Cripliver, who presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to Veal’s Station Cemetery on behalf of Congresswoman Kay Granger, and Jennifer Lundy, who presented a State of Texas Resolution to the cemetery on behalf of then Congressman-Elect Pat Fallon. Hosts for the event were Laurie Chance Smith, who wrote the history for the application to the Texas Historical Commission, Kimberly Woody Boretsky, and Marc and Elizabeth Salvatore, owners of the historic Woody Homestead. Shown are Marc Salvatore, Elizabeth Salvatore, Laurie Chance Smith, and Kimberly Woody Boretsky.

The Story of How Parker County Began

Excerpts from ***Around Veal's Station: An Illustrated History of Parker County's Oldest Town***

By **Laurie Chance Smith**

In the early 1850s the first pioneer families began settling in Parker County, Texas. Local Comanche tribe members, fond of these newcomers, guided them to the place where the swelling creeks flowed beneath walnut and ash trees, where wild Echinacea grew for their medicine, and where the soil was ripe for farming. The earliest pioneers in Parker County came to the place which later became Veal's Station, a town situated 13 miles northeast of Weatherford, the county seat. The oldest known settlement in Parker County, Veal's Station, became home to the first known white settlers, the first known log cabins, and the first known permanent homes.

When the earliest settlers arrived in what is today called Veal's Station, they saw Mother Nature untouched. Every tree and leaf, every flower and petal, every blade of grass was perfectly in place. Herds of buffalo and wild cows roamed the meadows. Panthers screamed from their hilltop homes. Comanche and Kiowa tribe members were the only human neighbors. Parker County's earliest pioneers called this

place paradise, and sometimes Eden, when they arrived.

Pioneers of Wilderness

The pioneers of Veal's Station — and the interconnected Slover, Sabathany, Dicey, Wright, Cartersville, and Silver Creek communities — exerted tremendous influence over the establishment and development of Parker County. For example, in 1853 Sam Woody Sr. and Hannah Woody built a one-room, or single-pen, log cabin on their land in Veal's Station — Woody Cabin — but they became so well-known for their hospitality that other folks called their home the Western Hotel. In 1853, the year the cabin was built, the Western Hotel in Parker County was more important than any point of interest in Fort Worth.

Another Veal's Station pioneer, Jeremiah Cockburn, was one of six men who rode their horses to Austin and hand-delivered the charter for Parker County to be filed by the State of Texas. Representative Isaac Parker, for whom Parker



William G Veal

County is named, presented the petition in the House of Representatives, and Parker County was officially recognized by the State of Texas on December 12, 1855.

Other community members, Joseph Gillis Steele Sr. and James R. Campbell, helped Parker County Judge B.L. Richey construct Parker County's first courthouse in 1856. The year the first courthouse burned, in 1858, James R. Campbell signed a contract with the county to build the second courthouse. The courthouse on the square in Weatherford today is Parker County's fourth courthouse.

The Story Behind the Name

In the early days, Veal's Station was called Cream Level because it was considered the finest land in Parker County. Captain William G. Veal established a community store in 1852, which was south of where the Texas Centennial Marker for Veal's Station is today.

In 1857, the community that had been known as Cream Level was renamed Veal's Station. Veal served as a Methodist circuit preacher, and because he established the town as a "station" on the Methodist Ministry Circuit, it was named Veal's Station after him.

The name Veal's Station first appeared in possessive form, and state records on the town remain in the name Veal's Station. However, Veal Station has also been used, and it has been mistakenly recorded as Veale Station. The correct, historic name is Veal's Station.

Veal was certified as a teacher at age 17 and ordained as a minister at 19. He was also a Mason, Confederate veteran, postmaster, horticulturist, and successful businessman. Veal called upon his vast skills to help organize Veal's Station, establishing this station on the Methodist Ministry Circuit and helping to form the schools of Veal's Station. He also worked with railroad companies and

government to survey all of Parker County and called to order the first court in Parker County under the post oak trees on the Fort Worth and Belknap Road in 1856.

The Schools of Veal's Station

The historic Veal's Station Hall was built in 1857 when Bill Woody led a group of men with ox teams to an East Texas sawmill to secure the lumber for the hall. The lead carpenter was John Lantz, and other community members who helped construct the hall were W.G. Veal and G.W. Coleman. The hall was a two-story building, with the lower floor serving as a school and the upper floor used as a meeting place for Masons. The schools at Veal's Station were called Veal's Station School and Veal's Station College, but they were also known as Masonic Institute during the early 1870s and Parson's College after 1874.

A one-ton bronze or brass bell was brought by ox wagon from Galveston and installed in the belfry at Veal's Station Hall. The bell was used to call community members together and was rung as a warning if a Native American raid appeared imminent. Veal's Station Hall stood as a meeting place for schools, churches, and community meetings from 1857 until it

was destroyed by fire in 1941.

"To the old settlers, the building was as sacred as a graveyard," G.A. Holland wrote in *The Double Log Cabin*.

The town of Veal's Station eventually grew into a college town with school buildings, dormitories, a Masonic Lodge, a general store, churches, cotton gins, a shoemaker's shop, and blacksmith shops.

In its heyday, from the mid- to late 1800s, Veal's Station was called the educational capital of Parker County. Historic records of Veal's Station churches and schools — which hosted up to 500 students per term — allow us a glimpse of the pioneers of Veal's Station and include members of the close-knit Gilley, Swallow, Campbell, Lantz, Tucker, Talliaferro, Green, Whitten, and Woody families.

Oral history from the school days of Veal's Station tells us that there was an outbreak of smallpox at the school around 1873. Principal Ben Akard of Veal's Station spread the smallpox virus to Springtown by carrying it there on his cloak.

Beginnings of a Ghost Town

By 1880, The Texas and Pacific Railroad reached Weatherford. More than 3,000 Parker County residents attended the Barbecue and

Ball to celebrate the event. Some sources say the railroad arrived on May 30, 1880; however, the celebration was held on June 4. Several historians attribute the eventual decline of Veal's Station to the railroads bypassing the town.

In the early 1900s, a fire in Veal's Station burned all the school buildings except for the two-story hall. The heyday of Veal's Station College ended at this point. One account of the event says that after the devastating fire, the teachers and students simply dispersed, leaving Veal's Station only a whisper of what it had been.

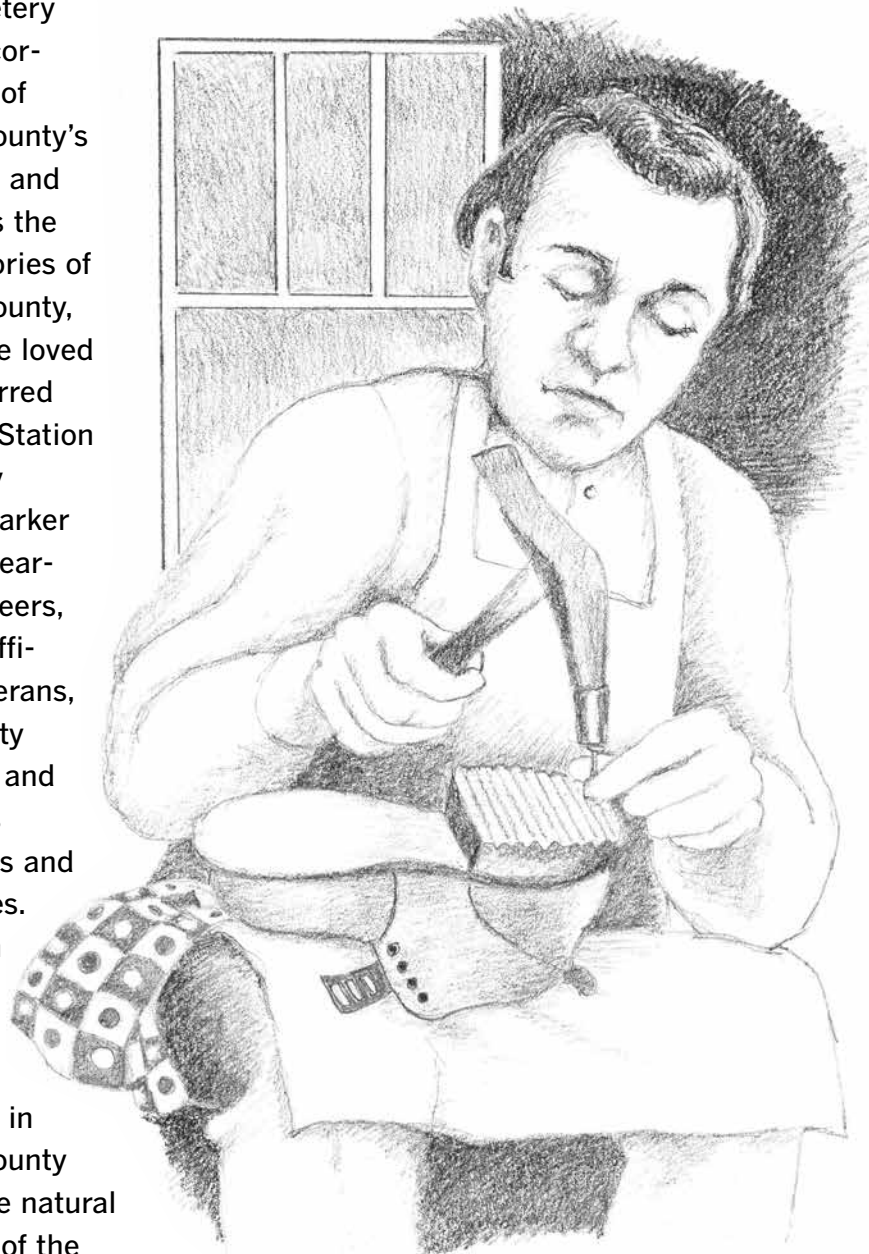
However, Veal's Station Hall was used as a public school for many more years. Records of Veal's Station School in 1919 show that the school received \$331.20 from the County Board of Education to educate their 46 primary and high school students. Even as late as 1933, Veal's Station School records show that Martha Pickens and Henri Nell Williams were employed as teachers.

Veal's Station Cemetery

When the historic Veal's Station Hall burned in 1941, the focal point of Veal's Station became Veal's Station Cemetery, which had been founded as a primitive burial ground in 1857. Today, there are approximately 740 burials.

The cemetery was the cornerstone of Parker County's first town and preserves the oldest stories of Parker County, Texas. The loved ones interred at Veal's Station Cemetery include Parker County's earliest pioneers, elected officials, veterans, community servants, and countless innovators and visionaries. It is often called the most beautiful cemetery in Parker County due to the natural splendor of the landscape. Veal's Station Cemetery was approved for a Historic Texas Cemetery marker in 2018, and the placement of the marker is forthcoming.

*These excerpts of **Around Veal's Station: An Illustrated History of Parker County's Oldest Town** were printed with the permission of the publisher. The book may be purchased*



DIANE BROWN

William Woody was the town shoemaker.

from the Community News office in Aledo, the Museum of the Americas in Weatherford, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce office, the Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth, the Stockyards Museum in Fort Worth, the Azle News office, or at <https://www.lauriechancesmith.com/home-1>.

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Cresson, Texas 76035
817-396-4304
bearcreek.cc

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Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-599-7759
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817-599-6773

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Highridge Church

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lajuntabaptist.com

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Hudson Oaks, Texas 76087
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lakeshorebaptist.com

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Willow Park Baptist Church
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willowparkbaptist.org

Willow Park Church of Christ
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 Willow Park, Texas 76087
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The first Play in the Shade project was completed at Azle Christian School last year.

Brandi's Play in the Shade

By Randy Keck
The Community News

Brandi Dickie loved life. She loved the beach, kids, her dog. And she loved to travel.

"She was very laid back," said her mom, Paula Pittsinger. "She was non-materialistic, just loved everybody."

Brandi fought hard for five years but eventually lost to melanoma that had spread to her brain — at age 29.

"We found out later a lot of it, they think, was due to tanning beds and an overexposure

to the sun," Paula said.

One of the things Brandi wanted her survivors to do was start a foundation to cover playgrounds. Although it took a while to get started, the foundation is up and running.

"She passed away in '14 and then in '15 I established the foundation (Brandi's Play in the Shade Foundation)," Paula said. "I'd established a foundation and then I didn't do anything with it. I guess I wasn't ready."

Then one day in 2019, Paula was talking to her son and daughter-in-law. They felt it



Brandi Dickey is the namesake of a foundation dedicated to minimizing melanoma risks in children.

was time to start doing something, and the foundation began raising money to put up shade in a playground.

The dream took material shape on Aug. 10, 2020, when construction began on the first playground at Azle Christian School.

Paula said it costs about \$15,000 to construct a playground shade. She would like to get another one done this year.

“We’re just starting — this is our first time,” Paula said as the first shade was being constructed. “The school districts, I guess, budget for some of that. But we’re thinking maybe another kind of little private school that doesn’t have a lot of money, something like that.”

Paula said she thinks shade should be included in any playground design.

“I think it just needs to be budgeted in for everybody,” she said.

Why Shade?

The Melanoma Research Foundation says nearly 90% of melanomas are thought to be caused by exposure to UV light and sunlight. Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, and Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. More than 207,000 Americans are



Volunteers begin work on the first Play in the Shade playground.

expected to be diagnosed with Melanoma in 2021, and more than 7,000 will die from it.

Tanning beds are a factor in the numbers, according to the MRF.

“A comprehensive meta-analysis concluded that the risk of cutaneous melanoma is increased by 75% when use of tanning devices starts before 30 years of age,” a fact sheet said.

For Brandi, that mole that surfaced was only the beginning of her battle.

“It is spread to everywhere in her body,” Paula said. “It ends up in the brain, and then there’s just nothing they can do. She had like six craniotomies. She was a tough girl.”

Paula said Brandi thought the melanoma traced back to her childhood, which was a reason she wanted the foundation to focus on children.

And, she said, if you have a child or teenager, don’t go to tanning beds.

“I would tell them to use a self-tanner. She (Brandi) would tell them the same thing — it’s not worth it. It’s not worth your life. Melanoma is so aggressive.”

On the day that first shade was being constructed, Paula was reflective.

“I was thinking about that today because I was driving out there and all of a sudden this weird feeling came over me and I looked up and I was at the church where we had her funeral and there were so many people there — it was the most that has ever been at that church. And then a quarter of a mile. The lady that used to keep her for me when she was a baby was standing out in her yard looking at her flowers like she always did when I dropped Brandi off. And then then I go past the golf course. And then it’s like, okay, I finally I feel like we’ve finally done what she wanted done.”

For more information, visit brandishinthes shade.com.

Non-Profit Services

Aledo Children's Advocats' Clothes Closet

209 East Oak Street
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-2707
www.aledoadvocats.com

Aledo Education Foundation

P.O. Box 387
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-8327
<http://www.aledoef.org>

Aledo Young Life

The Yellow House
328 Old Annetta Road
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-818-9069
aledo.younglife.org
ryan.younglife@gmail.com

American Red Cross Parker County

1740 Bethel Road
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-341-4516
chisholmtrail.redcross.org

Careity Foundation

920 Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
P.O. Box 126038
Fort Worth, Texas 76126
817-882-4100
www.careity.org

CASA Hope for Children

305 South Rusk
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-6224
www.casahopeforchildren.org

Center of Hope

1318 Clear Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-0266
<http://centerofhopetx.com>

Children's Advocacy Center of Parker County

1224 Clear Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76008
682-615-1992
www.cacparkercounty.org

Crossroads Youth Ministry of Parker County, Inc.

Youth counseling and mentoring
c/o Freedom House
1149 Fort Worth Hwy.
PO Box 1626
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-341-1909



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Michael Baldwin greeted guests as they approached the front door at the Children's Advocacy Center's annual Sugar Rush in 2021. The event allows participants to gain a better understanding of the operations of the center.

<https://www.freedomhousepc.org/our-services/crossroads/>
John Enright 817-304-3645

Flourishing Tree of Life

604 E. West Oak Drive
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-458-0123
<http://flourishingtreeoflife.org>
info@flourishingtreeoflife.org

Freedom House of Parker County

1149 Fort Worth Hwy.
PO Box 1626
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-596-7543
freedomhouse@hotmail.com
24 Hour Hotline: 817-596-8922
Fax: 817-596-4369
Contact: Patti Wilson
www.freedomhousepc.org

Goodwill Store

1801 South Main Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-2560
Hours: Monday through Saturday
from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday from
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Grace House Pregnancy Assistance Center

919 E. Eureka Street
P.O. Box 1416
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-4700
The Options Clinic
902 Foster Lane
Weatherford, Texas 76086
www.gracehouseministries.net
www.theoptionsclinic.net

Gracefully Strong

206 S. Elm Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-458-8259
www.gracefullystrong.com

Hemispherectomy Foundation

P.O. Box 1239
Aledo, Texas 76008
hemifoundation.org
kristi@hemifoundation.org
Chris Hall (Executive Director), Kristi Hall (president), Jane Stefanik (vice president)

The Hope Chest Upscale Resale

1318 Clear Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-757-4410
Tues. - Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(Wednesday until 5 p.m.)
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Manna Parker County

129 East Spring Street or P.O. Box 9
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-6569
mannastorehouse.org
mannastorehouse@sbcglobal.net

She is
clothed with
strength and
dignity and
laughs
without fear
the



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/KC STUDIOS

The annual Sanctified Hope fashion show raises money to assist women who have been released from prison to get a new start.

Miracle League of Parker County

P.O. Box 1911
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-304-2356
miracleleagueparkercounty.com

Our Community Our Kids

A division of ACH Child and Family Services, provides foster care services
682-290-2026
https://ourcommunity-ourkids.org/parker-county/

Parker County Pets Alive

Working toward no-kill shelter
http://parkercountypetsalive.org/
facebook.com/parkercountypetsalive

Parker Paws

P.O. Box 781
Weatherford, Texas 76008
817-694-5718
parkerpaws.org
barb@parkerpaws.org
Pet adoptions: parkerpawststand-found@gmail.com

Pecan Valley MHMR

1715 Santa Fe Drive
P.O. Box 894

Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-7634
pvmhmr.org

Sanctified Hope Transitional Living Program for formerly incarcerated women

PO Box 581
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-901-5446
sharon@sanctifiedhope.org
www.sanctifiedhope.org

Thanksgiving Trot

P.O. Box 1333
Aledo, Texas 76008
aledothanksgivingtrot.com

Theatre off the Square

114 N. Denton Street
Weatherford, Texas 76008
817-341-8687
www.theatreoffthesquare.org

United Way of Parker County

106 Austin Avenue, Suite 105
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-596-5986
www.unitedwayofparkercounty.org
www.peachpedal.com

Weatherford College Foundation

225 College Park Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-5471
www.wc.edu/about/giving-wc

Weatherford ISD Education Foundation

1100 Longhorn Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-2956
Fax: 817-598-2953
http://wisdef.wordpress.com

ANIMAL SHELTERS

Azle Animal Control

Jessie Williams
Supervisor
724 Park Street
Azle, Texas 76020
jwilliams@cityofazle.org
817-752-2681
www.cityofazle.org/93/Animal-Control
After Hours: 817-444-3221 (Police)

Mineral Wells Animal Shelter

101 FM 2256
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067
www.mineralwellstx.gov/108/Animal-Shelter
Animal Shelter Coordinator
Sgt. Davis
940-328-7755

Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter

Dustin Deel
Director of Municipal and Community Services
403 Hickory Lane
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4188
Eric Shumar
Assistant Director of Municipal and Community Services
817-598-4342
Fax: 817-598-4118
https://www.weatherfordtx.gov/15/Animal-Shelter

Helping Hands

Careity Foundation has immense impact on health of residents

Lyn Walsh and Beverly Branch have helped tens of thousands of cancer patients in Parker, Tarrant, and Johnson Counties through the Careity Foundation, an organization that not only helps cancer patients, but has provided millions of dollars for the pediatric palliative care for patients at Cook Children's. But for a chance encounter in a hallway, it might not have happened.





MEGANPARKS.COM

Wounded Warrior Dan Nevins is shown with a flag donated by Roger Williams for a rendition of "God Bless the USA" at the 25th anniversary cutting.

It all started more than 25 years ago. Beverly Branch, whose family was a major commercial printer, had been printing *Chatter*, the magazine of the National Cutting Horse Association, for about 60 years.

“I’ve grown up going to futurities, and we also used to do events; I would do different events for various organizations — trail rides and that kind of thing,” Branch said. She had also put all these events together with Walsh.

The NCHA had developed an event called the Celebrity Cutting, in which well-known personalities would compete during the National Cutting Horse Association World Championship Futurity each year in Fort Worth. It was associated with celebrities who donated their time and talents — people in the industry, country and western artists, and others.

The NCHA tried the event a couple of years but had a difficult time gaining attendance; the NCHA had its hands full with the futurity.

The late Henry Conley, a former marketing person with Delta Airlines, had been a supporter of some of the events organized by Branch and Walsh in the past. He became executive director of the NCHA, and was invited



MEGANPARKS.COM

Paul Hansma joins Branch and Walsh for a tribute to Bob Kingsley.

by Walsh to attend a Rotary Club meeting in Fort Worth.

“He asked if we would be interested in in doing the Celebrity Cutting,” Walsh said. She talked to Branch, and they agreed to produce the event.

“This was August in 1994 and the event was December, so it wasn’t a whole lot of time,” Walsh said. “We never wanted to go into anything where we would be losing money, so we immediately went to a friend of ours, Patricia Dalton. And she was our first presenting sponsor.”

Dalton, who passed away in 2020, was an integral part of the food manufacturing business her family started in 1926, Best Maid Products.

“She wrote us a sizable check,” Walsh said. “We knew that the venue was donated, the horses were donated, the celebrities were volunteers, and that the food expense would be covered by the money that Patricia had put into it. So that was our first year”

That was 27 years ago.

The original beneficiary of their efforts was the local Multiple Sclerosis organization. Ultimately that organization merged with the national MS organization, which was not conducive to the direct patient care that was the passion of Walsh and Branch.

At the time, Branch’s mother was diagnosed with cancer, and Walsh’s



MEGANPARKS.COM

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SproutsChildcare.com

mother was re-diagnosed.

“We decided to do direct patient care for cancer patients,” Walsh said, and they partnered with a local cancer organization in Fort Worth. And after organizing the event for several years, that might have been the end — except for that chance hallway encounter.

A chance encounter

Walsh and Branch sat in a board meeting of the cancer organization waiting for their spot on the agenda. They planned to let the board know they would no longer organize the annual Celebrity Cutting.

It wasn't the Celebrity Cutting they had the problem with. It was the organization.

“They became entitled, they didn't like country music, they wouldn't help,” Walsh said. “We decided that we couldn't function under that negativity or drama.”

They were number four or five on the agenda, and Walsh decided she should go powder her nose before their spot on the agenda.

“In the hallway was a young lady probably in her 20s, with a daughter about maybe two years old, three at the most,” Walsh recalled. “And obviously the mother was going through cancer treatment and she was there picking up diapers for



MEGANPARKS.COM

Jay Novacek and Jefferson White display their Celebrity Cutting awards.

herself, and she was able to receive those because of the funds we raised. So I went back in the boardroom and tapped Beverly on the shoulder and said, ‘I think we need to visit.’”

The two women who had produced the event went out in the hall and decided to give it one more year.

After that year they told Kingsley they could no longer handle the stress.

“An event is always going to be stressful, but when you bring in ugly stress from people, then that's not very nice,” Walsh said.

They told their friend Bob

Kingsley they were going to let the board know not to budget for the event that year. Kingsley suggested they start their own organization and said he would help the ladies if they did because they would also have the support of NCHA and the community, and that was the birth of the Careity Foundation.

In 2003 they partnered with The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and worked with Dr. Bill Jordan and other doctors at The Center in a partnership that has thrived until the present day.

“We had a very good relationship with them and with the hospitals and we knew we

CAREITY CELEBRITY CUTTING AND CONTACTS

One special aspect of the Careity Celebrity Cutting is that everything is donated, which means most all funds can go directly to patient care.

"It's the Super Bowl of cutting," Branch said. "We have that one night that The National Cutting Horse Association is generous enough to donate the Will Rogers Coliseum and the Roundup Inn and then have that caliber celebrities that we've had come in as a volunteer is unheard of. People say 'how do you get that done?' Well, you know, it's happened for 26 years and we're really blessed. We have that formula, you know, that makes it work."

The late Bob Kingsley was an early supporter of the Celebrity Cutting, and an influence on Lyn Walsh and Beverly Branch's decision to start the Careity Foundation.

Kingsley helped find the country and western artists who donated their talents to the event.

The ladies met Kingsley through their association with Lynn Anderson, a good friend who helped them with trail rides in the early days. And as they have met other celebrities, those contacts have led to still others. They met Lyle Lovett through a friend. Other celebrities have reached out to them wanting to participate.

None of the celebrities who participate receive compensation.

The loss of Kingsley in 2019 was difficult both due to their friendship and also due to his contributions to the event.

"We thought it was going to be really difficult doing the event losing Bob, but then Taylor Sheridan stepped up, so when one door closes another one

opens," Walsh said. "We miss Bob. He had such an impact on what we did. But there's a new energy. And, you know, we're not having to dig up that energy. It's there. So we're going to take advantage of it and use it because people have the energy to want to help. And that's a blessing for us to have that kind of help at this time."

"And all the trainers, everybody's a volunteer. There's nobody paid to do anything," Walsh said. "We're very careful about every dollar. We do not pay for things; we do not pay for table decorations. We do not pay for storage of items we have — we keep all that in our own barns and we clean things up and put them out again. The biggest winner is the patient. And our ultimate goal is for the patient to win."



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MEGANPARKS.COM

**Singer-songwriter
Cody Johnson is
shown at the 25th
Celebrity Cutting.**

wanted to do direct care. So that's when we started our direct patient services so that the money coming in, we knew exactly where it went. It wasn't going into any building, it wasn't going into an executive director's huge salary," Walsh said. "And there were no complaints. And since then, we really haven't had any ugly stress. Our board is our doctors, we're all in it for the same reason: to save lives, take care of cancer patients, and give them hope and make their lives better. And so it's a lot of work — we've taken on a huge machine, but it's doing what it's supposed to do."

Patient Care

Though it is not all they do, Careity is most known for support of breast cancer patients.

"That's the most prevalent cancer around and we have the most patients there," Walsh said.

Careity provides free mammograms for people who need them and associated diagnostics, biopsies etc.

Calls go in to their office and they get a financial report from the callers.

"We approve most of them

CAREITY AT A GLANCE

www.careity.org

817-882-4100

because people that have money don't look for free mammograms except every once in a while," Walsh said. "So we get them in for a mammogram. If they need a diagnostic there's two kinds: one's a call back from a mammogram or a diagnostic where, say, they found a lump or had symptom."

Dr. Robin Young writes the orders for diagnostic mammograms and biopsies. Walsh said they get those within 24 hours.

"We take down the complete symptoms, whatever: left, right, knot, bump, bleeding, whatever it happens to be, get a simple financial, and we get that patient approved within 24 hours," Walsh said.

"And then they schedule with Solis Mammography on their own so that we're not in the middle of the scheduling."

Careity issues the doctor's order and a voucher.

"So they go in and then they get that. Each step of everything comes right back to us. If they need

a biopsy, then we find out why they need a biopsy, we get the medical report, and we schedule them for a biopsy. That could be two or three biopsies in one, so we approve that for them.

If the biopsy can be done in the clinic, Solis will do the biopsy there. If the patient needs a surgical biopsy in the hospital, Dr. Amy Gunter, a breast surgery specialist in Weatherford, will perform the biopsy.

“If they’re diagnosed, they have to stay within our network of physicians because we need to be able to stay with these patients,” Walsh said. “We learned a long time ago that if we don’t stay with the patient they can fall through the cracks; but we’re watching them and our is watching them; our navigators, our social workers, and everybody is right there so that we know everything that’s happened to these people. And we know that if they can’t go to work then maybe they can’t afford food on their table. Just because somebody has insurance and they’re okay in the hospital, if they can’t get work they can’t pay their rent, they can’t pay their lights, they can’t eat, they can’t take care of their children.”

Careity will help those patients find financial support. Its social workers and navigators



MEGANPARKS.COM

Beverly Branch, Jay Winborn (NCHA), Lyn Walsh, and Ron Pietrafeso (NCHA) with the 25th anniversary trophy.

will help find other government-type funding that is also available for people.

“Most of the time we can get them onto Medicaid or we can get them on to emergency insurance,” Walsh said. “There’s so many different things that are out there for breast cancer. We provide a way to get through most of it. If we can’t, then our social workers can sometimes find grants for the chemotherapy. There’s a whole lot out there as long as we’re all working on it and trying to figure out how to save this person’s life.”

The effectiveness of Careity’s efforts is increased through its

partnerships with the providers.

“We have a partnership with the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and we have contracts with the hospitals and with Solis,” Walsh said. “Our contract price is a lot different than a cash pay or an insurance pay. The sad thing is, there is really no help from any place for most any other cancer besides breast cancer. With breast cancer, early detection is important because the earlier you detect, the better your chances of survival. Everybody’s trying to pitch in, but we have that network that helps people to survive through this.”

Clubs and Organizations



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Business Development Group sponsors a clay shoot each year to raise money for youth organizations. Shown above is Zayden Parker, a member of the Aledo clay shoot ing team, at the 2021 event.

Aledo Community Lions Club
P.O. Box 26
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-9191
www.aledolions.com
www.facebook.com/aledolionsclub

Aledo Rotary Club
Meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Mondays at Sunny Street Cafe, 229 Shops Blvd. in Willow Park.
www.aledorotary.org

Business Development Group of Aledo
P.O. Box 1565
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-475-9434
www.myaledo.com
foundation@bdgofaledo.com

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
Weatherford Chapter
Harriet Helm, Regent
harriethelm@gmail.com
Facebook: Weatherford Chapter DAR

East Parker County Genealogy & Historical Society
P.O. Box 223
Aledo, Texas 76008
Meets at 101 Stagecoach Trail, Willow Park
817-233-4322

Millsap Heritage Society
P.O. Box 792
Millsap, Texas 76066
Meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday night of each month at the Log Cabin/City Hall
http://millsapheritagesociety.org

Millsap Neighborhood Home & Garden Club
Millsap, Texas 76066
Meets at Millsap Community Center on Fannin Street the 1st Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

MOM's Club of Aledo and Willow Park
awpmomsclub.tripod.com
awpmomsclub@gmail.com

NAACP, Weatherford/ Parker County Branch
P.O. Box 1805
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-3528

Native Plant Society of Texas
973-670-0273
www.npsot.org/wp/crosstimbers

Parker County 4-H
Kayla Neill (County Extension Agent, 4-H & Youth Development)
604 North Main Street, Suite 200
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6172
parker.agrilife.org
kbnell@ag.tamu.edu

Parker County Aggie Mom's Club
parkercomoms.aggienetwork.com

Parker County Active Democrats
Meets at 321 South Main
Weatherford, Texas on second Monday
817-565-3301
parkerpcad.org

Parker County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1795
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at Parker County Emergency Management (EOC) Building, 215 Trinity Street, Weatherford Texas w5pc.org

Parker County Christian Home Educators
www.parkercountyhomeschool.org

Parker County Democratic Party
107 York Avenue
Weatherford, Texas 76086
parkercountymocrats.org

Parker County Health Foundation
Craig Harbuck (Board chairperson)
200 Palo Pinto
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-1990
parkercountyhealthfoundation.org

Parker County Heritage Society
P.O. Box 97
Weatherford, Texas 76086
www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com

Parker County Extension Education Association
604 North Main Street, Suite 200

CLUB OFFICERS:

Send information about your club to: news@community-news.com for inclusion in **Your Parker County!**

Weatherford Texas 76086
817-598-6168
817-598-6172
parker.agrilife.org
• Bethel Harmony Extension
Education Club
817-454-5096
• Country Crossroads Extension
Education Club
817-565-0372 or 817-597-8192
• Springtown Extension Education
Club
817-909-4368

**Parker County Master Gardener
Association**

604 North Main, Suite 200
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-6069
www.pcmg-texas.org
pcmgquestions@gmail.com

Parker County Republican Party

One Austin Avenue
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-0711
www.parkertxgop.org

Parker County Republican Women

Meets at 11:30 a.m. on the third
Thursday of each month at the Doss
Heritage and Culture Center, 1400
Texas Drive in Weatherford.
www.blrwww.com

Parker County Sheriff's Posse

2251 Mineral Wells Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76088
817-598-5402
www.parkercountysheriffsposse.com
p.ranch@sbcglobal.net

**Parker County Texas Democratic
Women**

www.parkercountymocrats.org/
parker-county-texas-democratic-wom-
en/

**Parker County Women's and
Newcomers' Club**

P.O. Box 362
Weatherford, Texas 76086
www.pcwnc.org

Pioneer Square Dance Club

dfwannounce.wixsite.com/thepioneers

Quilters Guild of Parker County

P.O. Box 2022
Weatherford, Texas 76086
www.quiltersguildofparkercounty.org

Springtown Lions Club

P.O. Box 401
Springtown, Texas 76082
www.slcyouthsports.com

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Service – Parker County**

604 North Main Street, Suite 200
Weatherford Texas 76086
817-598-6168
817-598-6172
parker.agrilife.org

**The Gluten Intolerance Group of
North Texas**

Kathy Enos (Branch manager)
817-319-3282
www.northtexasgig.com

**Volunteer Musicians of Parker
County**

www.facebook.com/VMOPC
VMOPC@hughes.net
Meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday
of each month at the Weatherford
Senior Center.

Weatherford Art Association

Meets fourth Monday of each month
at the Cherry Park Community Center,
313 Davis Street, Weatherford
817-599-3278
weatherfordart.com

Weatherford Noon Lions Club

Meets every Wednesday at noon
https://weatherfordlions.org

Weatherford Kiwanis Club

facebook.com/
kiwanisclubofweatherfordtx/

Weatherford Optimist Club

Meets 6:30 a.m. every Thursday at
the Weatherford College Doss Student
Center
PO Box 2020
Weatherford, TX 76086
www.sites.google.com/site/
weatherfordoptimist/

Weatherford Rotary Club

Meets at 12 p.m. on Tuesdays at North
Side Baptist Church, 910 North Main
Street, Weatherford
PO Box 1124
Weatherford, TX 76086
www.weatherfordrotary.org

Weatherford Toastmasters

Meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the
Central Christian Church 1602 South
Main Street in Weatherford
www.4963.toastmastersclubs.org

Zonta Club

P.O. Box 2095
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-840-4421
www.zontaparkercounty.org



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Senior Services



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI

A group of men plays dominoes at the Weatherford Senior Center.

Weatherford Senior Center & Meals on Wheels

(administered by the Parker County Committee on Aging) P.O. Box 817
1225 Holland Lake Road
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Phone: 817-596-4640
pccoonline.net

OTHER SERVICES

Department of Family and Protective Services

4113 Hwy. 180 East, Suite B
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067
940-325-6959
dfps.state.tx.us
24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Experience Works

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas
126 College Park Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-0049

Legal Hotline for Older Texans

800-622-2520

Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services

P.O. Box 149030
Austin, Texas 78751
701 W 51st Street
Austin, Texas 78751
512-438-3011
www.dads.state.tx.us

SERVICES FROM THE PARKER COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING

Call the PCCOA for information: 817-596-4640
Opportunities provided to Parker County residents ages 60-plus from the Parker County Committee on Aging:

• CASE MANAGEMENT

Administered from the Weatherford Senior Center to participants throughout Parker County, this service provides individual assessment, arranging of necessary care and services, ongoing monitoring of client's status and periodic revision of the overall service plan.

• INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

An ongoing program providing senior adults and their advocates or caregivers with concrete information about public and voluntary services and resources available to them.

• PREVENTATIVE HEALTH

Emergency assistance to purchase prescription medications, pay utility bills and liquid nutritional supplements.

• TELEPHONE REASSURANCE

Daily calls from the Senior Center to homebound individuals to assure their safety and well being.

• SENIOR CENTER

Open five days a week, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Center provides recreation, physical fitness, personal improvement and positive thinking to help seniors remain active. It also provides periodic services such as immunizations, tax preparation, health screenings and educational speakers.

• MEALS ON WHEELS

Delivered five days a week to homebound elderly who are unable to prepare their own meals or who lack family, friends or other community resources. These meals also meet 1/3 RDA requirements.

• TRANSPORTATION

Available Monday through Friday, this service offers reduced rates for trips to pharmacies, grocers, doctors' offices and to the Senior Center.

• CONGREGATE MEALS

Served five days a week in a congregate setting at the Weatherford Senior Center, these meals meet 1/3 of the RDA requirements for senior adults.

Living in Parker County

SPORTS/ PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Aledo Athletics

Youth baseball, softball, t-ball,
honkball
1100 Bankhead Hwy.
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-7279
www.aledoathletics.com
info@aledoathletics.com

Aledo Lions Club

Youth basketball
817-441-9191
www.aledolions.com
www.facebook.com/aledolionsclub

Aledo Youth Football

P.O. Box 886
Aledo, Texas 76008
www.aledoyouthfootball.org

Bearcat Bootcamp

bearcatbootcamp.org

Ben Hogan Learning Center

at Squaw Creek Golf Course
1605 Ranch House Road
Willow Park, Texas 76087
firstteftworth.org

Bicycle Texas Parker County

www.bicycletexasparkercounty.com
hihoranch-cycleparker@yahoo.com

Parker County Sportsman Club

hunting and fishing
6700 Advance Road
Poolville, Texas 76487
www.parkersportsman.com

Parker County Tennis Association

www.parkercountytennis.org
guy21@charter.net

Weatherford ISD Community Education

900 North Elm Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-2806
www.weatherfordisd.com
cstone@weatherfordisd.com

Weatherford Little League

1101 Charles Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
www.weatherfordlittleleague.com

Weatherford Mountain Bike Club

819 South Alamo
Weatherford, Texas 76086
https://www.wmbctx.com/

Weatherford Optimist Club

Mike Martin
sites.google.com/site/
weatherfordoptimist

Weatherford Parks & Rec

119 Palo Pinto
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4124
parkinfo@weatherfordtx.gov

Weatherford Soccer Association

Youth Soccer
P.O. Box 1033
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-0424
www.weatherford-soccer.com

Weatherford Youth Association

Youth Football
www.weatherfordyouth.com
info@weatherfordyouth.com

OTHER RECREATION

Cherry Park Pool

302 West Lee Avenue
Corner of Lee and Alamo
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4382 (summer only)
817-598-4125 (off-season)
www.weatherfordparks.com

Springtown Disc Golf

18-Hole Disc Golf Course
City Park
Springtown, Texas 76082

PARKS

Austin Allen Barnett Memorial Gardens

Weatherford Regional Medical Center
713 E. Anderson Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Bearcat Park

151 FM 5 South
Aledo, Texas 76008

Bose Ikard Elementary

100 Ikard Lane
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Cartwright Park

100 Cartwright Park Road
Weatherford, Texas 76088

Cherry Park

300 South Alamo
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4000

Cross Timbers Park

105 West Stagecoach Trail
Willow Park, Texas 76087

Holland Lake Park

1419 Holland Lake Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
Camp Holland
817-598-4124

Lake Mineral Wells State Park & Trailway

200 Park Road 71
Mineral Wells, Texas 76067
940-328-1171

Love Street Park

309 Love Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Marshall Park

115 East Fifth Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

McGratton Park

645 North Main Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Meditation Garden

516 Ranch House Road
Willow Park, Texas 76087

Miller Park

1501 Ball Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Optimist Park

199 South Main Street
Springtown, Texas 76082

Parks of Aledo Trail

302 Point Vista Drive
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-613-7855
https://ntxtrails.com/mtb-trails/south-west/parks-of-aledo-trail/

Patsy Hooks Dog Park

379 Jack Borden Way
at Heritage Park, Santa Fe Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4124

Paul Balint Jr. Memorial Park

516 Ranch House Road
Willow Park, Texas 76087

Pioneer Cabin Park

Doss Heritage and Culture Center
1400 Texas Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
dosscenter.org/pioneer-cabin-park/

Soldier Spring Park

961 Charles Street
& 200 Thrush Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

Splash Park

703 Walnut Creek Drive
Springtown, Texas 76082
cityofspringtown.com/parks.html

Springtown Park

201 South Avenue A
Springtown, Texas 76082

Town Creek Hike and Bike Trail

Trail Head Locations:
Weatherford Police Department
801 Santa Fe Drive

Vine Street Park

700 West Vine Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086

VENUES

Chandor Gardens

711 West Lee Avenue
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-613-1700
www.chandorgardens.com
knantz@weatherfordtx.gov

Clark Gardens

567 Maddux Road
Weatherford, Texas 76086
940-682-4856
www.clarkgardens.com
info@clarkgardens.com

Lake Weatherford Marina

(Lake Weatherford)
210 West Lake Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76087
817-613-0396
www.lakeweatherfordmarina.com
lakeweatherfordmarina@att.net

LIBRARIES

Weatherford Public Library
1014 Charles Street
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-598-4150
www.wpltx.com

East Parker County Library
201 FM 1187 North
Aledo, Texas 76008
817-441-6545
www.epclibrary.com

Springtown Public Library
626 North Main Street
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-523-5862
www.springtownlibrary.com

MUSEUMS

Doss Heritage and Culture Center
1400 Texas Drive
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-599-6168
www.dosscenter.org

Museum of the Americas
216 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-341-8668
www.museumoftheamericas.com
museumam@sbcglobal.net

Springtown Legends Museum
839 N Main Street
Springtown, Texas 76082
871-523-5939
legendsmuseum.org

The National Vietnam War Museum
12685 Mineral Wells Hwy.
Mineral Wells, Texas 76088
940-325-4003
www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org

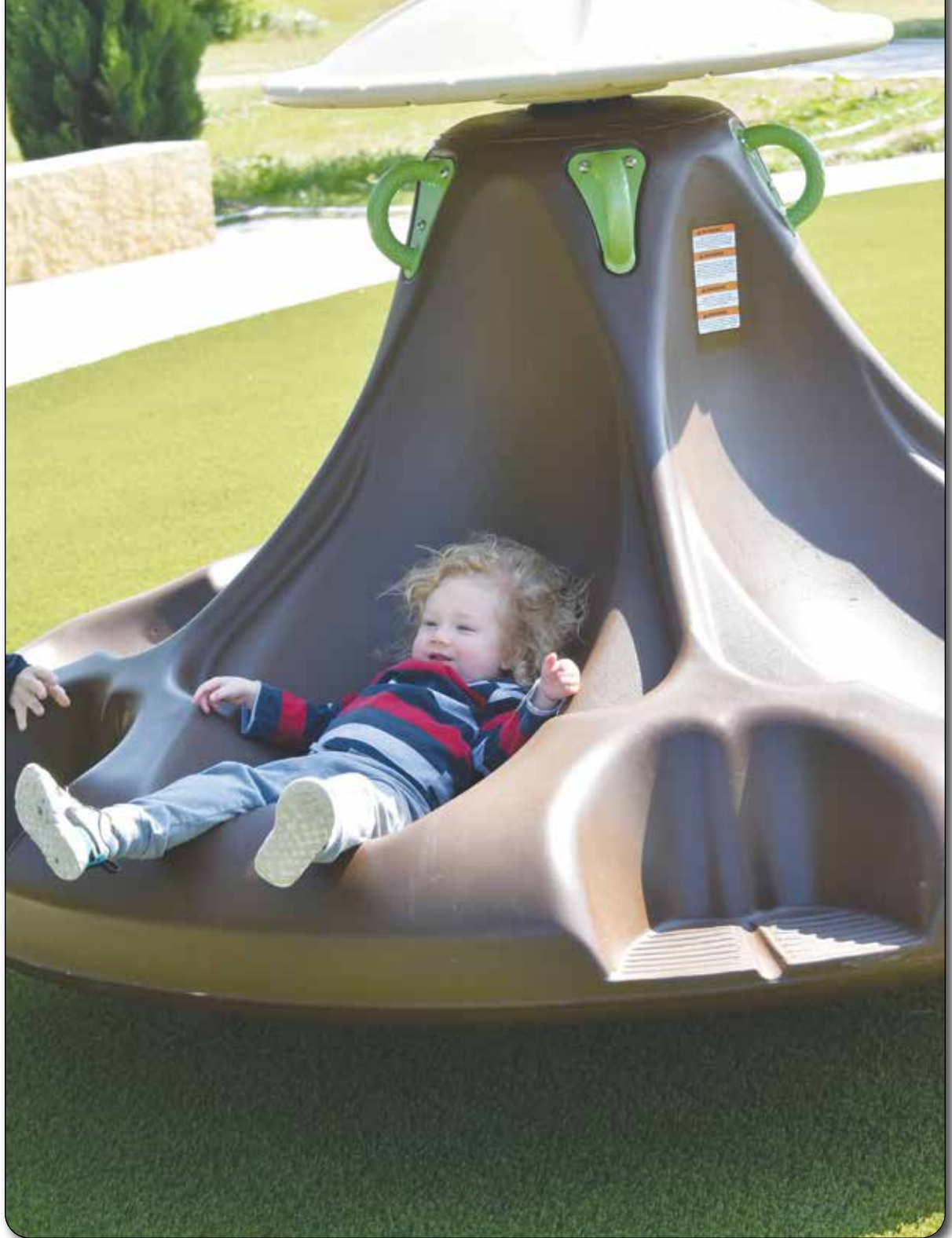
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

East Parker County Chamber of Commerce
"A Proud History, A Bright Future"
100 Chuck Wagon Trail
Willow Park, Texas 76087
817-441-7844
www.eastparkerchamber.com

Parker County Economic Development Council
400 I-20 West Suite 101
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-609-4131
parkercountyedc.com

Springtown Area Chamber of Commerce
"Home of the Wild West Festival"
P.O. Box 296
112 South Main
Springtown, Texas 76082
817-220-7828
www.springtownchamber.org
chamber@ntbb.net

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce
"We Mean Business"
P.O. Box 310
401 Fort Worth Hwy.
Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-3801
or 888-594-3801
www.weatherford-chamber.com
www.visitweatherford.com
info@weatherford-chamber.com



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Maverick Johnson, 2-1/2, got a ride on the merry-go-round at the opening of the new Cross Timbers Park Playground in Willow Park during April of 2021.

Events



KATHY CHRUSCIELSKI/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The Fireworks display at Hudson Oaks Boomin' Fourth is the culmination of a day of activity.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 saw the return of several previously-canceled events. Events that had been officially scheduled for 2022 will be indicated. Others are listed according to the month in which they normally occur.

JANUARY

Ameria Earhart Luncheon Zonta Club

January 19, 2022
Raises money for scholarships
zontaparkercounty.org

Martin Luther King Day Celebration Parker County NAACP

January 17, 2022
The Annual MLK Coloring Contest, Essay, & Artistic Expression awards ceremony. This annual event is free and open to the public.
NAACP Branch 6321 President
P.O. Box 1805
Weatherford, Texas 76086

FEBRUARY

Spaghetti Dinner Millsap Neighborhood Home & Garden Club

February 12, 2022
Millsap Middle School

301 E. Brock Street
817-360-6681 - Linda Whitehouse

Little Black Dress Fundraiser Parker County United Way

March 24, 2022
Dinner and fashion show benefits the Parker County United Way.
817-596-5986
www.unitedwayofparkercounty.org

Annual Pancake Supper Weatherford Rotary Club

February 22, 2022
The club's largest youth scholarship fundraiser event of the year includes silent auction items, pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, milk or coffee.
www.weatherfordrotary.org

Charity Gala Parker County Health Foundation

February 11, 2022
Evening of dining and entertainment benefits the medical needs of the underserved in Parker County.
parkercountyhealthfoundation.org

MARCH

Movies In The Park City of Weatherford

Movies in the Park features family-friendly films at the Heritage Park Amphitheatre. Bring your blankets

and lawn chairs for this free family fun night throughout the year.
817-598-4124
<https://www.experienceweatherford.com/events>

Clay Shoot

March 4, 2022
The Business Development Club of Aledo sponsors its annual Clay Shoot each spring to raise money for local youth causes.
myaledo.com

APRIL

Hope for Children Golf Tournament CASA Hope for Children,

Raises funds for Parker County Court Appointed Special Advocates.
817-599-6224
casahopeforchildren.org

Aledo Education Foundation Gala

April 8, 2022
Raises funds for special projects in the Aledo ISD
www.aledoef.org

Annual Spring Luncheon Friends of the Weatherford Public Library

Raises funds for the Summer Reading Program
817-594-8033

Run, Walk or Crawl Aledo Childrens Advocats

March 26, 2022
Annual 5k/1mile run and festival raises funds to help students in the Aledo ISD.
www.aledoadvocats.com

Aggie Muster Parker County Aggies

Richard Westbrook 817-441-5831
westbrookrc@yahoo.com

Founder's Day Celebration Clark Gardens

This special event celebrates the original opening of Clark Gardens.
clarkgardens.org
940-682-4856

Weatherford Blooms Weatherford Parks and Recreation

Annual Home and Garden Festival
Free admission
<http://ci.weatherford.tx.us>

Parker County Livestock Improvement Association Golf Tournament

Proceeds benefit the Parker County Livestock Show and FFA and 4-H exhibitors. Tournament at Canyon West Golf Club.
parkercountystockshow.com

**Annual Plant Sale
Parker County Master
Gardeners**

Offers a tremendous selection of perennials, herbs, vegetable plants, annuals, shrubs, and roses available to help get spring gardening off to a great start.

817-598-6168

www.pcmg-texas.org

**Annual Open House
Shaw-Kemp Ranch**

Step back in time while looking at log cabins, an original ranch house, school, church, grocery store, post office, bank, barber shop and much more. Free to the public.

www.community-news.com/events

Willow Park Palooza

Family event with plenty of fun activities.

<https://theshopsatwillowpark.com/willow-park-palooza/>

MAY

**Weatherford ISD Education
Foundation Annual Golf
Tournament**

May 5, 2022

weatherfordisd.com

**Taste of Parker County
Weatherford College Foundation**

May 12, 2022

Numerous food vendors in Parker County set up samples of their best dishes at Canyon West Golf Club. Proceeds benefit education at Weatherford College.

817-598-6275

<https://www.experienceweatherford.com/events/2021/taste-of-parker-county>

**Status of Women's Luncheon
Zonta Club**

TBA

Zonta empowers women worldwide through service advocacy
zontaparkercounty.org

**Log Cabin Day
Millsap Heritage Society**

The days activities include a campfire breakfast, tours of the log cabins, displays, demonstrations, entertainment, craft booths and food.

millsapheritagesociety.org/home

**Scholarship Style Show
Parker County Women's and
Newcomer's Club**

Provides scholarships for local students.

pcwnc.org



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ryder Taggart tries his luck at the 2021 Willow Park Palooza encouraged by Rosealee Hoffman, Communications and Marketing Director for the City of Willow Park.

**Public Gardens Day
Clark Gardens**

Clark Gardens celebrates all public gardens on this date. Additional activities include bee hive exhibit, vermi composting, butterfly educational exhibit and a presentation on "Attracting Native Pollinators to Your Garden" by Carol Welch, Parker County Master Gardener.

940-682-4856

clarkgardens.org

**Dreams on Wings Virtual 5K
Hemispherectomy Foundation**

Supports the work of the Hemispherectomy Foundation.
hemifoundation.homestead.com

**Ms Senior Parker County Pageant
Parker County Meals on Wheels**

Pageant raises money for Parker County Meals on Wheels
Donna Tillman 817-598-0160
<http://www.msseniorkparkercounty.org>

**Dive-In Theatre
City of Weatherford**

Family-friendly films at the Cherry Park Pool; admission is \$3.

817-598-4124

ci.weatherford.tx.us

**Splash & Dash
CASA for Children**

One mile run/walk ends at Splash Kingdom Water Park in Hudson Oaks. Registration forms are available at Weatherford Regional Medical Center, 713 E. Anderson Street in Weatherford.

JUNE

**Aledo Fest and Fireworks
Extravaganza
City of Aledo**

Summertime festival in downtown Aledo features vendors, childrens' activities, and live music. The June event features a fireworks show at dark on the first friday of the month.

817-441-7016

www.aledo-texas.com

**Stock Show and Frontier Days Rodeo
Parker County Sheriff's Possee**

May 31-June 4, 2022

Rodeo parade, livestock show and rodeo, one of Parker County's largest annual events.

parkercountysheriffsposse.com

**Golf Tournament
Aledo Education Foundation**

Benefits students in the Aledo Independent School District.
aledoef.org

JULY

**Boomin 4th
City of Hudson Oaks**

Date: July 4, 2022

Independence Day celebration at Gene Voyles Park, 210 North Lakeshore Drive, Hudson Oaks. The event includes children's activities and food vendors, and culminated with a fireworks display.

682-229-2400.

boomin4th.com

**Parker County Peach Festival
Weatherford Chamber of Commerce**

July 9, 2022

Held annually the second Saturday in July, the Peach Festival includes arts and crafts, produce, food, entertainment, activities for the kids, bike ride and plenty of Parker County peaches.

817-596-3801

www.weatherford-chamber.com

AUGUST

Sanctified Hope Fashion Show

Annual fashion show benefits the work of Sanctified Hope, which assists women who have been released from prison to get a new start.

817-901-5446

www.sanctifiedhope.org

SEPTEMBER

**Model Train Show
Clark Gardens**

Billed as "model train heaven, North Texas Garden Railroad Club (G Gauge), Tex-N Modular Railroad Club (N Gauge), and North Texas T Trak (HO Gauge) clubs will display their model trains.

940-682-4856

clarkgardens.org

info@clarkgardens.org

**Help & Hope Luncheon
Aledo Childrens Advocats**

Fundraising luncheon to help students in the Aledo ISD.

www.aledoadvocats.com



RANDY KECK/THE COMMUNITY NEWS

The annual Parker County Peach Festival is the largest event in the county.

OCTOBER

Lord's Acre

Aledo United Methodist Church

Features silent auction, live auction, kids zone, vendors, live music, dancing, food, and games.

817-441-8329

aledoumc.org

Craft and Cork

October 8, 2022

Hudson Oaks' annual beer and wine tasting has grown into a multi-day festival with food and entertainment and a fund-raising dinner.

682-229-2400

Aledo Fest

This annual festival includes food, entertainment, petting zoos, and other family entertainment.

aledo-texas.com

Pink Luncheon

Parker County Health Foundation

The luncheon will be at Weatherford High School. Benefits mammography screenings for Parker County residents.

817-594-1990

parkercountyhealthfoundation.org

NOVEMBER

Gift and Craft Market

Trinity Christian Academy

TCA's Barber Gymnasium hosts vendors who sell gifts, home décor, clothes and purses, seasonal items, gourmet food, and health and beauty products. Admission is free. Two days.

817-732-5815

GiftMarket@TCAeagles.org

Coyote Chase Race

Weatherford College

Benefits students at Weatherford College

Brent Baker 817-598-6275

bbaker@wc.edu

5K and 1 mile

Thanksgiving Trot

Aledo High School

The annual run assists families in the Aledo area with medical needs.

www.aledothanksgivingtrot.com

Celebrity Cutting

Careity Foundation

Benefits Careity Foundation and National Cutting Horse Association Charities.

817-882-4100

careity.org

DECEMBER

Annual Christmas

Arts and Crafts Fair

City of Aledo

December 3, 2022

Held at The Church at the Crossing gymnasium.

817-441-7016

aledo-texas.com

Christmas Tyme in Aledo

City of Aledo

December 3, 2022

This annual festival includes the Christmas tree lighting, arrival of Santa, food and drinks, entertainment, and special treats from merchants and churches in the downtown area.

817-441-7016

aledo-texas.com

Christmas on the Square

Weatherford Chamber of Commerce

December 3, 2022

Annual holiday festival in Weatherford kicks off with the Christmas Parade down Main Street, then the festival with numerous children's activities, food and drink and contests.

817-596-3801

weatherford-chamber.com

Breakfast with Santa

CASA Hope for Children, Parker County

Pictures with Santa, goodie bags and childrens activities.

817-599-6224

casaoofparkercounty.com

CoHoHo

CoHoHo Christmas Corridor is a free light display at Gene Voyles Park in Hudson Oaks featuring a different themed light show each week with more than 60,000 lights. Events include tree lighting, movie in the park, horse and carriage rides, food trucks on-site, and stage performances.

<https://events.hudsonoaks.com/cohoho>

Send information about your event to: events@community-news.com

First

Bank ★ Texas



Don Rice
Area President



Zan Prince
Chairman of the Board



Bill Baker
Executive Vice President



Diane Johnson
Executive Vice President



Greg Edwards
Executive Vice President



Debbie Rowe
Senior Vice President



David Stier
Senior Vice President



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Jarrod Dickey
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Same Us, Only Better!

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220 Palo Pinto Street ♦ 1401 Santa Fe Drive ♦ Weatherford

2880 Fort Worth Highway ♦ Hudson Oaks

100 Willow Bend Drive ♦ Willow Park

ATM - 709 N. FM 1187 ♦ Aledo

817-596-0345 www.go2fbt.com



Abilene • Baird • Bedford • Clyde • Grapevine • Haskell • Munday • Stamford

