

Council picks architecture firm for Hostess House upgrades

BY MONIQUE BRAND
DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas City Council is moving forward with plans to revive the historic Hostess House.

During its regular meeting Monday night, the council voted unanimously to hire Austin-based Reliance Architecture to draw up plans for upgrades to the limestone building. The firm is the same company that designed the city's wastewater building.

The Reliance work will cost the city \$6,600.

City Manager Finley deGraffenried told the Dispatch Record in an interview Wednesday that the monies used will come from the hotel occupancy tax funds.

He added the hire was based on information the city received in identifying what is needed to improve the building, which is temporarily closed.

Last month, the city received a report from Hendrix Consulting Engineers on the scope of improvements needed for

the Hostess House.

The consulting firm suggested maintaining the stone exterior but gutting the interior to restore the building functionally and aesthetically.

The kitchen and elevator are intended for residential use, according to its report, and should be brought to commercial grade. The building also requires plumbing, electrical and mechanical upgrades.

Phase one of the work will consist of master planning the project and consultation on what to do with the structure — not on geotechnical matters such as an elevator pit.

The architect firm also will “develop phasing to meet initial budget and criteria established by the city,” according to its proposal.

At Monday's meeting, Councilwoman TJ Monroe asked who will oversee the ground portion of the project.

DeGraffenried said that based on Reliance's findings, another contractor would be hired.



FILE PHOTO | DISPATCH RECORD

The Lampasas City Council is moving forward with plans to upgrade the historic Hostess House building.

Total budget for the Hostess House upgrade is about \$200,000, the city manager said.

The Hostess House is

located directly in front of the Hancock Park Free-Flow Swimming Pool and is “the leading venue for Central Texas and Lampasas formal

events,” according to the city's website.

The Hostess House was operated by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas

from 1991 to 2019, when the city took over the lease. At that time, the city initiated discussion on upgrades for the building.

COVID-19 cases decline

BY MONIQUE BRAND
DISPATCH RECORD

During the Lampasas City Council workshop session Monday, Lampasas Fire Chief Jeff Smith reported a decrease in COVID-19 cases. Smith also serves as the city's emergency management coordinator.

“I continue to have good news as it relates to COVID-19,” Smith said. “The current trend is still spiraling downward as it relates to new cases, active cases, hospitalized COVID-19 cases in the state of Texas.”

In Lampasas County, there were five active cases as of Wednesday. Statewide, active cases numbered 128,614.

Several weeks ago, there were talks of hospitalization numbers within the state and how that might affect the reopening of businesses and possibly counties.

As of Thursday, Lampasas County had one person hospitalized, and total deaths stood at 29.

For a county to raise its business occupancy — whether it is at 25%, 50% or 75% — the county's associated trauma area must be below 15% of its total COVID-19 hospital capacity for seven days in a row.

Lampasas falls under Trauma Area L, which includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Milam and Mills counties.

Smith told the council that as of Monday, all 22 trauma areas across the state reported to be below 15% for COVID hospitalizations.

“I think all these numbers are part of the reason why Gov. Abbott set forth the action that he did last week,” Smith said, in reference to the governor lifting most of his earlier pandemic-related executive orders.

As of Wednesday, all businesses



MONIQUE BRAND | DISPATCH RECORD

Fire Chief Jeff Smith gives the Lampasas City Council an update Monday about COVID-19 cases in the county and state.

in Texas may open to 100% capacity. Abbott's newest executive order also ended the statewide mask mandate he originally enacted in July 2020.

In matters of vaccinations, the county is receiving from Bell County about 200 doses per week, according to Smith.

Smith added that he has heard concerns from residents about being placed on waiting lists for the shots.

Mayor Misti Talbert urged the public to be patient and courteous of others when it comes to vaccinations, as area hospitals have waiting lists of more than 1,000 people.

“We understand that everybody wants a vaccine; we understand that everybody is frustrated and impatient,” Talbert said. “However, the people that you are talking to on the phone have zero control of what's going on. We only ask that you show compassion to those that are trying to give you help.”

Where to get vaccinated

- AdventHealth Rollins Brook
512-556-3682
- AdventHealth Family Medicine Clinic
512-556-3621

Call to schedule a vaccination. Those eligible are healthcare workers, first responders, residents of long-term care facilities, persons 65 and older; and those with a health condition that would increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness.

Source: city of Lampasas

Services set Saturday for Henry Langford

Lifelong Lampasas County rancher and longtime bank director Joseph Henry Langford died at his home March 11, 2021 at the age of 82.

Services will be held March 13 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Lampasas, with a graveside service to follow at School Creek Cemetery. Sneed Funeral Chapel has charge of arrangements.

After the graveside service, there will be time to visit with the family at School Creek Baptist Church.

Henry Langford was born April 20, 1938, to John B. and Ruth Nuckles Langford in Lampasas. He grew up on the banks of the Lampasas River in northeast Lampasas County.

In his early years of education, he attended Unity School in Unity Community until it merged with the Lampasas school district. He graduated from Lampasas High School in the Class of 1956.

Upon completion of high school, he joined the National Guard.

In 1957, Henry married Bobbie Jean Smith of Gatesville. She preceded him in death in 1962.

On July 16, 1966, he



Henry Langford

married Camille McCann of Lometa, and they were married for 54 years and had three children.

Henry was the third generation of Langfords to farm and ranch the land where he worked alongside his father, brother, and then his two sons and son-in-law. He raised cattle, sheep and goats, and farmed hay, wheat and oats.

He was a member of the Texas Farm Bureau Board of Directors for six years. Henry was named Young Farmer and Rancher of the Year, and later Farmer and Rancher of the Year by Farm Bureau.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed

SEE LANGFORD, PAGE 10

WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
March 7	65	42	0
March 8	66	45	0
March 9	71	53	0
March 10	75	61	0

Total rainfall for 2021: 1.61 in.

Data from the Lower Colorado River Authority (site 11 miles west-northwest of Lampasas, near Nix).

BRIEFLY

TOWN HALL

The Lampasas City Council will hold a town-hall session March 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the former Lampasas Middle School cafeteria, located at 103 N. Western Ave.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive comments from residents about the February ice storm's disruption to electric and water service. City officials said they are seeking public comments so they can fully under-

stand how outages affected residents and can develop possible solutions.

A regular City Council meeting will begin immediately after the town-hall session concludes.

TIME CHANGE

On Sunday at 2 a.m., daylight saving time officially begins again in Texas. Residents should remember to set their clocks ahead one hour when they go to bed Saturday night.

FOOD PANTRY

St. Mary Catholic Church will hold only one drive-through food distribution this month.

On March 26, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, the food pantry will offer large bags of non-perishable canned and boxed groceries, and plans to have eggs, meat, bread and produce available as well.

All are welcome, and no appointment is needed. Come to the parking lot at 701 N. Key Ave. for distribution.

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST
AWARD WINNER
2020

lampasasdispatchrecord.com
512-556-6262
416 S. Live Oak St.
Lampasas TX 76550

© Hill Country Publishing Co., Inc.



Whether your needs are short-term rehabilitation, complex medical care, or long-term care, Lampasas Nursing & Rehabilitation Center has a comprehensive team that is trained to provide high quality healthcare.

Call (512) 556-3588 today to learn how Lampasas Nursing & Rehabilitation Center can best fit your needs!

Lampasas
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
611 North Broad • Lampasas, Texas 76550

Ranch financing made simple.

Trey Brooks
NMLS1205931

Kelsi Davis
NMLS1190781

CAPITAL FARM CREDIT

512.715.9239
capitalfarmcredit.com

Ranch Investments
Texas Premier Farm & Ranch Brokerage

Lampasas Office located at
302-B North Key Avenue

512-556-5223 or 800-447-8604