

# Lampasas Dispatch Record



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75 CENTS

## Mayoral, council, school board seats up for elections in May



BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

Filing has begun for several municipal and school board elections that will be held May 7. This balloting is separate from the March 1 political-party elections.

The candidate filing period for the May 7 elections ends at 5 p.m. Feb. 18. Early voting is April 25 through May 3.

### CITY COUNCIL RACES

Three city council races will be held in Lampasas County: those for Kempner,

Lampasas and Lometa.

According to the Lampasas City Charter, at the time of election a candidate must be at least 21, a Texas resident and have lived within the city limits for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the election.

City officials in Kempner and Lometa said those municipalities have similar qualifications for council positions.

### LAMPASAS CITY COUNCIL

The Lampasas City Council called the May 7 election to select members for the Place 3, Place 4 and Place 5 seats. Those seats currently are held by Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Williamson, Catherine Kuehne and Bob Goodart, respectively. Kuehne has announced

she is running for re-election. She is being challenged by Myles Haider. No other filings are official yet.

### KEMPNER CITY COUNCIL

The Kempner City Council called the May 7 election to select aldermen for Place 1, Place 2 and Place 5. The seats currently are held by Thomas Combs, David Richardson and Melba Vandever.

Combs recently was appointed to his position after the resignation of Place 1 councilman Steven Vance Rodgers. Rodgers had been named to replace former councilman Norm Parker in early June. Parker resigned citing medical reasons, according to city staff.

Vandever has served on the council the longest within the group, at 14 years.

The council posts are for two-year terms.

### LOMETA CITY COUNCIL

The mayoral race will be on the May 7 municipal ballot in Lometa.

Mayor Stephen Brister Hicks told the Dispatch Record he intends to run for re-election. No challenger has yet filed for the position.

The at-large seats of council members Ronnie Cartwright and Doug Brister also will be up for grabs.

Cartwright told the Dispatch Record she intends to run for re-election. Brister had not announced

his intentions at press time Monday.

### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

According to the Texas Election Code, to be eligible for election or appointment to a Texas school board the individual must be a U.S. citizen 18 or older, not determined by final judgment of a court to be mentally incapacitated, not convicted of a felony, having resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the city from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding either filing or appointment.

A teacher may run for school board in the district where he or she teaches.

If the candidate is successful, however, he or she must give up the

teaching position.

### LAMPASAS ISD

Two seats are up for election — Place 4 and Place 5 — on the Lampasas Independent School District Board of Trustees. Terms extend for three years.

Place 4 is held by Jeff Rutland, who was elected in 2019. Place 5 is held by David Millican, who initially was elected in 2013. Neither has announced a re-election bid at this point.

### LOMETA ISD

Three at-large seats will be on the ballot for the May 7 school board election in Lometa. The positions are held by John Hines, Megan Lusty and Amanda Tower.

No one has filed for these seats yet.



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## New week starts wet ... cold temps ahead

Rain made its way to Lampasas Monday morning with temperatures hovering around 60 degrees. The National Weather Service forecast expects more rain and wintry temperatures around the 30s by mid-week.

### WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Rain
Jan. 27	56	38	0
Jan. 28	55	29	0
Jan. 29	64	32	0
Jan. 30	66	40	0

Total rainfall for 2022: 0.49 in.

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

### BRIEFLY

#### LOMETA L-M GARDEN

The Lometa L-M Garden and Civic Club has decided not to hold its annual Valentine's Day flower sales this year. The rise of the COVID virus in the county prompted the decision to hold off. The garden club hopes to continue the flower sale next year.

#### TAX AIDE

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will offer free, in-person tax preparation services at the Lampasas Se-

nior Center, 901 S. Live Oak, beginning Feb. 1 by appointment only. Appointments are available on Tuesdays. Call 512-525-3854 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to schedule a time. Tax help is available to anyone, but especially those age 50 or older who can't afford paid tax services.

#### CARTER BLOOD DRIVE

AdventHealth Rollins Brook will host a blood drive for Carter BloodCare on Wednesday from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. Those interested in donating should be at least 18 years of age and in generally good health. All donors will need to present a valid photo ID at the time of donation. For more details, call 254-519-8202.

#### CAMPAIGN EVENT MOVED

House District 68 hopeful Gary Franklin will hold a meet-and-greet Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Cherry On Top, 407 S. Western Ave. The Thursday event has been canceled.



MONIQUE BRAND | DISPATCH RECORD

Construction equipment were seen at the site of a new pavilion in Campbell Park.

## City manager updates council on capital projects

BY MONIQUE BRAND  
DISPATCH RECORD

Mills Street, Campbell Park and the Hostess House were among the projects highlighted by Lampasas City Manager Finley deGraffenried in his report to the Lampasas City Council Jan. 24.

Development of a 177-lot, 48-acre subdivision on Mills Street is in the early stages.

DeGraffenried told the council the development is adjacent to the city yard, and no formal action has been taken on the project.

"However, we are starting to take preliminary steps on that," he said during last Monday's meeting.

The city manager also provided updates on other projects budgeted for this fiscal year.

DeGraffenried said that excavation for a new pavilion at Campbell Park has begun.

"We understand that the red-iron is on site," the city manager said.

"Select fill is starting to be installed if not [last] week, if not already, then

certainly this week."

He added that city staff did not include a rainwater collection system with the upgrade.

"If the council would like to revisit that, we can place that on the next agenda," deGraffenried said.

In reference to the skate park, deGraffenried met with contractors Friday to review and possibly revise the project's timeline.

City staff are moving forward with renovation plans for the Hostess House, which deGraffenried said is expected to be completed next year.

Some of the upgrades include bringing the kitchen and elevator to commercial grade, and plumbing, electrical and mechanical upgrades for the building.

Last March, council members approved the hiring of Austin-based Reliance Architecture to draw up plans for the work on the historic limestone structure.

In September, principal architect Antonio Naylor provided a proposal based

on a scope of improvements as outlined by Hendrix Consulting Engineers.

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

Naylor, at a previous council meeting, said his team would oblige.

DeGraffenried told the council last week that Naylor informed him of the completion of a geotech report — used to identify site conditions and make design and construction recommendations to construction personnel.

The focus of such reports is to obtain information on the physical properties of soil earthworks and foundations for structures.

DeGraffenried said Naylor and Reliance Architecture continued "additional on-site investigation" throughout January.

"The structural remediation is tracking to be bid by the end of February," deGraffenried's report concluded.



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