

RESACA CITY NEWS

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Monthly Online Newsletter of the City of San Benito

MARCH 2014

Welcome to San Benito, the Resaca City

We welcome you to San Benito, a corner of paradise in the tip of southern-most Texas and the middle of Southern Rio Grande Valley. We extend warm greetings and rich cultural heritage in a setting where nature is most impressive and our greatest asset: our friendly, civic-minded residents, committed to quality growth and development.

We are called Resaca City after the picturesque waterway that ambles through this historic community. Whether you come to fish, hunt, bird watch, swim or spend a tranquil winter in South Texas, we know you are going to enjoy San Benito.

San Benito is a great place to live with affordable homes, a low cost of living, beautiful surroundings and friendly people.

Two charming cultures merge in San Benito, reflected in the arts and entertainment of the border area.

Visit the Museums of San Benito, featuring the Freddy Fender Museum, the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame & Museum and the San Benito History Museum.

The Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center preserves and promotes our rich cultural heritage through programs in visual arts, music, theater dance and literature. The Conjunto Music Festival features two full days of accordion-driven music that draws young and the young at heart to the dance floor.

San Benito also offers economic development opportunities along the Texas-Mexico border.

Prospective developers and manufacturers will find a strong labor pool, an abundance of prime commercial and industrial sites with tax and financial incentives and, Texas imposes no state income tax. Living in the border region, global economy has always been in the forefront and the City's proximity to Mexico and the International Free Trade Bridge at Los Indios make San Benito a desirable location for manufacturing, distribution and retail opportunities. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the maquiladora program have strengthened the local border economy.

For more information, please give us a call at 956-361-3804 Ext. 301.



Stookey Park Neighborhood Meeting called

A Neighborhood Meeting to alert citizens to the potential hazards surrounding an infrastructure construction site on Stookey Road is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 6 p.m.

The City of San Benito invites all interested citizens, and especially those living in and around Stookey Park, to the meeting to learn about the project and how to take measures while in the area. The meeting will be conducted in the parking lot adjacent the Boys and Girls Club building.

City officials, including project engineer Victor Gutierrez, will be on hand to provide information and answer questions related to the project and safety issues.

Meanwhile, fencing and security measures have been implemented around the project site.

Wastewater infrastructure improvements at the new Lasby Lift Station began last week and are expected to continue through a portion of the summer months. This new lift station is being built at the southeast corner of North Stookey Road & Cornejo Drive and will serve a new 152-unit apartment complex presently under construction at the southeast corner of North Stookey Road and U.S. Business Highway 77. It will also serve the San Benito Housing Authority, Stookey Park and the residents in the immediate surrounding area.

Safety is the primary concern in this project and the City urges caution to those traveling in that vicinity. A deep wet well structure, approximately 20 feet deep, will be constructed. Along the west side of Stookey Road, 13' to 16' deep sewers will be constructed in front of local residences. The deep sewers will cross North Stookey Road at two locations and Lasby Park Road at one location. An interceptor wastewater line will also be constructed across two baseball fields to capture the wastewater from the old Lasby lift station. Once the new lift station and new wastewater lines are placed in service, the old Lasby lift station will be removed.

"North Stookey Road is heavily traveled by local citizens and also serves as a drop-off point for bus students," said Assistant City Manager Hector Jalomo.

"Everyone should remain cautious and citizens are urged to seek alternate routes during construction, except local residents. The construction is expected to last a few months. The general contractor is making arrangements to secure the project site and to place a night watchman to facilitate safety and security. The City is asking for everyone's cooperation in this important infrastructure project. Once completed, this project will improve opportunities to develop nearby vacant properties that presently do not have wastewater service," Jalomo said. For more information, please call the City at 361-3800.



Caution urged
Construction at the Lasby Lift Station is underway, with the City urging citizens and motorists in the vicinity to use caution when in the area.

More outdoor recreational events eyed for City

There is a growing body of research demonstrating that the social and economic benefits of participating in youth sports is surprisingly large and overwhelmingly positive.

All things being equal, the experts say, if a child plays sports he/she will earn more money, stay in school longer, and be more engaged in civic life. Be it discipline, routine, desire, or satisfaction, youth sports help children become successful adults.

With that philosophy in mind, we at the City are determined to increase the quality of outdoor recreational programs for our children and families to enjoy. The programs will be supervised by our Parks and Recreation Department and ultimately offer organized events such as baseball, softball and football on a year 'round basis to instill the techniques and skills of those activities. The idea is to have youth develop the proper fundamentals needed as they enter elementary, middle and high school athletics.

Through what has become a collaborative effort with some good community-minded volunteers, the City's Parks Department has expanded its vision to now serve as the Parks and Recreation Department. We currently are accepting registration through March 1 for the National Baseball League for youth through our Parks and Rec Department. For more detailed information, please call 793-8143. This program is being conducted by local volunteers who are a part of the national PONY League organization. As our local volunteers addressed their concerns, our City leaders responded with a directive to help make the program grow so our children can benefit from its implementation.

Also, plans are now in the works to establish an NFL Flag Football program here. Again, the suggestion to expand activities for our youth came from within our community. As a result, the proposal has advanced to the stage where we will be able to implement a service agreement so it can become a reality in the near future.

Enrollment in the football program will be for children ages 4-14 years. Its benefits are unique and designed to enhance a youth's perspective on group sports' participation. Our goal is to bring in additional coaching to provide leadership and skills designed to create a positive character-building experience for our youth.

We will be sure to share more information on the NFL Flag Football program as details are finalized.

Another aspect of the recreation component of our Parks Department will be the inclusion of adult programs.

With an increased awareness of the need for more activity in our lifestyles, and the positive effects of sport and physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle, we have had more requests for adult recreation opportunities. We plan to promote the formation of softball tournaments on the co-ed level, among church groups, winter visitors, civic groups and all aspects of our community. The Parks and Recreation Department is improving our playing fields and facilities and we are looking to increase the availability of fields for use as the programs grow.

The positive, direct effects of engaging in regular physical activity are recognized in the prevention of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular ailments, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity, depression and osteoporosis.

The City has joined into a partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to administer a grant of \$190,922 for a community-wide campaign, *Tu Salud Si Cuenta*. Using those grant funds, we have employed a community outreach worker, along with supplies, equipment, and plans for greater opportunities for physical activities and healthier eating and living. The worker presents information to local organizations and schools on such topics as on better eating habits and the benefits of staying active.

To entice citizens to participate in healthier habits, the campaign has initiated a Walking Club along the Heavin Resaca Trail to get our community up and moving. Aware that activity can help reduce effects of diabetes, we have also become active supporters of the 5K Diabetes Walk/Run in April. For more information, you can call Lety at 361-3804 Ext. 305.

We want 2014 to be a healthier year for our community, and look forward to implementing more recreational opportunities for everyone in the near future.



MANUEL LARA
City Manager