

The BRIDGE BUILDER

Volume 11, Issue 7

April 15, 2005

Things to Do in San Augustine In April/May

- Wolfpack Baseball varsity games at 6:30 p.m., J.V. at 4 p.m. At home vs. Timps on April 22, at Hemphill April 26.
- Sew Whats' Soup and Sandwich Lunch April 22, 11 to 1:30 at FU Meth. Church
- Chamber of Commerce membership meets at noon April 19, May 17 at the Log Cabin.
- Lunch Monday thru Friday at reduced price for age 60 and over at the Senior Nutrition Center on Bolivar St., 11:30 a.m. Sign up to ensure you are included. Lunch prepared by Brookshire's.
- City Council meets April 19, May 17 at 5. SA ISD Board meets April 21, May 19 at 7. County Court meets at 9 a. m. on April 25, May 9, 23.
- Join a service club. Kiwanis meets Tues. at noon at Mary Kay's Country Diner except third Tuesday meeting with Chamber of Commerce. Rotary meets Wed. at noon at First UMC; Lions Club meets Thurs. at noon at the Museum/Theater. Broaddus Lions meet 2nd and 4th Thurs. at 6 p.m. at Broaddus City Hall.
- SA Library Story Hour every Wed. at 10 a.m. for pre-schoolers and parents.
- East Texas Jamboree at Coy's Catfish Junction in Broaddus every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sat. matinee at 1 p.m.
- Duplicate Bridge Club welcomes guests at 12:30 on Mondays at the Log Cabin.
- DRT meets April 19, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cullen House.
- John Gillespie Chapter 257, OES meets April 26, May 24 at the Masonic Lodge. Dinner at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- DAR meets Feb. 1 at noon at TX State Bank Community Room.

Welcome New Residents

Roxanne and Scott Neal
Julius Hunt
Norma Jean Stapleton

Welcome New Businesses

Cajun Bar-B-Que
North US. 96
Texas Bail Bonds
El Camino Shopping Center

A Few Words From the Mayor

I am happy to report that our area-wide health fair held Saturday, March 12 at the CAB of the First Baptist Church was a real success. We screened 228 citizens and found many with health issues about which they were unaware such as diabetes, high cholesterol and above normal blood pressure. There were over 80 doctors, nurses, dentists and other health care professionals present to help our community and many other volunteers. We will have an in-depth report in the next issue of *The Bridge Builder*.

My thanks to all who helped make it a success. A special thanks to Councilman Mike Malone, Rev. David Burcham, Val and Lucy Sharp, Verline Stewart, Shirley Anderson, Alice Smith and Billy Ponder. A Great Big Thanks to Dr. Charles K. Layton, DDS and ETHAN folks from Jasper. The support of our food suppliers, Chuck Pool and Brookshire Brothers, Twin Lakes and Colonial Pines Nursing Homes was greatly appreciated, as were the delicious cookies from the cafeteria staff at San Augustine High School! Thanks also to the Rotary Club for a \$100 donation.

It was a very worthwhile affair. We will be holding another health fair in the fall of 2006.

We are gearing up for the next two years, since neither I nor our three council members who were up for reelection had any opposition. We will be looking for additional volunteers willing to join forces with those already serving on Mayor Patrick H. Fussell our various advisory boards. Doniece Smith is in need of people on her very effective Beautification Board. Nelda Hearnberger can use extra help in producing *The Bridge Builder* and distributing it. Our Medical Advisory Board can use additional medical professionals. There is ample opportunity for anyone who wants to help improve our lives and our city. Call me at 936-275-3491 and I will put you to work!

We are now in the formulation stage of establishing an association of cities and organizations along the El Camino de los Tejas Historical Trail from Natchitoches, Louisiana to Crockett, Texas along Highway 21, to promote the eastern end of this famous old trail. It can and will bring many dollars in tourism for our city if we work and take full advantage of the opportunity. We have much to offer the tourist looking for history. For too long we have not used what we have to help ourselves. This is a real

“spark plug” for our future. We can and will compete with other historical cities like Jefferson!



I think Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's trip to China Grove in our county and her recent much publicized ride down the El Camino Real was a big boost. I hope and pray that she will now

go back to Washington to work on funding for the Department of Interior Park Service to establish interpretive centers along the route. I would like to see San Augustine as the location of the first welcome center into Texas along the El Camino Real.

We are open to your suggestions and help to make our community better in every way. Please stop by my office or call me anytime for a chat.

Keep up your good spirits and may God bless you today and everyday.

Patrick H. (Pat) Fussell
Your Mayor

**VOTE
MAY 7
SCHOOL
BOARD
POSITION 1**

Spotlight On

City Policeman Gary Fountain

By Carole King

Second in a series about our local city police officers. Police Chief Ken Delacerda was the subject in February; April's focus is Gary Fountain.

Gary Fountain was born in Buena, Texas. His family lived in Lufkin, but had a farm in San Augustine and came here on weekends to take care of the farm. When Gary was seven, he and his family made San Augustine their home. Gary has lived here for 33 years.



Gary Fountain

Gary married his wife Tammy nineteen years ago. She was also originally from Lufkin and moved to San Augustine when she was young. Tammy is the Environmental Officer

for San Augustine County, a job she has performed for the last three years. She is also a graduate of the Police Academy.

The Fountains own a farm in San Augustine County where they reside with their three children, Travis, 16; Amber, 14 and Hunter, 11. The children attend Chireno ISD where Amber has been a cheerleader for several years, and all three children are active in the 4-H Club.

Gary began course-work at the Police Academy in 1991 to earn certification as a reserve officer. He continued to work at his log-cutting job while he attended school in the summers of 1992 and 1993. In the summer of '92 he took a reserve officer test and then became a reserve officer for the San Augustine County Sheriff's Department where he worked

for six months. He next went to work as a reserve officer for the City of San Augustine Police Department for a year.

In 1994, Gary was hired by then Chief of Police John Cartwright as a policeman for the city. He has worked for the police department for a total of 12 years, including his reserve service. He has achieved the rank of lieutenant. He said that he has taken almost every course the DPS Academy has to offer. He is certified as a field training officer, TCLEOSE instructor, intoxicalizer operator and fire-arms instructor.

Gary and his family are members of Shiloh Baptist Church. He also is a member of the San Augustine County Junior Livestock Committee.

His parents are Grady "Jerry" and Ruth Fountain of San Augustine.

Spans in the Bridge...

- The second El Camino Trace Bike Rally and Trail Walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday April 30 at the Courthouse Square. According to Coordinator Louann Mills, preregistration is closed, but riders and walkers will be able to register the morning of the ride/walk. Much planning has been involved to provide safety, signing, publicity, refreshments, manned rest stops, and other provisions for the enjoyment of the participants. Mills said the Bike Shop of Nacogdoches will be on hand to help bikers with any needed equipment repairs. Several local organizations are helping with donations of money, food or services for riders. Bike routes will include 11, 26, 37, 50 and 80 mile rides. Walkers may choose to walk 3 or 6 miles. Food on the square will be cooked by the Go Texans at \$5 per meal beginning at 11 a.m.
- On April 30, in connection with the El Camino Trace Bike Rally and Trail Walk, the Chamber of Commerce will launch the promotion of the Authentic Ranch Rodeo and Queen's Contest scheduled for August 12 and 13. Look for Championship bulls and real cowboys at the August rodeo. The rodeo is co-sponsored by the Go Texans, who will be cooking their popular hamburgers on the square during the Bike Rally and Trail Walk.
- Good luck to SAISD students in grades 3-12 who will participate in TAKS testing the week of April 18-22!
- Thanks to State Rep. Roy Blake and Senator Todd Staples for supporting the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail development. Both legislators announced that they are proposing legislation to provide funds for the Texas Historical Commission to work with the National Park Service to develop and administrate the new national trail. The passage of that legislation will be a big boon for the trail and local tourism.
- Congratulations to the City of San Augustine for being named one of the Ten Hardest Working Cities in Texas by the Texas Yes! Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture headed by Commissioner Susan Combs. Mayor Patrick Fussell gave credit to the work of the Beautification Board, the Public Relations/Tourism Board, the local Garden Club and the Courthouse restoration project, the Chamber of Commerce and others for helping the city earn the award.
- San Augustine is indeed beautiful in the spring! Take time to get out of your regular routine and off your regular route to see some of the spectacular beauty all over the city and county.
- At the City Health Fair in March, 57% of those screened had elevated blood pressure, 25% had elevated cholesterol, 11% had elevated blood sugar; and 75% having breast exams were recommended for mammograms. Persons attending the fair totaled 244, ages 2 to 89. Not all persons were screened for every condition. Next fair will be fall, 2006.

Community Spirit Sparkles!

**By Samye Johnson, Executive Director
San Augustine Co. Chamber of
Commerce**

Saturday, March 5 dawned clear and beautiful. It was obvious from first light that we had been given a perfect day to “sparkle up” Mission Dolores and our beautiful little RV park!

Around 7:30 a.m., pick-ups loaded with lawn mowers, weed-eaters, chain saws, and miscellaneous yard tools began gathering in the main parking lot of Mission Dolores. Tousle-haired workers mumbled quiet hellos and greetings as sleepy-eyed, but determined volunteers began arriving.

At first, volunteers politely asked team leaders about job assignments. However, it quickly became apparent that almost any area of the mission or park was fertile ground for clean-up and improvement. Volunteers began to shift into high gear as they headed out to work on the jobs they chose to accept as their personal challenge of the day.

Chainsaws and lawn mowers powered up as the two areas became a beehive of activity. Trees were expertly trimmed, huge piles of debris were accumulated, then hauled off; flower beds were cleaned out, replanted and mulched; and weed-eaters began to neatly trace along the edges of overgrown and forgotten paths and walk-

ways.

Inside the museum, glass was removed from display cases and cleaned, while the insides of the displays were lovingly vacuumed and dusted. Floors were mopped and windows and doors were washed until they sparkled.

Many of the volunteers were young and able-bodied; others were mostly able in spirit as they valiantly pushed their bodies to keep up and keep on. Many volunteers worked all day, while others came and left as their busy schedules demanded. And, those who were not able to work at all provided much needed items to keep the volunteers watered and fed.

All during the day, well-wishers who were unable to work because of previous commitments or physical disabilities dropped by to cheer the workers on and say a hearty, “Thank you.”

I have been told that the volunteer work squad that showed up at Mission Dolores/RV Park is not an uncommon event in San Augustine. However, I do not think it is possible to understand the full force and power of the civic phenomenon of March 5 unless it was personally experienced.

At the end of the day, covered with dirt and grime, I leaned against my car and looked out across the lawn of the mission. I made a mental list of the “first phase clean-up goals” of Keep San Augustine Beautiful. To my amazement, almost every goal on the list had been accomplished in one day! And, to my further amazement, many items we had not even considered to be “first phase” had also been completed!

I felt my face flush as unexpected tears welled-up in my eyes. I was almost too tired to realize what my sudden rush of emotion really meant. At first, I thought it was

because I was so thrilled that we had made such fabulous progress on the very important project; but, then I realized that my tears were not because we had reached our goals for the day. They were the result of suddenly realizing how sweet the day’s journey had been. How lucky we all are to be a part of this community!

Crew Chief, Doniece Smith

Team Captains: Don Baum, Al Broden, Mike Malone, Tom Johnson

Other Volunteers: Sharon Bradberry, Joy Chandler, Tammy Fountain, Dorothy Fussell, Tony Gaston, Brad Haley, Dr. Curtis Haley, Nelda Hearnberger, Ashley Jenkins, Samye Johnson, Stephanie Kardell, Gertrude Lane, William Lane, Duke Lyons, Louise Lyons, Rod McLerran, Marshall McMillan, Carol Nickerson, Jerry Nickerson, John Oglesbee, Jerry Payne, Charles Pier, Shirley Roberts, Rick Russell, Sandi Russell, Val Sharp, Willie Tanner, Austin Wiggins, Royce Ann Wiggins.

Special thanks to Keep San Augustine Beautiful for providing bottled water and cookies, to Caterer Velma Teagle for the fantastic chicken salad sandwiches, and to Brookshire Bros. and Store Director Chuck Pool for bottled water, bananas, and Snickers.

Sparkle-up Super Stars:

- Julia and Nelsyn Wade for their downtown building Sparkle-up project.
- Joe DiMaggio for the beautiful pansy bed and sparkling clean parking lot at Economy Pharmacy.
- Val Sharp for his extraordinary tree-branch hauling and roadside cleanup on Liberty Street and Cartwright Drive.
- Tindall Motors for the cleanup of their corner of US 96 and SH 147.

March City Police Dept. Activity

4 Felony arrests on view

8 misdemeanor arrests on view

7 felony arrests on warrants

0 misdemeanor arrests on warrants

102 citations issued, 4 non-traffic related

18 warnings issued

Cases Filed: 36 Felonies, 2 juvenile,
28 misdemeanors

8 department assists with other agencies

Thanks, Kay Bailey Hutchison

By Executive Director Samye Johnson, San Augustine County Chamber of Commerce

The citizens of San Augustine County are deeply grateful for Senator Hutchison's efforts to make the dream of historic trail designation to our beloved El Camino Real de los Tejas become a reality. And we believe she has a very special place in her heart for us because of her deep San Augustine roots. We appreciate her efforts on our behalf. Her visit here on March 5 was an excellent opportunity for the community to embrace her with our warmest hospitality.

In the second week of March, the local planning team received a request from the Senator's office to hold the upcoming El Camino festivities at her ancestral home place, China Grove. The pastoral setting of China Grove is beautiful and the old home is full of history. It was not, however, ready for company!

Gerald King, Stephanie Kardell and Don Baum, along with various county officials, sprang into action to spruce up the Senator's ancestral home and prepare it for an old-fashioned morning garden party. It was not an easy chore, but they completed the labor of love in grand fashion.

The San Augustine Garden Club prepared 12 dozen home-baked muffins, and Mozell Moore threw in dozens of her delectable pecan tassies, just to be on the safe side. Not to be outdone, San Augustine Drug prepared enough of their world famous grapefruit highballs to cure the com-

mon cold throughout all east Texas. Finally, the ever-ready-for-fun garden club came to the event dressed in historic period attire to add a feeling of authentic southern charm.

The New Jerusalem CME Church Choir agreed to kick off the event with their soul stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace," and Ron Ferrier and other musicians from the East Texas Jamboree kicked the festivities up a notch with their toe-tapping ol' time country music. The fabulous Randy Mills demonstrated just how charming and fun a turn-of-the-century mouth organ can be!

Our own musical genius, Billy Johnson, pulled out all the stops and brought in enough sound equipment to China Grove to broadcast live to Chicago!

A podium, tables, linens, rocking chairs, pots of coffee and sassafras tea, ice chests, water, napkins, cups and all manner of party goods were loaded up and taken out to China Grove by merry volunteers.

We were told the Senator's party was to include her four-year-old daughter, Bailey, and son, Houston. In anticipation of their arrival, Mayor Fussell and Mike Malone prepared a certificate for each child proclaiming them "children of San Augustine." Fussell also commissioned an ornate key to the city for the Senator.

An east Texas gift basket was prepared for the Senator and consisted of a church doll handcrafted for Bailey by Connie Stein, a sassafras wood pis-

tol handcrafted for Houston by David Noble, a sassafras bank restored and donated by Noble, and four books including *Two Centuries in East Texas* by George L. Crocket, donated by Christ Church Episcopal, *Texas Trailblazers: San Augustine Pioneers* and *As Noble as it Gets*, signed and donated by Harry P. Noble, Jr. Also included were *S. Seymour Thomas, A Texas Genius Rediscovered* signed by author Cecilia Steinfeldt and donated by the Ezekiel Cullen Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and *San Augustine: A Texas Treasure*, signed and donated by authors John and Betty Oglesbee.

The event was hampered a bit by a very determined rain storm, which was disappointing to the throng of enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers.

The garden club ladies' costumes were a bit droopy and the homemade muffins a bit soggy by the time Senator Hutchison made her way to China Grove via a four-wheel drive vehicle; but all were heartened to see the truly inspirational sight of Senator Hutchison bravely tromping through the treacherous east Texas mud with a radiant smile as she returned to her ancestral home.

The Senator's reading of her cherished family letter was lovely to witness. The hardy souls who stayed at China Grove despite the storm will always have fond memories of the morning spent together in the rain honoring our own.

More Spans in the Bridge....

- Remember to contribute to Project Graduation, a safe celebration after high school graduation. Help keep San Augustine graduates in a safe environment by contributing at the high school or to Chairman Mrs. William (Judy) Johnson.

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THE CITY OF SAN AUGUSTINE
PUBLIC RELATIONS/TOURISM
BOARD**

For questions, comments, corrections, or to include news in this publication, call 936-275-9049 or 936-275-5545 by the 20th of each month.

- Attend Dixie League Youth Baseball games at the San Augustine Youth Baseball Complex on SH 21 East each Monday and Thursday at 5:30.
- Early voting in the school board election is April 20 through May 3. If you can't be at the polls election day, May 7, vote early at the school administration office from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. City elections were cancelled due to no contests. Mayor Patrick H. Fussell and Council Members Mike Malone, Evelyn Watts and Herman Wilson will be sworn into office in May to begin new terms.