

City Council, CIP Committee discuss options for buildings

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would like to consider funding for a new council chambers -- estimated to cost \$250,000 -- in the upcoming fiscal year.
"We need it [a larger meeting space] as soon as we can get it -- I'll put it that way," said McCauley, who serves on the CIP Committee.
A location for a new meeting area has not been finalized, deGraffenried said, adding that CIP members simply offered suggestions for a council building with more seating capacity and better audio-visual capabilities than the existing site.
Also at the joint meeting, council members considered budgeting

\$350,000-\$400,000 of available money from the hotel occupancy tax fund in case a suitable property for a civic center becomes available.
Various groups have tried for decades to have a civic center built, Williamson and council member Wanda Bierschwale said.
"Personally, I'm just saying I think it's time we proceed with something, somewhere," Williamson said.
A civic center could be useful for area residents, Harrison said, noting that Lampasas lost gathering space for community events when the AMVETS building on U.S. Highway 281 South closed.
In another matter regarding public

facilities, Williamson encouraged the council to fund repairs to the retaining walls at Ruth Eakin Outdoor Theatre and along Sulphur Creek in W.M. Brook Park. The park is one of the city's main attractions, the committee member said.
Maintenance estimates in a CIP report show \$25,000 for the W.M. Brook Park retaining wall and \$5,000 per year for annual rehabilitation to the outdoor amphitheater's retaining wall.
Also at the recent meeting, the council discussed selling, reusing or moving unoccupied city buildings.
The council decided to sell the former City Hall at the corner of Main and Third streets.

Mrs. Monroe and Mrs. Bierschwale said they can envision a private buyer refurbishing the building nicely, possibly for use as upscale apartments.
A new state law now in effect, deGraffenried noted, allows home-rule cities like Lampasas to contract with a real estate broker to sell property -- provided the property is on the Multiple Listing Service for at least 30 days. That may make it easier for the city to sell property, deGraffenried said.
And now that the fire department has moved into its new station on East Fourth Street, the north two truck bays at the old station can be used for police department storage,

the city manager said.
The south bays, the old living quarters for firefighters and the former fire department administration building are not in good condition, fire officials and CIP members have said. If the metal buildings at the old fire station are torn down, Harrison and Williamson suggested salvaging the metal to get a bit of money.
Harrison also said he remembered a person from a nearby moving company offering to pay the city \$2,500-\$3,500 to relocate the old fire administration building at Fourth and Chestnut streets.
As the meeting ended, several council and CIP members said they thought

the joint session was productive. Williamson said it has been helpful to work with the city manager on capital recommendations, and officials suggested the CIP Committee meet more often than it has in years past.
Regular communication between the CIP Committee, City Council and municipal staff, deGraffenried said, should improve communication and help city officials prioritize funding more effectively.
The city is working to improve its infrastructure and other public services, Mayor Jerry Grayson said.
"I think in the last six months we've made more progress than we have in the last five years," he said.

Voter ID law to take effect

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identification at polling places is "a step in the right direction" and will ensure voters are who they claim to be.
Concerns about voter fraud were not directed at places like Lampasas County, Wallace said, and he predicted most local voters will not notice much of a difference when the ID requirement is implemented.
"Most of the people show ID now," he said. "[The voter ID law] wasn't particularly [motivated by] places

like here, where people are honest."
Critics of the law -- passed by the Texas Legislature on party lines, with Republicans voting in favor -- argued there is little evidence of voter fraud in the state. Those opposed to the law also have argued the new identification requirement will impose a burden on minority and poor voters.
District 24 State Senator Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bay), however, said in a statement that a photo ID requirement "simply puts into practice the intent of the current law -- that the person who

shows up at the polls is who he or she claims to be."
The state senator, who Wallace said played a key role in the voter ID bill's passage, said he is pleased the Supreme Court's ruling will allow for the Texas voting law to go into effect.
"I am extremely gratified that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is not enforceable because of its reliance on outdated information," Fraser said.

Cattle Auction

The report from the June 26 Lampasas Cattle Auction follows.
Cattle and calves: Estimated receipts 530 compared to 396 last week and 353 last year.
Feeder steers and heifers \$4-\$5 higher. Slaughter cows and slaughter bulls \$1-\$2 higher.
Feeder cattle accounted for 81 percent. Slaughter cows and bulls accounted for 19 percent.
Steers: 200-300 lbs., \$1.48-\$2.03 lb.; 300-400 lbs., \$1.50-\$1.86 lb.;

400-500 lbs., \$1.41-\$1.68 lb.; 500-600 lbs., \$1.32-\$1.50 lb.; 600-700 lbs., \$1.21-\$1.46; 700-800 lbs., \$1.17-\$1.27 lb.
Slaughter cows: under 800 lbs., \$4.6-\$5.8 lb.; 800-1,100 lbs., \$5.9-\$7.3 lb.; 1,100-1,350 lbs., \$7.4-\$8.5 lb.
Heifers: 300-400 lbs., \$1.34-\$1.63 lb.; 400-500 lbs., \$1.36-\$1.54 lb.; 500-600 lbs., \$1.30-\$1.44 lb.; 600-700 lbs., \$1.22-\$1.29 lb.; 700-800 lbs., \$1.13-\$1.24 lb.

Slaughter bulls: 1,000-1,300 lbs., \$8.0-\$8.8 lb.; 1,300-2,100 lbs., \$8.9-\$10.2 lb.
Cow/calf pairs: aged cows with baby to 300-lb. calf., \$1,460-\$1,630 per pair.
No sale July 3.

What is required at polling places?

Pursuant to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, new voting requirements passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011 will take effect immediately. Photo identification will now be required when voting in elections in Texas.
The Texas Department of Public Safety is issuing Election Identification Certificates to people who do not already have an acceptable form of photo identification to present when voting.
Applications for an EIC will be accepted at DPS driver license offices across Texas.
If an applicant already has any of the following documents, they are not eligible to receive an EIC.
• Texas driver license -- unexpired or expired less than 60 days.
• Texas personal identification card -- unexpired or expired less than 60 days.
• U.S. passport book or card -- unexpired or expired less than 60

days.
• Texas concealed handgun license -- unexpired or expired less than 60 days.
• U.S. military identification with photo -- unexpired or expired less than 60 days.
• U.S. citizenship certificate or Certificate of Naturalization with photo.
To qualify for an EIC, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, eligible to vote in Texas (show a valid voter registration card or submit a voter registration application when applying for the EIC), and be 17 years and 10 months or older.
Individuals may apply for an EIC by visiting a Texas driver license office and completing an EIC application (DL-14C).
The EIC receipt an individual receives will include their photo and can be used for voting until the permanent card is delivered by mail.

The EIC is free of charge to qualifying applicants and is valid for six years. There is no expiration date of an EIC for citizens 70 years of age or older.
The EIC can only be used for the purpose of voting in an election and may not be used as personal identification.
Residents with a documented disability may apply at their county voter registrar's office for a permanent exemption from the photo ID requirement. If approved, they will not need a photo ID to vote. Also, if individuals are voting by mail, they do not have to submit a photo ID.
For more information on the requirements, exemptions and process for obtaining an EIC, please visit www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/electionID.htm.
For more information on voting in Texas, visit the Secretary of State's Web site at www.sos.state.tx.us.

WASTE MANAGEMENT Independence Day Holiday Schedule

Thursday, July 4, 2013

We will observe this holiday and will run one day late after the holiday through Saturday, July 6.

The normal Thursday routes will be collected on Friday, and the normal Friday routes will be collected on Saturday. All normally scheduled Saturday routes will remain unchanged and be collected on Saturday. Services will resume their normal schedule the week of July 8.



www.fsbcentex.com

We will be closed all day Independence Day, Thursday, July 4th.

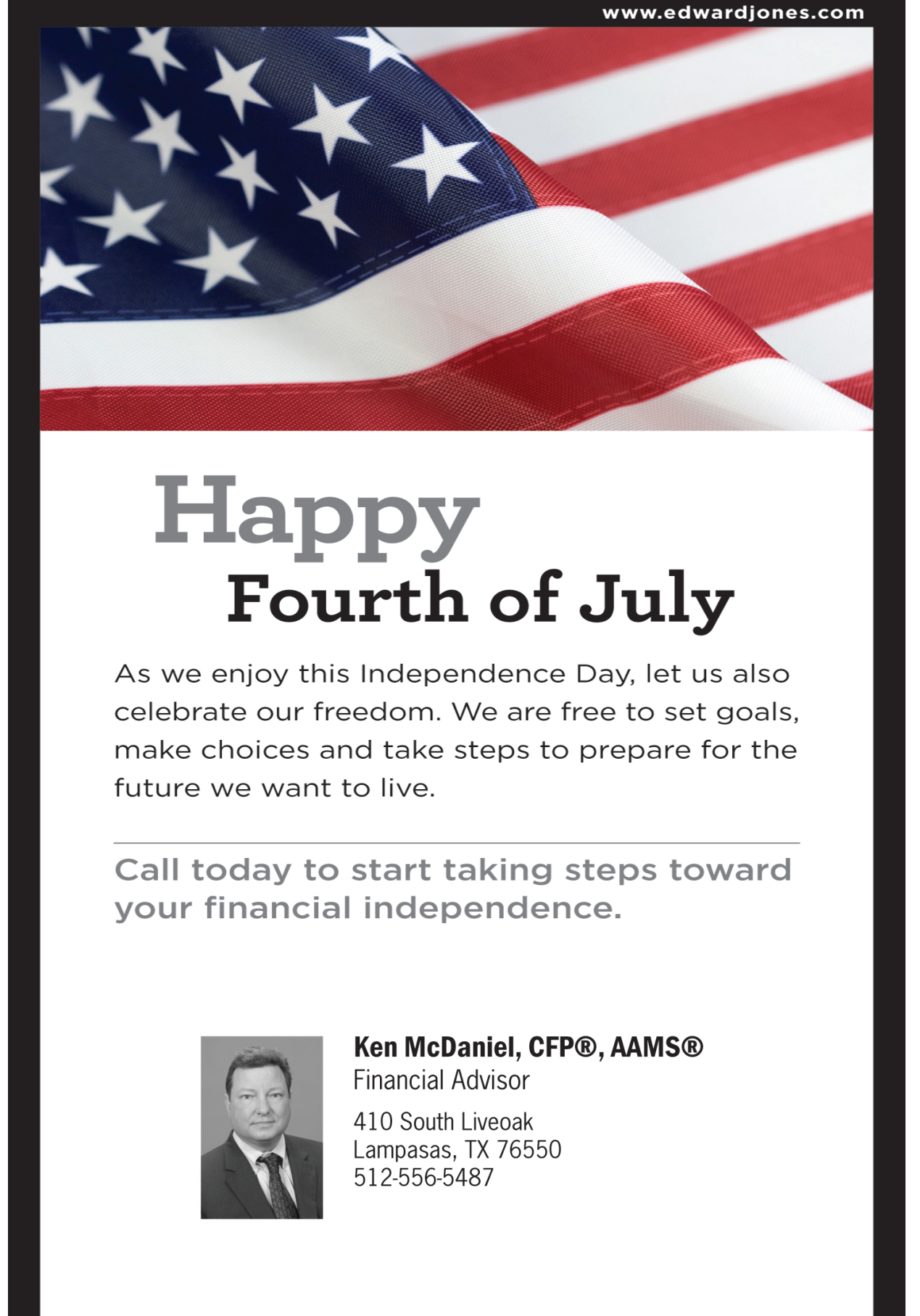
Member FDIC



PHOTO BY JIM LOWE

Imposing presence

Maricela Corcoran was working in her garden last week at Second and Western streets when she noticed this large black widow spider inside a clay pot. The spider, which features a prominent red hour-glass figure, can be "pretty lethal," noted Mrs. Corcoran's husband, Joe. The Lampasas couple encouraged local residents to watch for the venomous spiders, which can make their bite victims quite ill. Egg sacs, such as the one above and to the right of this spider, can contain up to several hundred eggs.



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Happy Fourth of July

As we enjoy this Independence Day, let us also celebrate our freedom. We are free to set goals, make choices and take steps to prepare for the future we want to live.

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