

City earns beautification grant through talent contest

Lampasas elected officials and city staff members attended the annual Texas Municipal League Conference in San Antonio Oct. 9-11 and brought home a \$2,500 beautification grant from Waste Connections.

For the third consecutive year, Waste Connections hosted the Texas Cities Got Talent competition, which features performances by cities from across the state. The contest involves choosing a song from the top 200 most-requested karaoke tunes, writing lyrics about one's city and performing

with a live band.

The team of Mayor Misti Talbert, Economic Development Director Mandy Walsh, and City Council members Cathy Kuehne and Delana Toups took second place overall with their Lampasas rendition of Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk."

Last year, with their performance of the Village People's "YMCA," Lampasas representatives won the Texas Cities Got Talent competition and received a \$5,000 beautification grant.

"We look forward to this event each year, as it

allows us to be creative and share our passion for Lampasas with other city representatives from all across Texas," Talbert said. "We feel the winnings are another way for the four of us to continue giving back to the community we love."

Walsh said city officials are discussing possibilities for using this year's \$2,500 grant -- combined with last year's \$5,000 award -- for downtown signs that would attract tourists. Officials are working on a presentation for the City Council to consider, Walsh said.



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Mayor Misti Talbert, Economic Development Director Mandy Walsh, and City Council members Delana Toups and Cathy Kuehne hold an oversized check representing a grant they won for Lampasas beautification as part of the Texas Cities Got Talent contest.



COURTESY PHOTO

AgriLife Extension agent DeZarn receives family and consumer sciences award

Karen DeZarn, Lampasas County Extension agent for family and community health, was honored recently at the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences 85th annual session, whose theme was "Nurturing the Richness of Lifelong Learning."

DeZarn received the NEAFCS Continued Excellence Award at the conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

DeZarn was recognized for her programming in the county and district,

and for her involvement with NEAFCS at the district, state and national levels for 26 years -- 16 in Indiana and 10 in Texas.

The NEAFCS Continued Excellence Award recognizes members who continue to be involved in professional improvement programs, the promotion of professional development of others and leadership.

DeZarn's award noted her commitment to meeting the needs of individuals, families and communities.



COURTESY PHOTO

Karen DeZarn, right, receives a NEAFCS Continued Excellence Award in early October. The award was presented by Karen Munden, NEAFCS national president.

Student wins Farm Bureau speech contest

Lampasas FFA member Cole Wheeler -- standing next to Farm Bureau State Director Mickey Edwards of Lampasas County -- won the District 8 Farm Bureau Free Enterprise Speech Contest. Wheeler will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and will compete at the state level in 2020. Also recently, Wheeler and other Lampasas FFA public speakers competed at Heart of Texas Fair. Wheeler advanced to the finals and placed fifth overall in the statewide event.

Annual Hunters Welcome scheduled Friday

The Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center will usher in the fall hunting season by hosting the annual Hunters Welcome on Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chamber officials said this event will highlight the hospitality Lampasas County offers, and local residents and visitors alike are welcome to attend.

The community will welcome hunters to Lampasas with a barbecue lunch in the H-E-B parking lot at 705 S. Key Ave.

For \$8 per plate, lunch will include a "Texas-sized barbecue sandwich with all the fixings," event officials said, as well as chips, a cookie and a drink.

The first 250 people also will receive a goodie bag.

To preorder a lunch or coordinate delivery, contact the chamber office at 512-556-5172 or email lampasaschamber@sbcglobal.net. Free delivery for orders of five or more meals is available within the area.



ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH | DISPATCH RECORD

Derwin celebrates 102nd birthday

Dorothy Derwin, center, celebrated her 102nd birthday on Thursday with a party at Spring Oaks Nursing and Rehab Center. She is pictured here surrounded by family members of multiple generations.

Oak Hill Cemetery meeting slated

The Oak Hill Cemetery Association will meet on Nov. 7 at 10 a.m. in the Lampasas City Hall conference room for its annual membership and directors meeting.

The board has one director place open and one officer position. For more information, call 512-525-6085.

Thanks for reading the Lampasas Dispatch Record!

Lampasas Dispatch Record

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The Lampasas Dispatch Record (ISSN-87501759), is published semiweekly by Hill Country Publishing Co. Inc., 416 S. Live Oak St., Lampasas, Texas. Periodicals postage paid at Lampasas, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Lampasas Dispatch Record, P.O. Box 631, Lampasas, TX 76550-0005.

Mailing address for the Lampasas Dispatch Record is P.O. Box 631, Lampasas, TX 76550-0005. Phone (512)556-6262. One-year subscriptions, payable in advance, are \$45.00 in Lampasas; \$55.00 elsewhere in Texas; and \$65.00 out-of-state.

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