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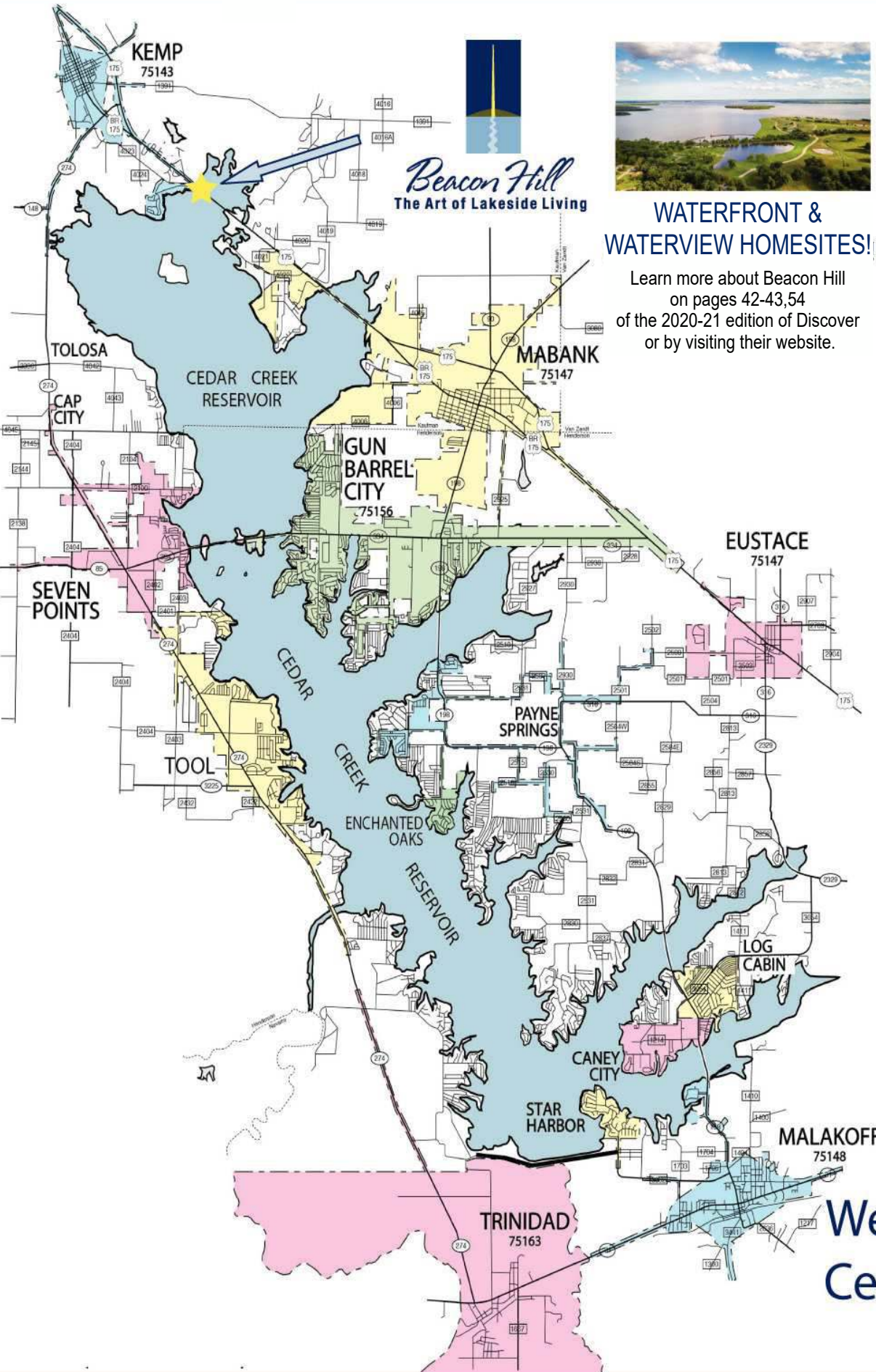
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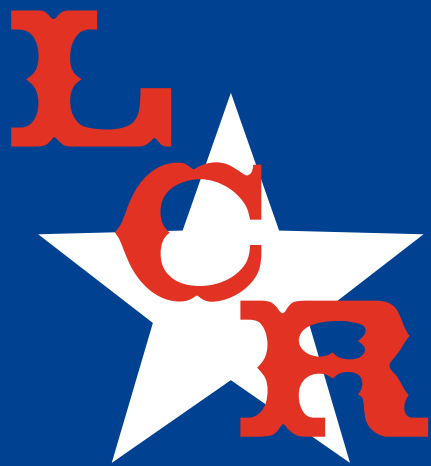
John 10:10 The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]. AMP

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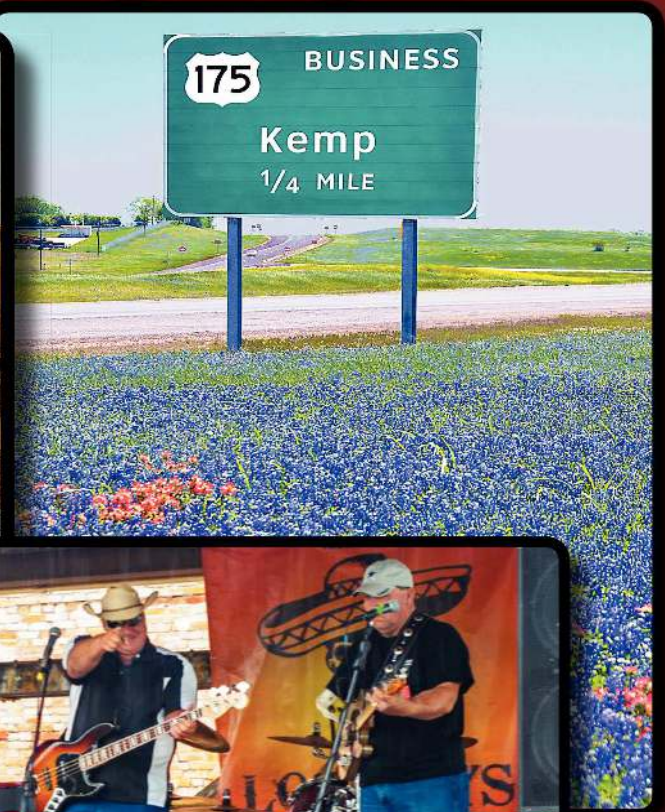
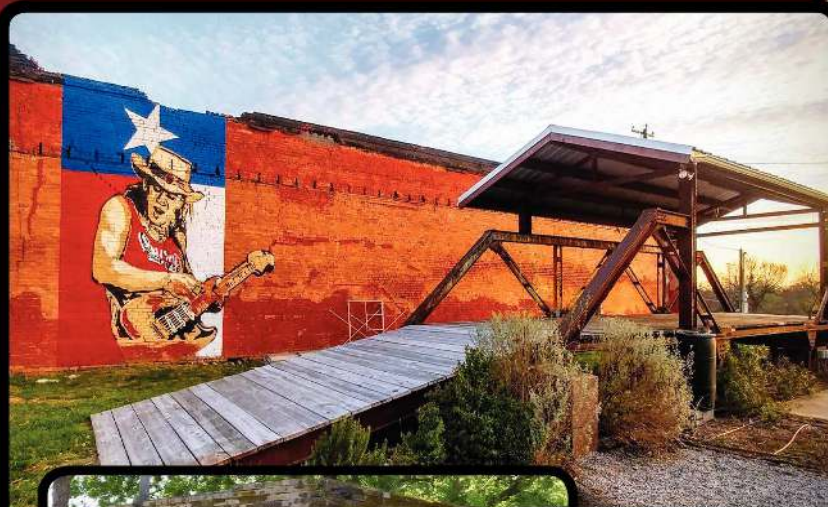


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As the Texas temperatures start to cool down and winds begin to bring a hint of a chill in the air, it is certain that Fall is on its way. Here in Texas, somedays we can say it is already here. This year, I think we are all hoping for those winds to bring change to our doorstep, as this year has been faced with incredibly difficult times.

March, April and May we saw the strength of our lake community band together in countless ways. Healthcare workers stepped up with countless measures to counteract the spread of the coronavirus. Our first responder community put their own safety on the line to care for and make sure the public were attended to. Essential businesses stretched the supply chain to get the merchandise needed for community members. Grocery stores increased curbside shopping opportunities and restaurants sold their stock, even down to rolls of toilet paper. Teachers taught through Facebook, Zoom and printed packets. Churches held drive-in service or Facebook Live service to offer spiritual comfort.

With many shops and venues reopening, we saw weekend and summer visitors come back to the lake in June and July. While we were not sure how the districts were going to handle returning to school in August, they managed the feat with two different options for students. Sports have also resumed, though at a reduced capacity at venue locations.

Now that we have slowly but surely begun to see businesses, schools and government offices reopening their doors, we have also begun to see festivals, activities and hopefully soon the holiday events that our lake area loves to attend year after year will appear.

While we are unsure of what this holiday season will look like on Market Street in downtown Mabank, or if Gun Barrel City's Main Street will be filled with floats for the annual Christmas Parade, one thing is for sure our holiday season will be different. Perhaps this is the best time to try a new venue or restaurant

like W456, Vernon's Lakeside and V's Steakhouse for your holiday plans. Sometimes events that may disrupt our everyday ordinary may bring a new favorite to your life.

Despite the hardships this year, the Cedar Creek Lake Area has had several new businesses join our community and charitable organizations providing for those in need despite a lack of annual fundraising. One thing is certain, our community has held strong despite the many obstacles its faced. Kind of like weathering a storm, Cedar Creek Lake held strong and embraced its neighbors, friends and family the best they could from six feet away. We've weathered the storm, but now I think we are ready to embrace the winds of change and look forward to a positive fall and winter season.

Ashlee Sawyer, Managing Editor

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Proudly serving as a vital source of support for the Cedar Creek Lake community, the Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce was established in 2001 to bring together three existing chambers of commerce in the lake area. We now oversee three chamber of commerce chapters representing Gun Barrel City, Mabank and Tool/Seven Points/Kemp

This has been quite a year, with COVID-19 causing many changes to the chamber and to our community. As we struggled to find our "new normal", defined by masks, closings, and other mandates from local, state and federal government, it became clear that those of us that live and do business in the Cedar Creek Lake Area have much to be thankful for, as well as new challenges to meet and a need for flexibility in our personal and business lives. It's been a positive experience to participate in virtual business meetings, as well as virtual Business After Hours, hosted by some innovative members. The chamber staff has done its share of work-at-home, as have many of our members.

The March cancellation of our popular annual Awards Banquet, serving as a forum to recognize and honor volunteers in our community was unfortunately the first event casualty of our year. It would have been the 20th banquet for the unified chamber. Even though we didn't have a traditional banquet this year, we'll proudly recognize the 2020 winners at the December chamber luncheon. In the meantime, we invite everyone to mark their calendar for March 15, 2021, as we plan to return to our traditional banquet date of the third Monday in March.

The popular Cedar Creek Lake Car Show & Mabank Athletic Booster Club Crawfish Boil that's always held on the first Saturday in May at Mabank Pavilion, was postponed until August 29. The support from the community, the car owners, our sponsors

and volunteers was beyond our most optimistic expectations. We're so grateful and blessed to have had a successful fundraising event after the postponement. The event will return to our first Saturday in May date next year, so mark your calendar now for May 1, 2021.

A traditional fundraising golf tournament, the Red Hot '18' benefits the chamber and is traditionally held at a member golf course the last Monday in July. This year, because of COVID-19 concerns, we had a successful Red Hot "18" on October 5, a beautiful fall day.

Networking events such as the monthly chamber luncheon and Business After Hours have resumed. Various networking meetings hosted by the different chapters have been on hold since the beginning of COVID-19 "social distancing". The staff and members are looking forward to the time that we can reconvene these popular gatherings that offer an opportunity for member-to-member interaction, and are meaningful for exchange of business information, ideas and community support.

The chamber staff has made every effort to assist our members through this trying time by offering free or very low-priced advertising opportunities such as our e-blasts and Facebook shares, plus Lunch & Learn sessions on current topics. We've signed up many new members this year and are finding ways to accomplish all of the ribbon cuttings that had to be put on hold. Beyond planning the rest of 2020, we're looking to next year and starting to make plans for our Cedar Creek Lake Day in the 87th Texas Legislature. Completion of the Hwy. 334 bridge project between Gun Barrel City and Seven Points is projected to be complete in the spring of 2021, enhancing ease of travel and safety on that stretch of busy highway.

Our business owners, citizens, schools, and civic groups are strong, tenacious and innovative when it comes to getting the job

done and protecting quality of life. Activities such as festivals and other annual events are slowly being resumed, with strong encouragement to wear your mask, social distance and do your part to keep your co-workers, friends, and family safe and well. If planned events aren't your thing, look to fishing, boating, bird watching and just relaxing. We love company. Don't forget to follow the chamber's active Facebook page at Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. Also "Like" the Gun Barrel City Chapter of the Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for information from that Chapter.

If you're an individual or company planning a move, or just considering a visit, you're encouraged to contact or visit the chamber of commerce and let us help you discover all that the area has to offer.

The friendly chamber staff is on hand at our office at 101W. Eubank St. Ste F Mabank, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 - 5 p.m., closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

For information on becoming a member of the Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, joining a Leadership Cedar Creek Lake class, details of networking events, or other chamber-related programs or events, call 903.887.3152 or email info@CedarCreekLakeChamber.com. You can also download a membership application at www.CedarCreekLakeChamber.com. We welcome your inquiries.

Jo Ann Hanstrom

President,
Cedar Creek Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

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City of Gun Barrel City
1720 W. Main St.
Gun Barrel City, TX 75156
903.887.1087

City of Malakoff
109 S. Melton St.
Malakoff, TX 75148
903.489.0699

City of Tool
Hwy. 274
Tool, TX 75143
903.432.3522

City of Caney City
15241 Barron Rd.
Caney City, TX 75148
903.489.1844

City of Kemp
304 Main St.
Kemp, TX 75143
903.498.3191

City of Payne Springs
19601 CR 2529
Payne Springs, TX 75147
903.451.9229

City of Trinidad
212 Park St.
Trinidad, TX 75163
903.778.2525

City of Enchanted Oaks
111 Deerwood Dr.
Enchanted Oaks, TX
75147
903.451.2222

City of Log Cabin
14387 Alamo Rd.
Log Cabin, TX 75148
903.489.2195

City of Seven Points
Hwy. 334 at Wood St.
Seven Points, TX 75143
903.432.4610

City of Kaufman
209 S. Washington
Kaufman, TX 75142
972.932.2216

City of Eustace
107 Edgar St.
Eustace, TX 75124
903.425.4702

City of Mabank
129 E. Market St.
Mabank, TX 75147
903.887.3241

City of Star Harbor
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Founded in 1969, Gun Barrel City is one of the only cities that truly bears its name, playing on the city's motto: "We shoot straight with you." Despite having a name that evokes images of the Texas frontier, Gun Barrel City takes its name from the former road Gun Barrel Lane. Now known as State Highway 198, Gun Barrel Lane was originally just a mud road shortcut that allowed residents to cross Cedar Creek Lake to Seven Points, Trinidad and surrounding areas. The community developed after construction of the lake in 1969 and quickly grew from having only 60 residents to its current population of over 5,600 residents. The first city council meeting was held on June 17, 1969 in the home of Mayor Roscoe Welch. The first year of council meetings were held in the Mayor and Councilmember's homes until the construction of City Hall was completed on February 23, 1970.

The slogan "We Shoot Straight With You" was created by resident Jim Malone in 1975. As part of the competition Malone was rewarded a \$50 bonus for his idea. Other honorable mentions were "Happiness is living in Gun Barrel City" and "City of Square Shooters". As part of Gun Barrel City's 50th anniversary celebration in 2019, Gun Barrel City hosted an Open House and awarded Malone a key to the city and a certificate of recognition.

Gun Barrel City has received several State Honored Awards including The Go Texan Award for becoming a Certified Retirement Community in 2009.

With the city being 55 miles southeast of Dallas on the eastern shore of the Cedar Creek Lake, Gun Barrel City has something to offer for everyone. The city has a large concentration of retail stores, which includes a busy Walmart Superstore, Ivan's Furniture Store, Tractor Supply Company, Lowe's Home Improvement Center and nationally recognized restaurants. The city also offers many small businesses that give residents a small-town feel, even though it is one of the largest in the Cedar Creek Lake Area, offering businesses like W Haus Decor & More, Coffee Love and Hector's Mexican Restaurant.

With nationally recognized stores and restaurants, Gun Barrel City is a destination for shoppers from every lake-area community as well as other areas. The city has experienced exponential growth over the past year adding such restaurants such as Golden Chick and W456 as well as Zen Bar yoga studio, Vanity Salon and Lucky 11 tattoo.

Service facilities added include Tip Top Automotive (formerly in Payne Springs), and Discount Tire. Shopping venues include Pickers & Pinchers Resale, P & P Home Furnishings and W Haus Village,

now with several shops to please even the most discriminating shoppers looking for a special something.

The great entertainment and wonderful restaurants isn't the only reason why thousands of visitors plan a trip to Gun Barrel City. Visitors also enjoy the fishing and recreation offered by Cedar Creek Lake. Technically named Cedar Creek Reservoir the lake is approximately 18 miles long and just over 2 miles wide. The shoreline is just over 220 miles and a maximum depth of 62 feet. The offers a wide range of fishing spots, water sports, birdwatching, boating and other recreational activities.

Learn more about living in Gun Barrel City by visiting the website, www.gunbarrelcity.net/, or calling Gun Barrel City Hall at 903-887-1087. City Hall is located at 1716 West Main St., Gun Barrel City, TX, 75156.



Photo courtesy of Ruth Reynolds

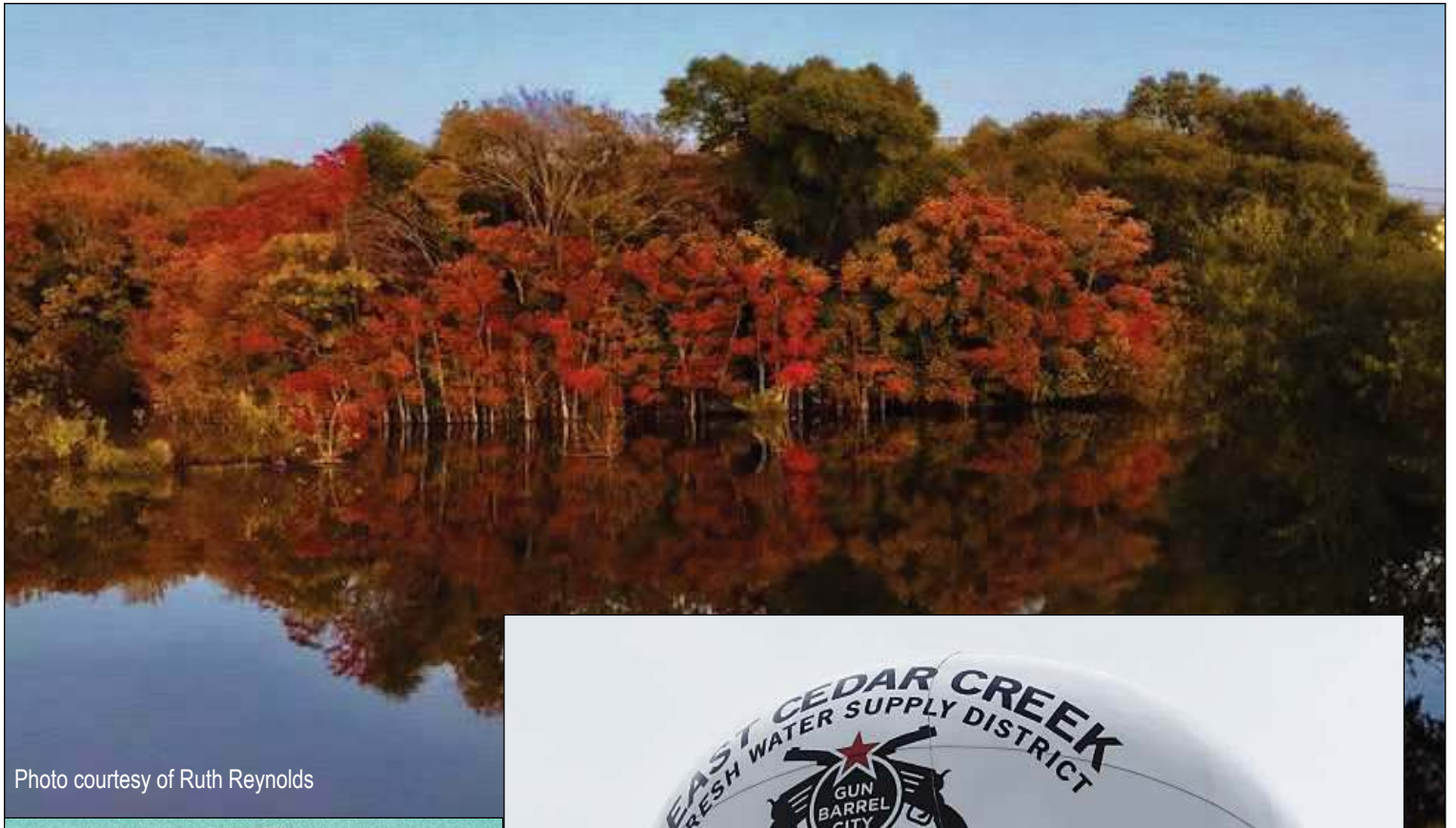
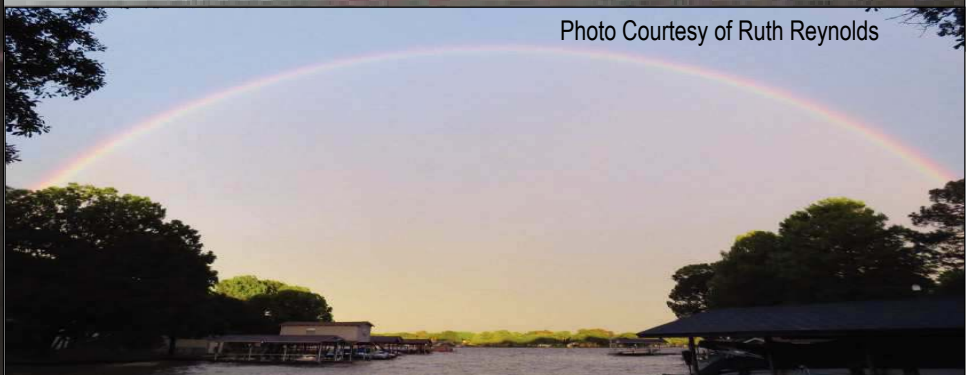


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Welcome to Mabank

Located on U.S. 175 and State Highway 198, Mabank is home to the largest school district on the lake, most developed park and youth recreational facility that hosts baseball, softball and soccer year-round and a quaint shopping area known as Market Street that offers something for everyone.

Mabank was first settled by Lorenzo D. Stover in 1846, but other settlers soon moved to the area to begin its growth. When the area was purchased by John R. Jones in 1887, he named the area "Lawn City," after a popular cotton dress material he sold. He later changed the name to Lawndale around November 1887 after the creation of the town's first post office. When the Southern Pacific Railroad went through the area, it was bypassed by one-mile by G.W. or 'Dodge' Mason and Thomas Eubank (owners of the Mason-Eubank Ranch), who quickly decided to name the one-mile-square area past Lawndale as Mabank. Because of the popular railroad and fertile soil, the businesses and residents of Lawndale believed it was time to give up their area and add it to Mabank.

In August of 1900, the founders established "Mabank Land Company" to sell land in the area. An ambulance service began to operate in the community and the Eubank Funeral Home opened in 1904. In 1909, the "Mabank Banner", an area newspaper was created and began to inform the community on area news.

In 1910, Mabank had only 412 residents populating the area. Now, Mabank has over 3,447 residents. As one of the older and larger cities located on the northeastern edge of the Cedar Creek Reservoir (also known as Cedar Creek Lake), the city of Mabank continues to expand.

With it gaining a larger Brookshire's Grocery chain next door to its former location on Third Street to the city offering multiple delicious restaurants like Dickey's Barbecue and Jack in the Box to the beautiful three-story Comfort Suites hotel offering tons of space for Dallas-Fort Worth visitors, Mabank continues to thrive on its economic base. The Mabank Independent School District, with its exemplary rating, boasts three elementary schools,

Central Elementary, Southside Elementary and Lakeview Elementary; Mabank Intermediate School, Mabank Junior High School, and Mabank High School that offers top education programs for any student.

The people of Mabank make the city really stand out. By continuing to celebrate the old-west flair during the Mabank Western Week and Rodeo to celebrate the creativity the city residents hold during the Cedar Creek Lake Festival of the Arts, Mabank's residents are truly the best.

Learn more about living in Mabank by visiting the website, www.cityofmabanktx.org, or calling Mabank City Hall at 903-887-3241. City Hall is located at 129 E. Market St., Mabank, TX, 75147.



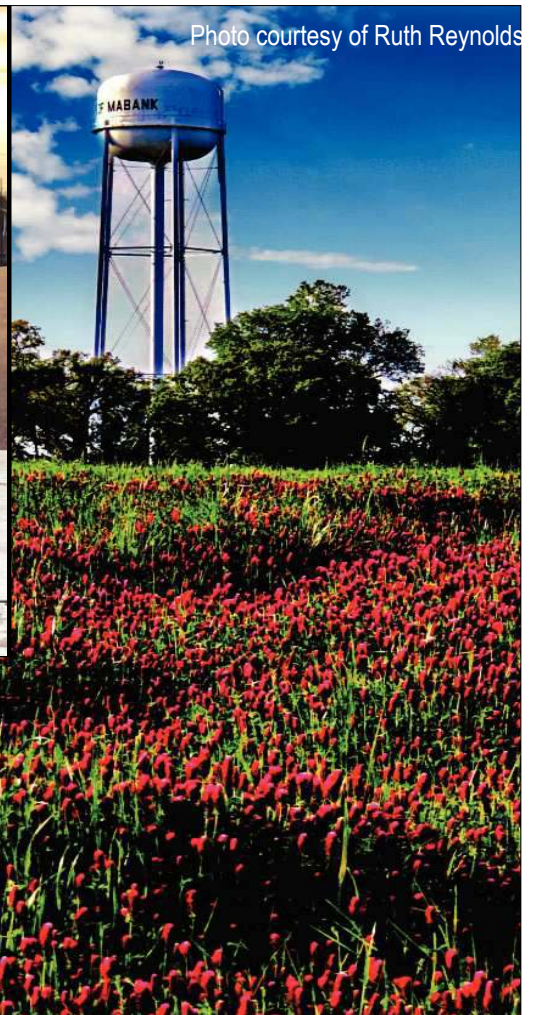
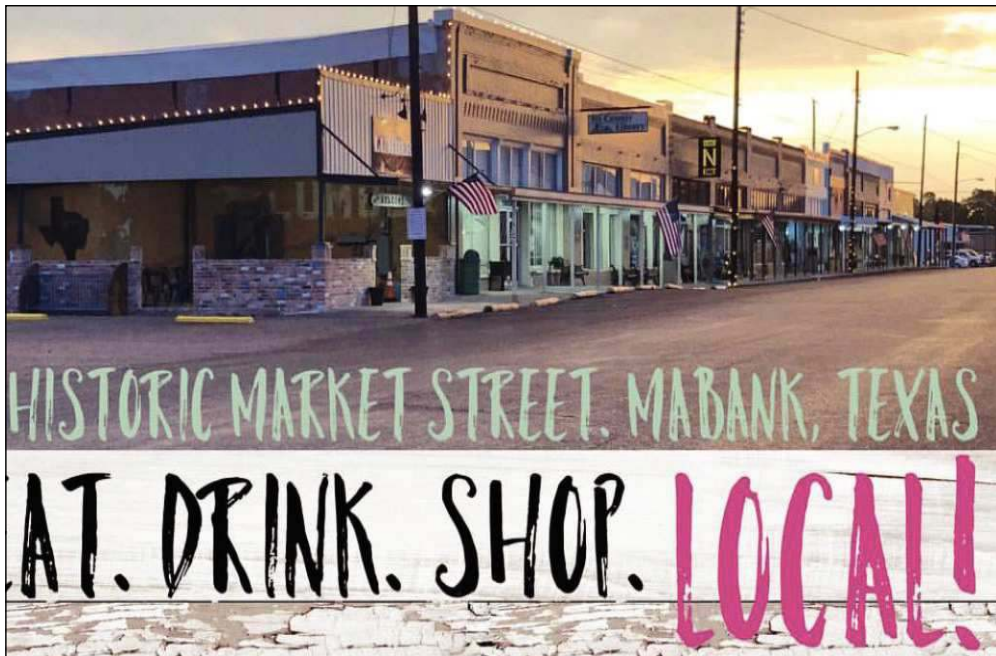


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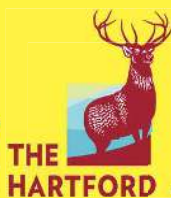


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Welcome to Kemp



Kemp got its name after Sarah Kemp Nobel, mother of the city pioneer, Levi Nobel. Levi was appointed the first Kemp postmaster May 27, 1851. Kemp is also the hometown of America's Got Talent semifinalist, Kadie Lynn Roberson. Kadie Lynn isn't the only celebrity of Kemp. Years ago, the infamous Bonnie and Clyde strolled into town, which followed in the subsequent capture of Bonnie Parker, who was temporarily held in the old city jail, still behind the current city hall.

The City of Kemp is situated on the northern face of Cedar Creek Lake, just shy of 50 miles away from Dallas. In the spring, the city boasts beautiful bluebonnets that bring in fields of visitors hoping to get the perfect family photo. In April, the residents of Kemp come together to celebrate the Wildflower Festival.

What makes Kemp truly shine are the beautiful wildflowers that pop up each year. The festival promotes the revitalization of the historic town and is sponsored by many companies based in Kemp and features more than 50 vendors, food trucks and several kid-friendly activities. The Wildflower Festival also hosts a lively show with many local musicians performing on the old bridge.

The town is a mix of old, along Main Street and modern situated along State Highway 274, and the \$23-million Kemp High School next to Yellowjacket Stadium. The town's residents are filled with school pride—win or lose—but happier when they're winning.

Kemp has seen growth over the last few years with the addition of Spring Market for hometown grocery shopping. New businesses expected include two new salons and a nutrition center. And work continues on the new Lakeside Health and Wellness Center that will bring another excellent care facility to Kemp.

Kemp has seen the arrival and departure of the railroad. When the lake was being built in the early 1960s, the tracks and trains still came through town. The trains continued for about 10 years after the lake was filled, and then the tracks were taken up.

Kemp always has something blooming for those that want to stop by and visit the historic small town.

Learn more about living in Kemp by visiting the website, www.cityofkemp.org or calling Kemp City Hall at 903-498-3191. City Hall is located at 304 North Main St., Kemp, TX, 75143.





Welcome to Eustace

Eustace appeared when the Texas and New Orleans Railroad connected its line from Kemp to Athens in 1900. Businesses from several communities relocated to be alongside the rails. W. L. Moseley, who had sold the railroad a right-of-way and sold lots in the developing town, modestly named the new community Mosely. The name was later changed to Eustace, to honor Virginian Capt. W. T. Eustace, a Confederate veteran who relocated to Henderson County in 1867.

Located between Mabank and Athens on U.S. Highway 175, Eustace takes pride in its historic Town Square and original pioneer cabin. The beautifully landscaped courtyard, a center for its gatherings including its historic Pioneer Day and its Parade of Lights Christmas Celebration give context to its history.

Located just three miles north of the town is Purvis Creek State Park, providing visitors with camping facilities, fishing piers and champion-size black bass fish and the opportunity to experience the great outdoors.

While the Eustace residents enjoy the slower pace of small-town living, they are not afraid of showing just how tough they are. On April 29, 2016, a large, destructive tornado came barreling through the town. The Eustace residents quickly helped one another to prepare any damaged area and collected items for those whose homes were destroyed by the storm.

Eustace was also featured in a 2009 movie called *Fire from Below* with scenes being filmed in the gazebo on the town square, a restaurant and nearby private lake.



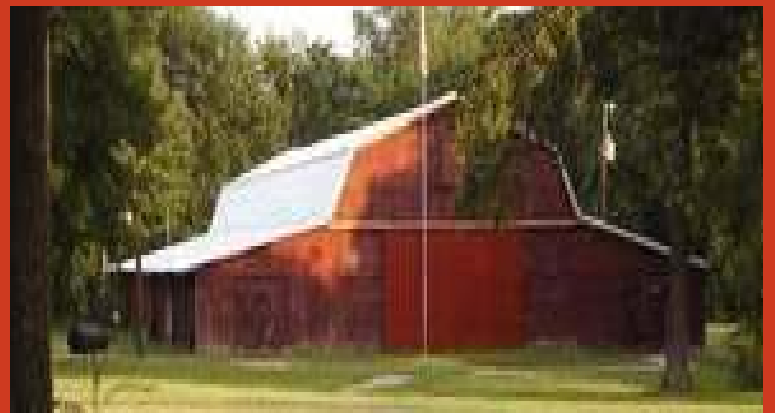
Learn more about living in Eustace by visiting the website, www.eustacetexas.org or calling Eustace City Hall at 903-425-4702. City Hall is located at 107 Edgar St., Eustace, TX, 75124.

Welcome to Log Cabin

Begun as a resort community, Log Cabin offers a spacious lakeside marina and a wooded environment. Visitors attend the fishing tournaments held there, enjoying the city park's 18-stall RV facility, each with access to water, electricity and sewer service, or at nearby hotels. Log Cabin is located just off State Highway 198 between Gun Barrel City and Malakoff with 714 residents.

When lake levels are down, you can count on the boat ramp in Log Cabin City Park to launch your boat. Last year, city residents and volunteers banded together to complete improvements to the park, including repainting the vintage playground equipment and installing new picnic tables and charcoal grills. The park office was also updated with new bathrooms including showers for campers staying in the park.

The park is home to nearly year-round fishing tournaments including the KCKL Big Bass Tournament that draws fishermen from several states away.



In 1969, a company called Areaco Inc. began developing the company's second resort community. Its first resort was built in Missouri. It found the perfect spot, near Malakoff and called it Log Cabin Estates. The original concept was to build a recreational resort, where people could get away from the city and take their families for vacations and weekend getaways. Some lots were offered for sale and others became contractual memberships.

Log Cabin Estates incorporated Jan. 17, 1987, and became the City of Log Cabin. The Red Barn is a gathering place for the community to hold annual events and family gatherings. Log Cabin City is a tight-knit community and at Thanksgiving they hold a community dinner at the Red Barn where everyone brings food to share in the true spirit of the holiday. Lots of memories are made at the Red Barn.

Learn more about living in Log Cabin by visiting the website <https://logcabin.texas.gov>. Contact City Hall at 903-489-2195 or stop in at 14387 Alamo Rd, Log Cabin, TX, 75148.

Welcome to Athens

Preserving a southern small-town atmosphere while retaining the many qualities of a larger city, the City of Athens has an air of nobility that long heritage tall trees and grand brick structures convey to a successful and long-established city.

Located 75 miles southeast of Dallas, it is close enough to enjoy the amenities a large metropolis has to offer. Athens is surrounded by a number of quality lakes and parks making it a paradise to boaters, fishermen and animal and nature lovers. The Athens Independent School District serves the city of Athens and is home to the Athens High School Hornets, while Trinity Valley Community College serves residents with higher education and

a prominent championship sports program.

With a variety of family-friendly destinations like the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Henderson County Regional Fair Park Complex and more, you're sure to embark on an activity that will satisfy the entire family!

Other claims to fame include the Home of the First Hamburger and the Black-Eyed Pea Capital of the World. In addition, it was selected as one of the first Certified Retirement Communities in Texas.

Other attractions in the city include the Athens Scuba Park, The Texan: A Landmark Venue, Henderson County Historical Museum, and more!



Learn more about living in Athens by visiting the website www.athenstx.gov. Contact City Hall at 903-675-5131 or visit City Hall at 508 E. Tyler St., Athens, TX, 75751.

Welcome to Malakoff

The community took on its Russian name after applying for a post office under the suggested name of Mitcham or Purdon in 1854. Both names had previously been used, so postal officials in Washington suggested the name Malakoff, after a Russian fortification where the battle of Malakoff took place during the Crimean War. Only a few towns in Texas have a Russian name.

The mining operation was given a jump when the Texas Power and Light Company decided to build a coal-powered electric generating station nearby. Between 1920 and 1940 the town's population grew rapidly. In October 1942, TP&L decided to convert its generator to natural gas. The Malakoff Fuel Company began laying off employees soon thereafter and closed its operations in 1945. Not until the Tarrant County Water Board began constructing nearby Cedar Creek Reservoir in the mid-1960s did it begin to grow again.

During the 1930s Malakoff gained prominence for the discovery of a large prehistoric carved head, known as the "Malakoff Man," found in the



excavation of a gravel pit in 1929. Lignite mining was revived in the area, this time to fuel the TP&L Forest Grove Plant, under construction two miles northeast of the business district.

With a population of over 2,324 people, Malakoff has seen immense growth over the years. It has great fast food restaurants, a candy shop, several gorgeous wedding and event venues, convenient shopping centers, the Red Waller library and a progressive school district.

Students at Malakoff ISD Elementary and Intermediate schools have both achieved national Blue-Ribbon School status with a high percentage of students performing at commended levels on the state's standardized tests. The high school has also been known for its many award-winning programs and college preparatory plan.

Learn more about living in Malakoff by visiting the website <http://cityofmalakoff.net>. Contact Malakoff City Hall at 903-489-0699 or visit City Hall at 109 Melton St., Malakoff, TX, 75148.



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Welcome to Seven Points

The unique convergence of State Highways 334 and 274, FM 85 and Pritchett, Kelly and Veterans lanes in Henderson County gives the growing city its appealing geographic name for the city, meeting as the point between seven highways and roads.

The city has also grown a reputation for fun, family gatherings featuring Whatz-Up Family Fun Park, a family entertainment park, Cedar Creek Brewery, and plenty of perfect swimming and fishing holes.

Other family-oriented centers include The Library at Cedar Creek Lake with a busy conference room, hosting book clubs, community organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, and many other groups. The beautiful, modern building has computer access with lots of peaceful nooks and crannies to relax the body and fire the imagination. The Library at Cedar Creek Lake is the perfect

summer hangout for families with children and teenagers with a wonderful summer program, storybook reading hour, crafts, performances from magicians, ventriloquist, movie nights and more!

Seven Points is the first lakefront city coming from Dallas/Fort Worth, giving it gateway status. The U.S. Census Bureau 2010 data figures the population of 1,455 for Seven Points.

The city is served by both the Kemp and Mabank school districts and has a growing list of retail stores and an eclectic gathering of secondhand shops grouped in two flea markets to attract the eager treasure hunter for that elusive one-of-a-kind object. A Brookshire's grocery, located near the downtown intersection, serves as a frequent gathering place for residents and visitors.

The city offers many clubs appealing to retirees including the Veterans of Foreign Wars



Post 4376 and the 49er's dance club. A variety of parks for RVs are also located in the area.

To learn about living in Tool, visit the website at www.sevenpointstexas.com. City Hall is located at 428 East Cedar Creek Parkway, Seven Points, TX, 75143 or contact the city by call at 903-432-4610.



Welcome to Tool

With a population of 2,240, according to 2010 census, Tool is the third largest city in Henderson County. It straddles SH 274 near the southern end and western shores of Cedar Creek Lake. Tool is a modest and economically stable bedroom community of well-dispersed citizens in numerous lakeside subdivisions. Each addition offers its own special views of the lake and quiet country neighborhoods, some with their own boat launches and the public Lone Star Marina.

Located in the far northwest corner of Henderson County, the Tool area was settled by planters during the mid-1850s. Named after George Tool, who owned and cultivated the land in the area from 1860 to 1920, Tool is proud of its Oran White Civic Center, where the city

council meets, and many community activities are held.

The business community, driven by the cotton industry, grew to 100 in 1940, but by 1957, had dwindled to just one store – the Cecil Young Grocery and Gas Station. The construction of Cedar Creek Lake in the early 1960s sent the city into the spotlight again and it celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2019.

The City of Tool has made many strides in recent years to continue to improve life for its citizens including a comprehensive plan to improve roads. A housing development for senior citizens, new park and improvements to city buildings are planned.



The city strongly supports the Tool Elementary School, part of Malakoff ISD, with volunteers and community involvement.

Besides boating and gardening, square dancing is a popular pastime at Promenade Hall on SH 274, offering lessons for beginners and social dances for experienced dancers several times a month.

To learn about living in Tool, visit the website at www.tooltexas.org. Stop by City of Tool at 701 N. Tool Dr., Tool, TX, 75143 or call at 903-432-3522.

Welcome to Kaufman

The City of Kaufman was founded as the "King's Fort" named after Dr. William P. King, who established the fort in 1840 as a protection for a group of surveyors. The community was later renamed as "Kingsborough" after five years of growth. In 1852, the community was finally renamed the city of Kaufman after it became the county seat. Kaufman County was named after U.S. Representative and noted Texas Patriot David S. Kaufman.

The majority of Kaufman residents are served by the Kaufman Independent School District. KISD is a public school district that has been recognized multiple times by the Texas Education Agency. Those looking to continue their education can enroll at Trinity Valley Community College. One of the most progressive two-year institutes in Texas offers a long list of education.

One hidden gem of Kaufman is the Kaufman Poor Farm Project which has been undergoing restoration

as a valuable tool to engage citizens in the farming heritage of the area. The farm is believed to be the only one left in Texas that is still owned by the County. The property includes a stock pond, original buildings, and old jailhouse. Demonstrations of time-honored crafts such as spinning yarn from wool attract visitors to the Poor Farm when the Historical Commission holds events there.

What makes Kaufman so unique is that it is one of the last four lane divided highways out of Dallas that it is not nearly built out. Kaufman is still surrounded by mini-ranches, working agricultural land and rural estate living. But this community of 7,000 employs over 4,000 people. Half of the residents commute into the City for their work and over half our daytime employment commutes in from the surrounding area.

Kaufman is a community that is surrounded by incredible growth yet still maintains a small town heritage.



To learn more about living in the City of Kaufman, visit the city website at <http://kaufmantx.org/>. Visit City Hall at 209 S. Washington St. Kaufman, TX 75142 or call at 972-932-2216.



Welcome to Payne Springs

Payne Springs was named for William K. Payne, a Confederate veteran and delegate of the Texas secession convention, who settled in the area in 1850, and served in Company E of the Thirteenth Texas Cavalry. It was founded along the original trails used by ox-drawn freight wagons hauling goods toward the Bazette and Porters Bluff crossing to the Trinity River.

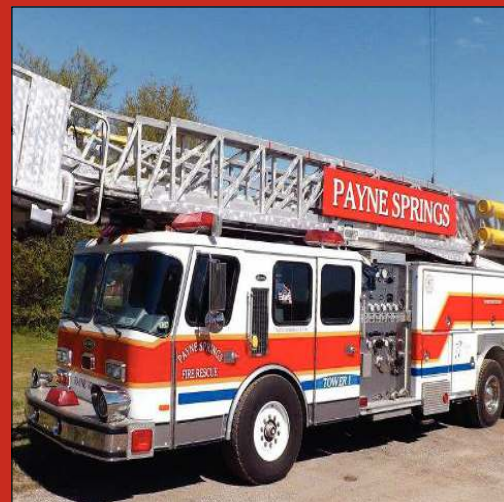
When the post office was established in 1890 the area was known as Payne's Spring. The name was changed in 1894 to Payne Springs, and the post office continued to operate until 1905.

It is a small community of 767 residents, according to 2010 Census data, with the amenities of local shopping and has the lowest sales tax rate of any location on the lake.

The Payne Springs community center is in the old school building that served the locals shortly after the turn of the century. The town has had an outstanding volunteer fire department and a new city hall was built on property adjacent to a large new fire station, along State Highway 198.

Payne Springs children are served by two school districts, with most students going to Eustace and some to Mabank.

To learn more about living in Payne Springs, visit the city website at <https://paynespringstx.com>. Visit City Hall at 19601 CR 2529, Payne Springs, TX, 75156 or call at 903-451-9229.





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Welcome to Trinidad



Attempting to get an authentic history of the Trinidad area has not been an easy task and takes much work, reading and chronologically lining up dates and names. But most agree the Cotton Belt Railroad and water had a lot to do with the making of the little town of Trinidad. It may not be the smallest town in Henderson County, but it most likely has the smallest school, complete with grades from kindergarten (or pre-school) to seniors.

In modern times, the discovery of lignite coal, made it the place for a power generation plant where the stacks from the coal-burning that once served the area are still visible. Later, it was converted to a steam-operated plant.

Known for several of its lake area developments, such as Key Ranch Estates, Trinidad continues to improve its services for residents.

The main school, which has kept up with modern times and is still intact with more improvements, has seen three and four generations graduate from it. Four building programs have added to the original brick building, all behind the first complex which once housed all 12 grades.

Trinidad's school system captures the flavor of yesteryear's community school and is within a short drive of nearby Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Tyler Junior College in Tyler and Navarro College in Corsicana. Trinidad's resident children are served by the Trinidad Independent School District.

Residents of Trinidad enjoy easy access to larger communities such as Athens, Tyler, Dallas, Corsicana, Hillsboro and Waco, as well as Cedar Creek Lake.

The tiny town is the gateway to the Lakes of East Texas. It is a place where one can sit on a porch and enjoy the natural beauty the area offers.

To learn more about living in Trinidad, visit the city website at <http://www.trinidadtexas.com/> or stop in City Hall at 212 Park St., Trinidad, Texas 75163. Contact the city at 903-778-2525.



Welcome to Kerens



The City of Kerens, at the junction of State Highways 31 and 309 and Farm Roads 667 and 3096, 14 miles east of Corsicana in eastern Navarro County, was established in 1881 when the St. Louis Southwestern Railway of Texas built through the county. It was named for Judge R. C. Kerens of St. Louis. The railroad bypassed the nearby settlement of Wadeville, and within a short time all of the businesses from Wadeville moved to the new town.

Kerens is known as the "Birthplace of Big Tex" — although that's not who he was when he started! But Big Tex started life in Kerens as the world's largest Santa Claus.

He was built and erected by local citizens and

stood in the middle of Colket Avenue, the Kerens main street during the years of 1948 and 1949.

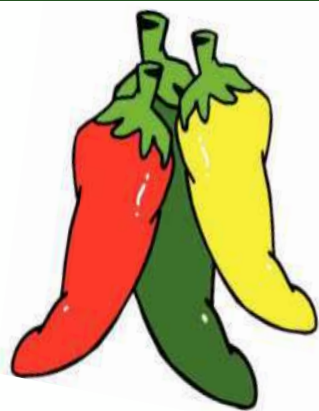
From there he warmly welcomed passersby during the holidays. After two years, however, he was adopted by the State Fair of Texas and became Big Tex.

Kerens is also known for the annual Cotton Harvest Festival which takes place the third Saturday in October and draws folks from near and far to join in the festivities. Each autumn the cotton crop was gathered and culminated months of work and worry for area farmers and their employees. Until recently, the cotton crop was the main source of income for Kerens folks. Fall meant cotton picking time; the three gins were running, people had a job and they had money

in their pockets. After a week of hard, hot work, Saturday was the day to come to town, see your friends, sample some special treats and have some fun.

The Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival relives the excitement of those long-ago Saturdays. Now that cotton is harvested mechanically, the red brick main street comes alive with vendors, quilt show, chili cook off, live entertainment, arts and crafts, food booths, children's games and rides. Old and young alike enjoy the highlight of the Fall season.

For more information about living in Kerens, visit the website at <https://ci.kerens.tx.us>. Visit City Hall at 200 S. Colket Avenue, Kerens, TX



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Ask a Mayor

City of Kemp - Laura Peace

What is your favorite thing about your city?

"Of course, the true foundation of our city is our caring, hardworking citizens. Kemp is the kind of small town where neighbors take care of each other. If you are asking about a physical feature in our city, I would say the one gem is our city park. But the one feature I love most is the Stevie Ray Vaughn mural behind our stage across the street from the park. We have a pretty cool downtown area for festivals and concerts and as soon as it is safe to gather again, will be hosting a concert. Of course, the annual Wildflower festival is held there every second Saturday in April."

What is your favorite activity to participate in, in your city?

"There are two. Annually, we have the Wildflower festival that has grown beyond our expectations. The variety of vendors, food and music makes for a very fun family experience. But the most unique thing our city is known for is our Homecoming every four years. Homecoming started back in the fifties, our parents and grandparents were a part of its creation and many wonderful traditions have survived and new ones added. Homecoming in Kemp is produced by the ex-students association and is a lot of hard work but for many is a truly magical time. Being a Kemp school graduate, myself as are my parents and grandparents makes the event extra special for me. And the highlight for me of the weekend is the parade. If you haven't seen it, I can't explain it. But it is a great time for everyone!"

What changes would you like to see in Kemp, if any?

"We would love to see more businesses downtown, including a small library with computer and wi-fi access. We are working on a project to improve the sidewalks around town for the safety of our citizens. I want to see any business that is going to bring sustainable growth and jobs to our community."

What are some unique things about your city?

"Kemp has one of the very few remaining calabooes in the state. The calaboose, an old jail downtown once held Bonnie Parker. It is on many Bonnie and Clyde trails that bring many people from out of state just to see it. I once saw a car from Michigan stopped by it



and I asked what brought them to our fair city. They were so excited to show me the listing of our little calaboose in their Bonnie and Clyde literature. It is a unique historical site that we cherish."

What do you feel your city represents?

"We are small town Texas, with the same challenges and celebrations as many others. But I believe our close-knit, caring community represents what most people want to see in a small town. At one time, most people who lived here worked here or farmed in the surrounding area. Now, most people commute to work elsewhere. We are like other small towns, working hard to hold on to our history while adjusting to the growth that we know is coming."

What do you feel most proud of that you have accomplished for the City of Kemp?

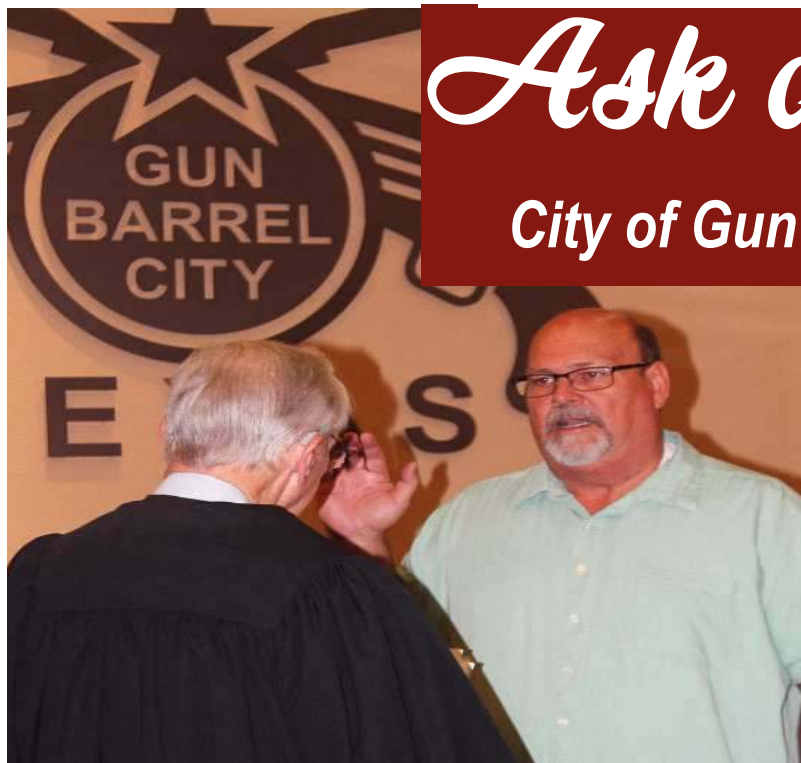
"I had three goals when I was first elected: First, secure a dependable, safe water supply

for the city. Through hard work by our city employees we have secured funding and begun the process of rebuilding our water plant. My second goal was to improve the roads, specifically Tolosa Road that runs by the cemetery. We were able to get that down in my first year. Since that time, we have repaved or rebuilt every road in town except for six streets which will be completed by the end of the month. My third goal was to bring an employer with 100 employees into the city. With the annexation of a local business, we also met that goal. But that is not enough. We are working hard to bring more businesses along with the jobs that support them to Kemp. When I was first elected, the city had no emergency or contingency fund, we now have one. We are very aware that many of our residents are on fixed income and work hard to provide services to our citizens that make a difference in their daily lives."

Lake Life

Ask a Mayor

City of Gun Barrel City - David Skains



What is your favorite thing about your city?

"There is so much to enjoy about our city it is hard to pin down. We moved here because the city had both a great country feel to it, but we could still enjoy the luxury of having a movie theater and several choices to shop and dine but held onto the country charm."

What is your favorite activity in Gun Barrel City?

"It would be a toss-up of taking my pal Chico for a walk in our park or taking the boat out on the lake with my wife, Sherri."

What changes would you like to see in your city, if any?

"We need to fully fund our Police and Fire departments and start over on our streets. We can no longer afford to do so just on sales tax."

What are some unique things about Gun Barrel City?

"From a Mayor perspective, it is the population swing between the summer weekends and the rest of the year. It is very difficult to explain our population to perspective businesses. All of our statistics swing season to season, not only the number of people, but the income levels, number per household and education levels. These are all numbers that site selectors look at before they will even consider opening a business in our city."

What do you feel your city represents?

"Lake living at its best. We have so much more to offer than just the lake, but it is the foundation of our city."

Do you have a favorite restaurant in Gun Barrel?

"I really like several different ones, depending on what I am in the mood for at the time. I can always find what I am in the mood for in Gun Barrel City."

Any hidden secrets in your city?

Hidden in plain site is one of the nicest parks I've been to in a long time, but I hear from many people that are unaware we have a park. We have a huge park that has everything from a basketball court, horseshoe pit area, skateboard park, amphitheater, walking trails, fishing pond, 18-hole disc golf course, tennis courts, softball fields, a large pavilion and more.

What accomplishment are you most proud of for the City of Gun Barrel?

Since I was first elected, we have hired a new City Manager, Police Chief, Code Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector, Street Superintendent and Director of the EDC (who we moved under the direction of the City Council). This is a great team of professionals who are all willing to make work for themselves to improve our city.

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Ask a City Manager

City of Mabank - Bryant Morris

What is your favorite thing about this city?

"My favorite thing about the City of Mabank would be the people."

What is your favorite activity in Mabank?

"My favorite activity to do in Mabank is Friday night football and community events."

What are some changes that you would like to see in the city, if any?

"The changes I would like to see would be continued progress on city facilities and infrastructure."

What are some unique things about Mabank?

"Uniqueness is found in our rich history and traditions."

What do you feel Mabank represents?

"Mabank represents small town values with family, neighbors and friends."

Do you have a favorite restaurant or place to eat in Mabank?

"My favorite place to eat would be the Dairy Queen. It's tradition!"

Are there any hidden secrets in your city that people may not know?

"Our hidden secrets would have to be our historic Market Street in downtown Mabank and our newest addition, The Truck Yard."

What do you feel most proud of that you have accomplished for the City of Mabank?

"I'm most proud of our progress while still maintaining our small-town values."



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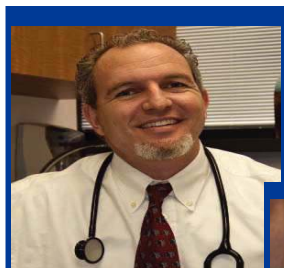


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Working from (Lake) Home: Dallasites Flock to Beacon Hill

By Shelby Skrhak

Chances are you know at least one person who's ready to ditch the crowded city and head out of town for greener and less congested pastures. Maybe it's you and turns out, you're in good company.

As we've previously reported, demand for rural property is at an all-time high as Metroplex denizens are looking north to Texoma, east to East Texas, and south to Cedar Creek Lake for second shelters. But for some people who now have the flexibility to work from home, second homes are becoming primary homes, especially at the luxury gated community of Beacon Hill.

Its unique location on the north-western tip of Cedar Creek Lake — only 45 minutes from downtown Dallas — makes Beacon Hill the perfect getaway for Metroplex families. And because it's located just off Highway 175 in Kaufman County, Beacon Hill is up to 30 minutes



sanctuary, there are plenty of reasons why people are flocking to the iconic blue beacon at Beacon Hill.

An Easy Drive

Cedric and Marquita Thomas, parents of two, have selected their lot and are getting ready to build. When they saw how easy the drive was, they were intrigued.

built our dream house yet, I know the commute from work back to Beacon Hill is going to be rewarding. Who wouldn't enjoy the serenity of being at the lake after a hard week of being in the office??"

One-of-a-Kind Home Office

Jim and Joyce Stempak were already designing their dream home when COVID-19 took hold. When their workplaces allowed their employees to work from home, the Stempaks went back to the drawing board and began designing additional home office space. With fiber optic telecom, they can enjoy the high-speed technology of an in-town office while out at the lake.

"We needed an office for Jim that created an ideal environment for remote Zoom meetings, sitting and standing desk configurations, while also allowing for small in-person team gatherings," Joyce says. "We chose to make the office view one of a kind by having a 180 view

With rolling hills, rock-strewn creeks, wooded areas, waterfalls, and a bird sanctuary, there are **plenty of reasons why people are flocking to the iconic blue beacon at Beacon Hill.**

closer than other Cedar Creek developments. As one future resident who's purchased their lot commented, "two quick lefts and you're on the highway."

With rolling hills, rock-strewn creeks, wooded areas, waterfalls, and a bird

"We simply jump on I-20 East to US-175 East and we're at Beacon Hill in 45 minutes," Cedric says. "Once we saw how gorgeous the community was, we were sold."

Says Marquita, "Although we haven't

of the lake and a second story that houses Jim's book collection, with a balcony for reading or taking calls outside while also taking in the view."

Shorter Commute

Doug and Debbie Rhodes already lavished the lake life at Pinnacle Club, but decided to build anew at Beacon Hill for a shorter commute to Doug's North Dallas office.

"The move to Beacon Hill has reduced that commute time from 1-1/2 hours to under one hour," Doug says. "It's all about location, location, location."

Quiet Residential Feel

Chuck and Sebrina Smith of Prosper were looking for a second home on a lake that didn't take hours driving on the road, and they found it in an interior lot at Beacon Hill.

"We particularly love the interior lots because it offers a quiet residential feel with the benefit of a stocked pond for my husband who loves to fish," Sebrina says. "From our lot, it's just a short walk or cart



ride to the dock and Marina Club. We're so excited about our home!"

Beacon Hill has a private marina with a boat concierge exclusively for existing and future residents who are in planning

or construction stages. The Beacon Hill Marina Club has state-of-the-art floating boat slips with stationary lifts in the roof and a luxury party room tucked within the protected area surrounded by their breakwater jetty.

Until December 15th, Beacon Hill is offering a lifetime charter membership including a boat slip at the Marina Club as a buyer incentive.

Find more information about Beacon Hill and to schedule a tour, call 903-498-LAKE (5253) or visit at LiveAtBeaconHill.com.

"The move to Beacon Hill has reduced that commute time from 1-1/2 hours to under one hour. It's all about location, location, location."

— Doug Rhodes



More than just a traffic stop...

Most people probably don't consider that when you see a police officer parked in the median on Highway 175 or any other roadway that they could be there to provide assistance, deter reckless driving or that they will help them with a flat tire, stranded vehicle or see you safely get back on the road. The men and women of the Kemp and Mabank Police Departments are out there for more than just a traffic stop. Both departments monitor portions of Highway 175 which has had its own share of fatality accidents this year. Several sections of Highway 175 have highway crossovers, which increases the chances of accidents. In Kemp's jurisdiction, their department is responsible for working accidents not Department of Public Safety officers or the Kaufman County Sheriff's Office. Mabank Police Department confirmed the same statement.

Mabank Chief of Police Keith Bradshaw stated, "We get the most calls for reckless drivers, road rage incidents and motorist assists." He continued, "We will do checks for welfare concerns, making sure stranded motorists have water, help on the way and that sort." Kemp Chief of Police Suzanne Martin stated in an October city council meeting, "It's not just about traffic enforcement, its motorist assist, clearing debris and being a visible deterrent," she said. "We work all of the accidents to include fatality here, so we would be the first to respond, the first to be able to get resources and potentially save a life," Martin said.

Next time you see one of these departments parked out on the roadways of 175, remember they are not always running radar for a

traffic stop. Sometimes they are there to be a positive presence for the citizens. They see you, the car behind you and they are watching out for both of you.



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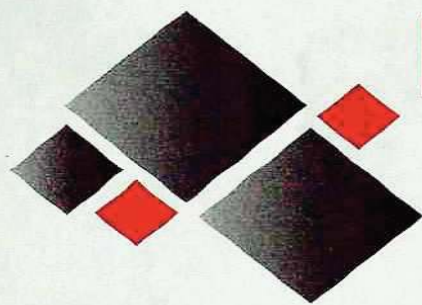
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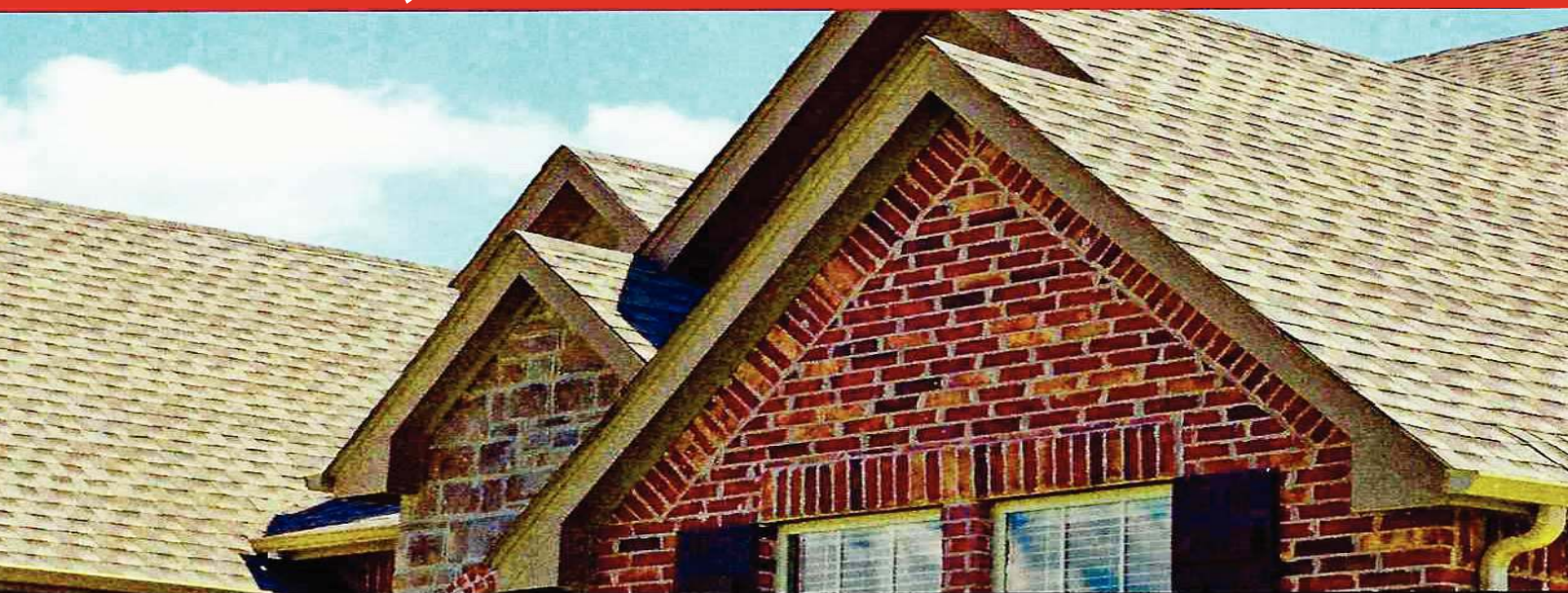




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The art of Lakeside Living

Beacon Hill is a 140-acre master planned community situated on the north end of Cedar Creek Lake in Kaufman County, only 40 minutes from Dallas. This community offers homebuyers waterfront homesites, gated entry, enchanting scenery, incredible amenities and professional residential VIP treatment. The spacious grounds are perfect for residents from every season of life who enjoy the finer things, from career-focused professionals to retirees who are ready to relax.

Beacon Hill boasts 4,000 feet of waterfront with a floating marina system that accommodates boats up to 28' and rests comfortably behind a fully lighted 900-foot breakwater jetty. The jetty provides safety and protection for boats during storms and rough waters. Additionally, the Marina Club has covered boat slips with immediate availability for home purchasers in addition to private boat launch. Getting ready for a weekend out on the boat? Beacon Hill has you covered with exclusive concierge services. Residents can fill out a request through an app or on the Beacon Hill website to receive boat fuel, food and beverage, boat cleaning services or a reservation at the Aqua Room.

Inside the community, Lake Ava Rosetta is a nine-acre private interior lake fully stocked with bass. The lake boasts a vivid waterfall and inviting waters, perfect for bringing along your fishing pole or your bathing suit. You, your family and your friends can enjoy canoeing, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming and barbecuing on the private lake waters and private beach of Lake Ava Rosetta. Accompanying Lake Ava Rosetta is a 3,000-foot trail offering serene areas for birdwatching, biking, picnicking or just a lazy stroll beneath the shady arbors of beautiful east Texas trees. Beacon Hill offers residents personalized Nature Trail Walks and Bird Watching Seminars with Chief Wildlife Biologist, Mark McDonald.

Homesites are ready to build with street and state-of-the-art utility infrastructure, steel seawalls already in place and was designed to provide all homeowners with a view whether they be on or off water lots. Beacon Hill has six preferred builders and provides buyers the option of submitting their own building plans for continuity.

"A lot of folks are designing a loft, so they are up high and that's going to be their home office since they are working from home. They are closing their offices in Dallas, moving here so they can look out at the lake and work. That is a trend we have noticed in home designs," says Director of Sales and Marketing Joe McGinley.

Beacon Hill has plans to begin construction on the grand infinity style pool and lazy river this fall with an anticipated completion date of 2021. For more information or to schedule a tour of Beacon Hill visit www.liveatbeaconhill.com.





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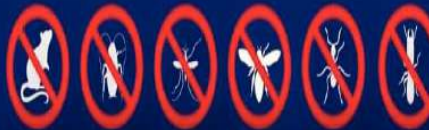
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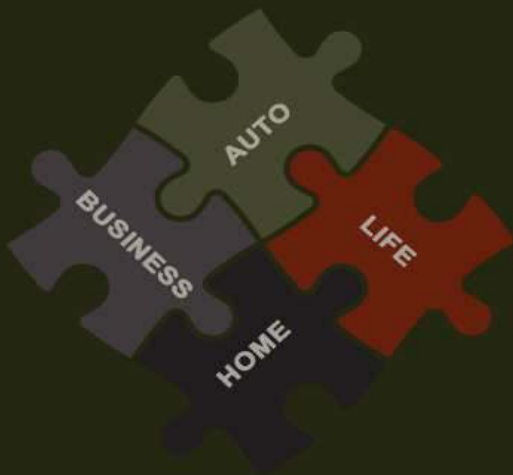
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Real Estate on the Lake

Cedar Creek Lake is booming, even more than your ordinary neighborhoods. With many people looking to escape city life, crowds and possible threats of COVID-19 buyers are eager to experience the opportunity to relax and recharge during these unprecedented times. The Cedar Creek Lake area has become a premier destination for retirees all because of its location, just far enough out of Dallas/Ft. Worth to allow relaxation and serenity but still close enough to visit with the grandkids. Subdivisions like The Bluffs and Beacon Hill can provide those escapes in a gated community without scrimping on amenities.

"The housing market has gone up considerably since 2019. The number of buyers is at an all-time high since 2013. The interest rates are highly motivating for people to quit renting and to purchase, especially for first time home buyers," said local Cedar Creek Lake Realtor Donna Hartsell.

The biggest challenges this year in the real estate market has been the overwhelming demand with such a short supply. Pricing on pre-owned homes are up as much as 10-20% over prior years. "When you compare 2019 to 2020 there

has been a shortage of pre-owned homes available this year which has increased the number of newbuilds, not only waterfront properties but off water residential as well," says Richard Avery of Avery Realty Group. "I have had people approached that did not have their homes listed for sale and they were made an offer too good to pass up," adds Hartsell. It's not just the market itself that has changed of course, it's the industry as a whole. "Realtors have always been able to work remotely but this year COVID-19 has taught us that we can operate even more remotely than we have in the past," says Avery.

Both Hartsell and Avery agree that we will see a strong real estate market for the fall and winter seasons even going into 2021. Shortage of properties available for sale and prices remaining at or above current levels are what we should expect moving forward through the season here in the Cedar Creek Lake area.

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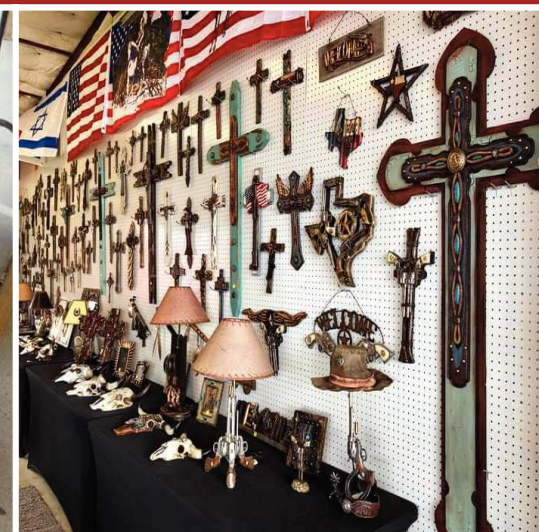
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TRAVEL TIMES

While you may be able to book that international flight, there is no guarantee the hotel, restaurant and landmarks near your destination will be open. "While we love nothing more than to book our clients on their vacations, we are proceeding with caution and advising with caution," said sEaSCAPE Travel and Events owner Renee Weaver.

To accommodate travel bugs, Weaver suggests "Staycations" and U.S. destinations. "We are currently offering these trips in about 100 cities around the lower 48 states and adding more as we go," says Weaver. This allows travelers to see what our beautiful country has to offer, things we might never take the time to visit and especially during economic hard times, it is a lower price point and logistics are easier. "For parents who have been at home with their kids since March, we are suggesting educational trips for parents looking to extend distance learning to outside the home and leisure trips for those needing a mental break," suggests Weaver.

If you are craving a cruise getaway, International lines, like Carnival, Royal and Norwegian are planning to set sail soon.

"While we cannot see what the next year will look like, we know that travel is a very meaningful part of modern life. History has shown us, travel is one of the most resilient industries, and as we look ahead to what travel will be like, one thing is certain... people love to travel, people need travel for business and mental health. Travel will be back and stronger than ever," said Weaver.

Discover Cedar Creek Lake 2020-2021 | 64



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Unique Ways to Support local during a Pandemic



Small businesses have faced unprecedented challenges in 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic wore on throughout the year, small businesses continued to confront the economic fallout wrought by the virus.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the number of active business owners in the United States plummeted by 22 percent in the early stages of the pandemic. Though many businesses managed to hang on as the pandemic continued through spring, summer and fall, such businesses need their communities to continue to help them stay afloat.

Consumers have not been immune to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment figures skyrocketed across the globe, and in April retail sales dropped by 14.3 percent from the previous month according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and Deloitte Insights. But consumer spending gradually increased in various industries over the summer of 2020. As consumers loosen their purse strings and begin spending more, they can embrace some unique ways to help small businesses in their community.

• Support struggling industries. Consumers may not typically give much thought to whether an industry is struggling before spending their money, but doing so can help small businesses that have had an especially difficult time during the pandemic. Data from the USCB and Deloitte Services indicates that retail sales in certain industries continued to lag even as other industries recovered over the summer months. Sales in the clothing and accessory and food services and drinking places industries were still down nearly 20 percent in July 2020. Supporting locally owned businesses in these industries can infuse some much-needed cash into their operations.

• Think twice before buying from big box online retailers. Amazon has become such a go-to consumer resource that many shoppers forget they can comparison shop right on Amazon.com. And some consumers may be unaware that they can support small business when shopping via Amazon. Data from the Association of American Publishers indicates that print revenues have grown by more than 1 percent in 2020 as many people in quarantine are choosing to spend that time with a good book. When shopping for books via a site like Amazon, purchase books from independent sellers, who are often small book stores in local communities across the country.

• Purchase gift cards. Pandemic-related restrictions have been lifted in many places, but that doesn't necessarily mean consumers are confident enough to visit their favorite stores and restaurants in person. Gift cards can be a great way to support local businesses even if you're still hesitant to patronize them in person.

Small businesses continue to face an uphill battle as they confront the economic fallout of the pandemic. Consumers can show their support for locally owned businesses in their communities in various ways.



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Gardner Electrical serves the Lake

Gardner Electric is a local licensed and insured family business that has roots here since 1987. "My Dad started the business, and I have been in electrical my whole life," said Owner Randall Gardner. When asked what set his business apart from other electrical businesses in the area, Gardner stated that it was his passion for the electrical trade. "We have one of the highest job shortages, but no one is aware and that the average electrician in Texas is 58 years old."

In 2009 Gardner Electric franchised with Mister Sparky and moved their focus to the Dallas-Fort Worth area, while continuing to service the Kaufman area through Mister Sparky. After lots of prayer, the Gardner family is excited to come back to their roots and start operating under the Gardner Electrical name to service the Kaufman County and surrounding areas.

Randall Gardner has been married to his wife Amy, a teacher in Kaufman for 27 years and they have three children. The Gardner's are passionate about customer service and want to provide the best professional service possible to their customers. Offering residential and commercial service, Gardner Electric has been serving the community for more than 30 years.

Gardner Electric is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. but does offer after hours. The best way to contact them is through email which is randall@gardner-electrical.com or phone at (214)908-5829 or (214)799-7721.



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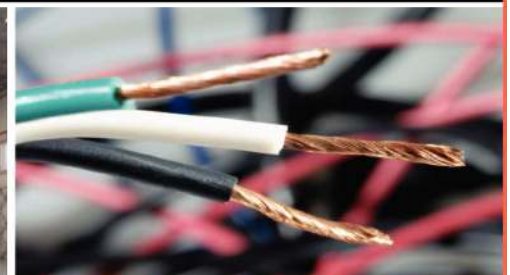
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Welcome to Henderson County



The county was established in 1846, the year after Texas became a state. The first town was Buffalo, which was laid out in 1847. In 1850, the county boundaries were set with some reduction from the previous size. Due to the reduction, the county needed a new county seat so Athens was chosen. During the election, Athens was chosen as the site for the "courthouse under the oaks"

The county is named in honor of the first Attorney General of the Republic of Texas and Secretary of the State of the republic, James Pinckney Henderson. He later served as the first Governor of Texas.

Some of the cities that reside in Henderson County include Athens, Eustace, Log Cabin, Gun Barrel City, Seven Points, Trinidad, Malakoff and more. As of 2010, the population of the county is 78,532. The county also consists of seven Registered Texas Historic Landmarks: the Henderson County Jail, Nat P. Coleman Home, The Faulk-Gauntt Building, Henderson County Courthouse, Meredith Campground and Tabernacle, Pioneer Oak, and the Bush W. Wofford Home - that was relocated to the East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society.

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Welcome to Kaufman County

The county was established in 1848. The county and the city were both named for David S. Kaufman, a diplomat and U.S. Representative from Texas. Its county seat is Kaufman, but the largest city in the state is Terrell. Some of the cities that reside in the county are Kaufman, Kermp, and parts of Seven Points and Mabank. As of 2010, the population is 103,350 in the county.

The county consists of over 15 Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, some include: Greenslade Drug Store, Church of Our Merciful Saviour, Huff-Park House in Kaufman.

In 1876, artist Charles Franklin Reaugh moved from Illinois to Kaufman County to draw inspirations for his paintings. Reaugh was named the "Dean of Texas Painters."

The courthouse is located at 100 W. Mulberry, Kaufman, TX, 75142. For more information, check the website www.kaufmancounty.net.



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Welcome to Navarro County

In 1846, Navarro County was formed from Robertson County. The county got its name from José Antonio Navarro, a Tejano leader in the Texas Revolution who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Navarro County comprises the Corsicana TX Micropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat and largest city is Corsicana. The birthplace of Big Tex, which is Kerens, is located in the county.

In 1860, after the election of Abraham Lincoln for the American presidency Navarro County protested by lowering the American flag and hoisting up the Texas Flag in its place. In early 1861, some 450 Navarro County men enlisted in the new Confederate States Army. Two of the enlistees became outstanding officers and the county commissioners appropriated funds for weapons, ammunition and to help support the soldiers' families. The Navarro Rifles constituted an 87-man Confederate infantry unit, formed in Corsicana in July 1861 and founded by Jose Antonio Navarro. Clinton Winkler, a founder of Navarro County and for whom Winkler County in far West Texas is named after, served as the initial captain. In September 1861, the unit reached Richmond, Virginia and was placed in the Texas Brigade.



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Mabank ISD – Panthers

Mabank Independent School District will provide a collaborative learning environment for educators and students leading to the understanding that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves. We will produce within each student the development of a creative mind, healthy body and a servant's heart enabling each Mabank graduate to contribute to our global society in positive and significant ways.

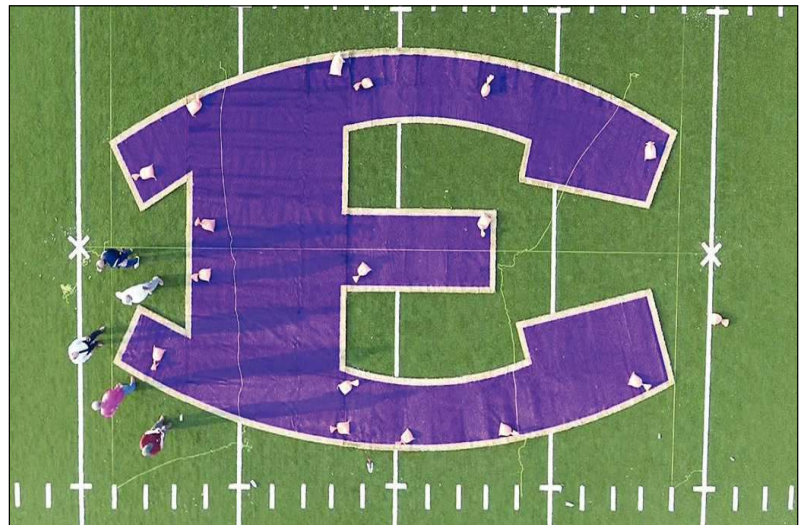
Central Elementary,
903-880-1380
Lakeview Elementary,
903-880-1360
Southside Elementary,
903-880-1340
Mabank Intermediate School,
903-880-1640
Mabank Junior High,
903-880-1670
Mabank High School,
903-880-1600



Eustace ISD – Bulldogs

Eustace Independent School District exists to provide a challenging and comprehensive educational program in a way that: Unites family and community, ensures a safe environment, fosters maximum academic achievement for the individual, and offers a variety of opportunity for development so that students are productive, lifelong learners equipped to succeed in a competitive society.

Eustace Primary,
903-425-5191
Eustace Intermediate,
903-425-5181
Eustace Middle School,
903-425-5171
Eustace High School
903-425-5161



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Kemp ISD – Yellowjackets

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Athens ISD – Hornets

The purpose of the Athens Independent School District is to graduate every student on time, college and work ready.

Bel Air Elementary,

903-677-6980

Central Athens

Elementary,

903-677-6960

S Athens Elementary School,

903-677-6970

Athens Middle School,

903-677-3030

Athens High School,

903-677-6920



Malakoff ISD – Tigers

Great things are happening at Malakoff Independent School District! Our promise to this community is that we will seek excellence in everything we do!

Malakoff Elementary

School,

903-489-0313

Tool Elementary School,

903-432-2637

Malakoff Middle School,

903-489-0264

Malakoff High School,

903-489-1527



Trinidad ISD – Trojans

We strive to help develop the complete child (physically, academically, socially, morally, and ethically). The district implores all stakeholders (staff, students, parents, businesses, and community members) to be involved in planning, and implementing programs to ensure its continued success. There is a place for you.

903-778-2673.

Cross Roads ISD – Bobcats

Our mission is to emphasize the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of each child and strive to instill high standards for academic integrity. We are committed to excellence!

903-489-2001

Kerens ISD – Bobcats

In partnership with parents and community, we strive to teach rigorous and engaging curriculum, in a safe and orderly environment, preparing our students for future success.

903-396-7941

Secondary

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Purtis Creek State Park offers it all

Purtis Creek State Park in Eustace is one of many state parks across Texas. East Texans have become accustomed to its great scenery and seclusion from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding cities.

Purtis Creek offers many activities for visitors and families alike. With the surrounding 355-acre Cedar Creek Lake, the park offers a great bass fishing destination for anglers of all ages. Catch-and-release largemouth bass are one of the big draws to the lake, as well as catfish and crappie that anglers can take home.

Fishing piers, cleaning stations and boat ramps are some of the features surrounding the lake. If you're not camping, overnight fishing cost just \$2/ person and doesn't require a fishing license.

If you're not fishing from a pier or from the comfort of your boat, you can bring your own boat to drive around the lake, or even rent a kayak or paddleboard to enjoy the water.

For families and those interested in camping out at Purts Creek, you can choose from 59 campsites that offer water and electricity, five walk-in tent sites or 13 primitive hike-in sites.

For those interested in getting in some exercise or taking part in some physical activity outdoors, visitors can tackle the 4.1-mile Wolfpen Hike and Bike Trail. The park also features a shorter 1.7-mile Beaver Slide Nature Path that will take bikers and hikers along the beautiful lakeshore. There is also a shorter, easier Solar Trail that goes along the dam.

If you forget a couple things when visiting the lake, the park offers a shop to rent boats, as well as supplies, outdoor equipment, bait, gifts and ice for either drinks, food or even fish to take home.

Rangers programs are also offered by the park that provide guided hikes, classes for paddling basics, nature programs and more.

Visitors looking for more information can be found on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's website tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/purtis-creek or on the park's Facebook page facebook.com/Purtis-Creek-State-Park-Texas-Parks-and-Wildlife.



Things to do:

- Fish
- Boat on the lake
- Rent a kayak or paddleboard
- Camp
- Hike and bike trails
- Shop our gift shop
- Volunteer





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Tri County Library continues to grow!

Tri County Library serves the residents of Henderson, Van Zandt and Kaufman counties with a variety of services.

Located in downtown Mabank directly on Market Street, Tri County Library serves as a meeting area to various clubs and organizations such as Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), Delta Kappa Gamma, Root Seekers Genealogical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT), Baby Play, Lions Club and Quilting Club. The library also serves as a meeting ground for two book clubs, garden clubs and local homeschool groups.

Tri County Library has used its time during the pandemic wisely, deciding to offer more virtual services for area students, making the library more interactive, updating the floors in the genealogy department and redoing the children's area with a jungle theme. The newly remodeled community room is also available to rent for special events or group meetings.

Among the basic, printing, copying, scanning and faxing services available, Tri County Library also offers four public computers with printing capabilities, for public use. The library offers one computer with scanning capabilities and a 3-D printer. Free wireless access is also available for mobile devices and iPads are available for rental. One on one reference and proctoring appointments are also available by request.

Library card holders can use their cards to access thousands of E-books and audio books. Card holders can also browse the card catalog online. Tri County Library is also offering a virtual story hour and cooking class as well as hosting virtual learning opportunities for children. During winter break when children are out of school, the library plans to offer crafts that children can pick up from the library and complete at home.

Tri County also keeps up on new releases, for both adult and children readers. Visit the library on Fridays, and you are offered popcorn. What's better than that, a newly released book and popcorn?

Tri County Library is open Tuesday - Thursday 9 pm - 5 pm, Friday 9 pm – 3pm and Saturdays hours are by appointment only. They are closed Sunday and Monday. The library is located at 132 E. Market Street, Mabank, 75147. You can reach the Tri County Library at (903) 887-9622.





Hunting is a thrilling hobby for millions of people across the globe. In fact, non-hunters may be wide-eyed to learn just how popular the sport is.

A recent report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that 11.5 million Americans participated in hunting in 2016. Many hunters spend a lifetime hunting without ever suffering an accident or injury. However, hunting can be a dangerous sport, which only highlights the need for hunters to emphasize safety at all times.

Firearms

It's essential that hunters exercise caution with their firearms at all times. Firearms should always be considered loaded, even when they're not. This approach should apply while hunting and while at home. Maintaining such a mindset can help hunters avoid dangerous, potentially deadly mishaps should they mistakenly believe a firearm is not loaded when it is.

When hunting, only point the firearm when you plan to shoot, making sure to keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot. Only shoot when a target is clearly identifiable and you're certain about what is beyond the target.

Weather and gear

The right attire can protect hunters from Mother Nature and their fellow sportsmen. Weather can be unpredictable during hunting season. Hunters should always check the forecast before leaving home, making sure to dress for the weather. Even if the forecast calls for agreeable weather, hunters could be at the mercy of Mother Nature should the weather unexpectedly change. As a result, it behooves hunters to prepare for cold, wet weather, which could put them at risk of hypothermia if they are not dressed properly. A water-repelling outer layer can protect hunters in wet conditions, and it's also ideal to dress in layers.

To lower your risk of injuries suffered at the hands of other hunters, avoid colors and patterns that blend into natural surroundings. Such colors can include earth tones, blacks and browns. Animal patterns may confuse fellow hunters into thinking you're an animal, so avoid these as well.

Staying in touch

Hunters, especially those who plan to go it alone, should always let others know of their plans before going on a hunting excursion. Sharing plans can help rescue teams find you should you suffer an injury on your trip and prove incapable of returning to your campsite or vehicle without assistance. Let others know when you plan to return and indicate your plans to call or text them when you arrive back at your vehicle. This way they can promptly alert the appropriate authorities should you not contact them on time. Millions of people across the globe enjoy the sport of hunting. Hunting trips are even more enjoyable when hunters prioritize safety.



Parks & Activities



Gun Barrel City Municipal Park

Gun Barrel City Park and Pavilion isn't just a great place to host a party or small event it's also a great place to spend the day and have fun. The park has a skate park, small fishing pond with pier, playgrounds for kids, lighted baseball field, basketball court, soccer field, horseshoe pit, tennis courts, a jogging/walking trail, and disc golf.

Each July, the Gun Barrel City Park is the place to be when JulyFest offers area residents the opportunity to listen to great music and ride exciting carnival rides.

The park is located at 301 Municipal Dr., Gun Barrel City, TX, 75156.



Tom Finley Park

The park consists of two chamber islands with boat ramps, plenty of trailer parking, a wheel chair accessible fishing pier, swimming area, and huge pavilion. The park doesn't allow camping, pets, or glass containers.

Tom Finley Park offers many events year round from fishing tournaments to Parrot Head Club Poker Run, July 4th celebration, and other community activities. With ongoing process of the new Hwy 334 and with new restaurants opening on Hwy 334, Tom Finley Park is a great place to watch the continuous growth of Gun Barrel City.

The park is located at TX-334, Gun Barrel City, TX, 75156.

Discover Cedar Creek Lake 2020-2021 | 80

Big Chief Park

Even though it is called Big Chief Park, it is more a great fishing area than park. Big Chief is a great boat launch for anyone to spend the day on the lake fishing and relaxing. The park also offers a small picnic area.

The park is located at 141 Big Chief Dr., Gun Barrel City, TX, 75156.



Purtis Creek State Park

Purtis Creek State Park, located just three miles north of Eustace, is the perfect place to hike, bike, camp, geocache, picnic or paddle a kayak or canoe down Purtis Creek State Park Lake. The lake features champion-size black bass that brings in visitors from all over the state. Even though the lake is strictly catch-and-release on bass, fishermen do have the option to take home crappie and catfish. Fishermen have many places to look for the best spots to fish with there being multiple fishing piers, fish cleaning stations and boat ramps.

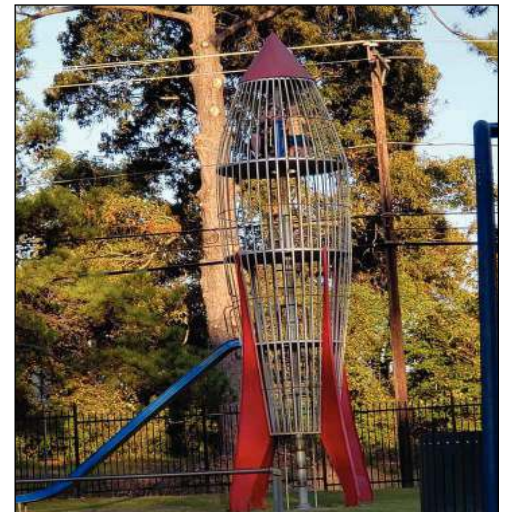
The park also offers rods, reels and tackleboxes for use during visits. The park also offers 59 campsites with water and electricity, five walk-in tent sites, or 13 primitive hike-in sites. The park is located at 14225 FM 316, Eustace, TX, 75124. The park is open daily, but office hours are only Saturday through Thursday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and Friday at 8:15 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.

For more information on Purtis Creek State Park call 903- 425-2332 or visit <https://tpwd.texas.gov/Eustace>, TX, 75124.

Jake's Skate Park & Malakoff City Park

The unique skate park offers the younger residents of Malakoff a great way to learn skate tricks and ride around. The 4,800 sq. ft. park was created in the memory of Tom and Estella Lyon's son, Jacob Ronald Ward. Before his passing, Jacob was an avid skater so his parents, along with the help of donations from local businesses and individuals, decided to build the park. The skate park is also in the center of the city park. The city park offers playground sets, slides, and swings.

The park is located on Highway 198, Malakoff, TX, 75751



Kiwanis Park

The park is Athens' dedicated children's park with slides, playground equipment and the famous rocket climbing jungle gym. During the summer, the park offers a splash pad area for children to keep cool.

Kiwanis Park is located 406 South Prairieville St., Athens, TX, 75751.

O.D. Baggett Park

O.D. Baggett Park consists of two basketball courts, baseball field, a pavilion and playground equipment. The park is named in memory of Judge Baggett, a member of the Athens community, who worked in governmental capacities during his time including the Athens City Council, Justice of the Peace and as a mentor.

The park is located at 1015 North Hamlett Street, Athens, TX, 75751.



Cain Park

Cain Park boasts 85 acres of recreational facilities, sports fields and traditional park and open spaces. The park also offers softball fields, fishing pond, multiple walking trails, and a disc golf course. Each summer the park is home to an annual "Ready, Set, Glow" 5K Race, where runners dress in glow in the dark gear and run around the park at dusk.

The park is constructed of three "phases" with each phase located only a few blocks away from each other. Phase 1 of the Cain Center is located at 920 Robbins Road, phase 2 is located at 940 Robbins Road, and phase 3 of Cain Park is located at 960 Robbins Road.

East Texas Arboretum and Botanical Society

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The Arboretum is located at 1601 Patterson Rd. Athens, TX 75751.

Coleman Park

Coleman Park is the primary athletic complex in Athens with huge baseball and soccer fields. In 2016, the park's concession stand and facilities were upgraded due to the demand of the many baseball and soccer associations that use the park for practice and games. The park also offers a small playground and an outdoor pavilion for park patrons to use.

The park is located at 1950 East College Street.

George Watts Memorial Park

The park offers residents a place to relax and enjoy a day in Mabank. George Watts Memorial Park offers a soccer field, covered picnic area, playground, grills and benches.

The park is located at 405 West Walnut St., Mabank, TX, 75147.



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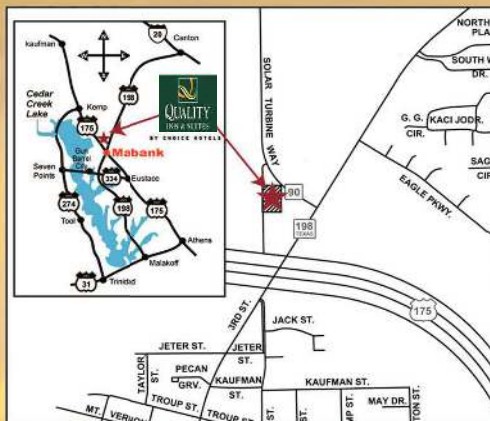


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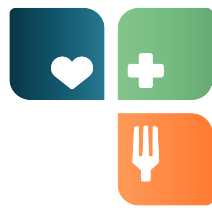
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