

# DEVELOPMENT SERVICES Annual Report 2013: Laying the Foundation

Mission Statement: The Development Services Department strives to provide the public with support and information to build and maintain an attractive city in which to live, work, and play.







## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT CITY OF BRENHAM

2013 ANNUAL REPORT: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

BUILDING AND INSPECTION DIVISION PLANNING DIVISION MAIN STREET DEPARTMENT BRENHAM MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

#### DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

#### Mission

The Development Services Department strives to provide the public with support and information to build and maintain an attractive city in which to live, work, and play.

#### **Principal Responsibilities**

- Serving as the coordination center for all development of property within the City of Brenham;
- Developing and maintaining a Comprehensive Master Plan and Land Development Code;
- Reviewing applications and development plans to ensure code compliance and compatibility with zoning and land use designations; and
- Providing information to assist citizens on projects pertaining to their property, neighborhood, and throughout the city.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Julie Fulgham	Director of Development Services	
Kim Hodde	Planning Technician/Airport Coordinator	
Allen Jacobs	Building Official	
Jennifer Eckermann	Main Street Manager	
Sarah Hill	Administrative Assistant	



## AWARDS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS, AND SEMINARS:

- INCODE Conference, April 28-May 1, 2013, Boston, MA (Kim Hodde)
- American Planning Association (APA) State Conference, October 2-4, 2013, Galveston, Texas attended by Julie Fulgham (continuing education credits received) & Kim Hodde
- American Institute of Certified Planners Membership Julie Fulgham
- Texas Downtown Association Membership Jennifer Eckermann and Julie Fulgham
- Main Street Winter Manger Training, January 30- February 1, 2013, Llano, Texas Jennifer Eckermann
- Main Street Summer Training, June 5-7, 2013, LaGrange, Texas Jennifer Eckermann
- National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Main Street Network Member Jennifer Eckermann
- Texas Aviation Association (TXAA) Membership Kim Hodde
- Texas Airports Council (TAC) Membership Kim Hodde
- Texas Aviation Conference (Austin, Texas) Kim Hodde
- Texas Building Accessibility Standards Seminar, July 26, 2013, College Station, Texas attended by Allen Jacobs (continuing education credits received)
- Plumbing Inspector Seminar, August 13, 2013, Navasota, Texas attended by Allen Jacobs (continuing education credits received)
- Residential & Commercial Plan Review Conference, September 16-20, 2013, Austin, Texas attended by Allen Jacobs (continuing education credits received)
- FEMA Flood Plain Manager Education Seminar, October 9, 2013, Bryan, Texas attended by Allen Jacobs (continuing education received)
- Energy Code Seminar, October 29-30, 2013, Austin, Texas attended by Allen Jacobs (continuing education received)
- Selected for the SPEER Energy Code Ambassador Program-Allen Jacobs
- Building Code Certifications Allen Jacobs
  - State Licensed Interior Designer
    - State Licensed Plumbing Inspector
    - FEMA Certified Flood Plain Manager
    - Energy Code Ambassador for the State of Texas
    - Texas Code Enforcement Officer
    - International Code Congress Certified Building Official
    - International Code Congress Certified Building Inspector
  - International Code Congress Certified Plumbing Inspector
  - International Code Congress Certified Plumbing Plans Examiner
  - International Code Congress Certified Electrical Inspector
    - International Code Congress Certified Energy Code Inspector/Plans Examiner
  - International Code Congress Certified Housing Code Official

## **PROJECTS**

- Revamped the Building Standard Commission ordinance and process.
- Continued to cross-train employees.
- Worked with the City Engineer on updates to the City of Brenham Standard Specifications and Design and Construction Standards.
- Completed revisions to the Thoroughfare Plan.



November 27, 2013

Julie Fulgham City of Brenham Dir. Of Dev. Services P.O. Box 1059 Brenham, Texas 77834

Dear Julie Fulgham:

We would like to thank you for your support of SPEER Energy Code Ambassador Program. By authorizing Allen Jacobs to participate in the program, we hope that your jurisdiction has gained through the advanced training we provided, and have begun to take advantage of the network of experts we have made available. Through the support of the State Energy Conservation Office and the Building Codes Assistance Project, the program is off to a great start.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Ambassadors as volunteers to become a resource to code enforcement professionals their various regions of the state, and as an advocate for code compliance. Through "peer to peer" communication with other code enforcement professionals, they will also be able to inform us about training needs of the builders, contractors, and design professionals.

We will schedule monthly calls to keep the Ambassadors up to date on code changes, training, or other related information sharing. Please feel free to contact us at any time, or go to the Ambassador Program website for more information www.epartnership.org/ambassadorprogram/

Sincerely,

michl.

Christine Herbert SPEER Deputy Director 512-279-0752 cherbert@eepartnership.org

3103 Bee Caves Road, Suite 135 Austin, Texas 78746 phone: 512-279-0753 www.eepartnership.org

#### PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Plan Review Committee reviews all plans for all additions, remodel, and new construction for all non-residential projects. The basic components of the formal plan review process implemented include a submission schedule, regular meetings between departments and applicants, as well as a central file sharing database.

The Plan Review Committee meets weekly to discuss and review the open projects then either approves the project for permitting or requests additional information from the applicant. Once the PRC has given approval for the project to proceed, a building permit can be issued and work on the project can commence. The Plan Review Committee not only reviews commercial building permit applications and site plans but also all plats and technical documents reviewed or approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The PRC consist of the following positions and departments, Director of Development Services (Chair), City Engineer, Building Official, Director of Public Works, Director of Public Utilities, Electric, Gas, Wastewater, Water, and Sanitation Superintendents, Pre-treatment & Grease Inspector, Fire Marshall, Police Department, Health Inspector, and 911 Addressing Coordinator.

The Development Services Department serves as the Chair of the Plan Review Committee. The Department is also the primary contact for developers. Often, staff will meet with developers on potential projects to review ordinances and proposed plans, these are called pre-development meetings.

#### **Accomplishments**

- In 2013, eighty-one (81) cases were reviewed by the Plan Review Committee. During the year 2012, there were forty-six (46) cases reviewed.
- In 2013, forty-nine (49) pre-development meetings were held. This was not tracked in 2012.

#### **BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS DIVISION**

Allen Jacobs, Building Official

#### **Accomplishments**

• During 2013, one hundred sixty-two (162) building permits were issued for residential construction having a total value of \$5,154,039. This included twenty-nine (29) permits for new residences having a construction value of \$3,726,710. During the year 2012, there were one hundred seventy-one (171) residential building permits issued having a total value of \$5,182,575. This represents a 5% decrease in the number of residential permits issued or 9 permits and a .55% decrease in the value of residential permits issued or \$28,536.



• During 2013, one hundred seventeen (117) permits were issued for new commercial and remodeling having a total value of \$26,832,824. This included twenty-three (23) new commercial projects having a construction value of \$12,086,739. During the year 2012, there were one hundred twenty (120) commercial permits issued having a total value of \$31,775,146. This represents a 2.5% decrease in the number of commercial permits issued or 3 permits and a 16% decrease in the value of commercial permits issued or \$4,942,322.



- During 2013, one hundred fifty-two (152) electrical, one hundred twenty (125) mechanical, and one hundred ninety-seven (197) plumbing permits were issued pushing the total number of permits issued in 2013 to seven hundred fifty-three (753) versus a total of seven hundred eighty-four (784) in 2012. This represents a 4% decrease in the total number of permits issued, or a decrease of 31 permits.
- One thousand nine hundred one (1901) inspections were performed by the Building Official in 2013 compared to one thousand six hundred twenty-one (1621) in 2012. Residential projects require an average of ten (10) inspections per project for new construction. The number of required inspections for a Commercial project varies and is dependent on the size of the project as well as the phasing of the construction but can vary from as few as ten (10) inspections to as many as eighty (80) inspections per project. These figures represent a 15% increase in the total number of inspections performed, or an increase of 280 inspections.



#### **Projects**

- Completely integrated with Incode and eliminated hand-written permits and duplication of efforts.
- Researched permit fees of surrounding cities.

## **BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION**

The Building Standards Commission (BSC) met once in 2013 for Board/Commission training. The BSC was not required to take any action in 2013 pertaining to substandard properties. However, there were fifteen (15) building demolition permits issued in 2013, whereas, several property owners voluntarily removed the substandard structures. In 2012, there were ten (10) demolition permits issued.



#### PLANNING DIVISION

Julie Fulgham, Director of Development Services

#### **Accomplishments**

- Completed two text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (Industrial Uses and minimum lot square footage requirements).
- Completed one Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Thoroughfare Plan).
- Drafted Sign Ordinance.
- Assist Brenham Community Development Corporation and Economic Development Foundation with various economic development related projects.

## **Projects**

- Board/Commission Training
  - Planning and Zoning Training (included overview of the Subdivision Platting Process, the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Public Information Act, Conflict of Interest, Meeting Procedures and Requirements, Robert's Rules of Order, and Parliamentary Procedures)
- Research/Workshops
  - o Sign Ordinance Draft (Subcommittee)

#### **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

The Board of Adjustments held five (5) meetings during the year 2013 compared to six (6) meetings held in 2012. Ten (10) variances were presented to the Board of Adjustments [nine (9) received approval and one (1) was denied] compared to six (6) variance requests being presented in 2012. No special exceptions were presented compared to one being presented and approved in 2012.

3/11/13	1106 E. Main Street 1610 Hwy 290 W	Variance - Front, Rear & Side Yard Setback Variance – Sign Ordinance – LED signage
6/10/13	403 Ross Street Brenham Elementary School 1555 Hwy 36 N	Variance – Accessory Uses and Structures Variance – Landscaping/Off-Street Parking Variance – Sign Ordinance – LED Signage
7/8/13	708 N. Park Street 103 W. Bryan Street 1103 S. Market Street	Variance – Buffer Yard Variance – Side Yard Setback Variance – Sign Ordinance – LED Signage ( <i>Denied</i> due to lack of information)
10/14/13	2150 Highway 290 W	Variance – Sign Ordinance – LED Signage
11/18/13	314 E. Alamo Street	Variance – Sign Ordinance – LED Signage

#### PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission held ten (10) regular meetings during 2013 and one special meeting. This is two (2) more meetings than were held in 2012. The following is a summary of the items considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission [2012 numbers in brackets]:

- Preliminary Plats 4 [2]
- Final Plats 2 [0]
- Replats 3 [0]
- Amending Plats 3 [0]
- Manufactured Home Park Master Plan 1 [0]
- Minor Plats 4 [0]
- Rezoning, Specific Use, Planned Developments 3 [6]
- Subdivision Variances 1 [0]
- Comprehensive Plan Amendments 1 [1]
- Text Amendments 3 [2]

The Planning and Zoning Commission considered twenty-five (25) items in 2013, compared to eleven (11) items in 2012, which represents a 127% increase.

#### **Planning and Zoning Commission:**

1/7/13

Consideration of the Planning and Zoning Commission's 2013 Plan of Work [Approved] Presentation of the Planning and Zoning Commission's Training Schedule Consideration of the 2013 Planning and Zoning Commission Calendar [Approved] 2/4/13 Appointment of a Secretary to the Planning and Zoning Commission [Approved] Presentation and Overview of the Subdivision Platting Process Consideration of a request by Adolph Wehmeyer for a Variance from Section 21-25(3) of the Subdivision Ordinance Final Plat for the Rolling Ridge Estates Subdivision in the City of Brenham's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) in Washington County, Texas [Approved] Presentation and Training on the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Texas Public Information Act, Conflict of Interest, Meeting Procedures and Requirements, Robert's Rules of Order, and Parliamentary Procedures 4/1/13 Consideration of an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the Code of Ordinances, for Approval of a Specific Use Permit on the Residence Located Within an R-1 Residential Zoning District at 704 Durden Street to be used as a Related Auxiliary Use to Redeemer Church Located at 1302 Washington Street [Approved] Consideration of a Recommendation to the Brenham City Council Related to Amending the City of Brenham's Comprehensive Plan, Specifically the Thoroughfare Plan Map [Action postponed until 4-10-13 Special meeting] 4/10/13 (Special Meeting) Consideration of a Recommendation to the Brenham City Council Related to Amending the City of Brenham's Comprehensive Plan, Specifically the Thoroughfare Plan Map [Approved] 6/3/13 Consideration of an Amending Plat of Lot 1 and Lot 2 of Block 32 in the W.G. Wilkins Addition, being an adjustment of the common lot line between Lots 1 and 2 of the Amending Plat of a Subdivision of a 1.014 acre tract of land [Approved] 7/1/13 Consideration of a Preliminary Plat for Countryside Mobile Home Community,

Sections 1 and 2, Consisting of Approximately 15.5 Acres Out of the Phillip Coe

Consideration of a request for a Preliminary Plat for the Ralston Creek

Subdivision (approximately 76 residential lots) [Approved]

Survey and Located on FM 389 and Adjoining the South Side of the Existing Wehmeyer Mobile Home Park [Approved]

Consideration of a Final Plat for Ralston Creek Estates, Phase 1, a Subdivision Consisting of Approximately 12.87 Acres Out of the Arabella Harrington Survey and Located on FM 577, between Stone Street and Gun and Rod Road [Approved]

Consideration of an Amending Plat of Lot 1 and Lot 2 of Block 32 in the W. G. Wilkins Addition, being an Adjustment of the Common Lot Line between Lots 1 & 2 of the Amending Plat of a Subdivision of a 1.014 acre tract of land part of Block 32, W.G. Wilkins Addition and part of Lot 3 Keys Third Addition, A. Harrington Survey [Approved]

Consideration of a Replat of All or Portions of Reserves A, B, and C of the Southwest Industrial Park Section III, Consisting of Approximately 65.5 Acres and Creating Lots 2, 3 and Reserve B-R [Approved]

Consideration of a Text Amendment to Part 1, Section 5.02 (Definitions), (53) Dwelling, Detached, of Appendix A: Zoning of the City of Brenham's Code of Ordinances, Establishing 750 Square Feet as the Minimum Square Footage Allowed for Single Family Detached Dwellings on Individual Lots [Approved]

8/5/13 Consideration of an Amending Plat Creating Lots 2A and 3A of the BHKW Subdivision, being an Adjustment of the Common Lot Line between Lots 2 & 3 as shown on the Minor Plat of BHKW Subdivision [Approved]

Consideration of a Final Plat for the Country Side Manufactured Home Community, Sections 1, Lot 1, Consisting of approximately 15.5 acres out of the Phillip Coe Survey and Located on FM 389 and adjoining the south side of the existing Wehmeyer Mobile Home Park [Approved]

Consideration of the Approval of a Manufactured Home Park Master Plan for Country Side Manufactured Home Community and Located on approximately 15.5 acres out of the Phillip Coe Survey and Located on FM 389 and adjoining the south side of the existing Wehmeyer Mobile Home Park [Approved]

Consideration of a Replat of Lots 1 and 3 and a portion of Lots 2, 4, and 5, along with a portion of a 12 foot wide alley, Block "T", Washington Park Addition to the City of Brenham to form Lot 1A and Lot 2A [Approved]

Consideration of an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the Code of Ordinances, to change the zoning from a Residential Single Family (R-1) District to an Industrial Use (I) District on 0.783 acre tract, being a portion of a called 19.687 acre tract out of the John Carrington Survey, Abstract No. 120, addressed as 50 Kuhn Lane, and located south of Salem Road adjacent to the Mark Schulte Tract and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad [Approved]

Consideration of an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the Code of Ordinances to change the zoning from a Residential Single Family (R-1) District to

establish a Planned Development (PD) District for single-family residential uses on approximately 11.905 acres located north of the intersection of South Blue Bell and Mustang Roads, and a tract 251 within the James Walker Survey [Approved]

Consideration of a Text Amendment to Part II, Division 2, Section 6 (Industrial District), of Appendix A: Zoning of the City of Brenham's Code of Ordinances, Amending the list of Permitted Uses and Adding Uses Allowed with Specific Use Approval [Approved]

9/3/13 Consideration of a Recommendation to the Brenham City Council for Amendments to Chapter 21, Signs, of the City of Brenham Code of Ordinances [Approved]

Consideration of an Amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the Code of Ordinances, to change the zoning from a Residential Single Family (R-1) District to a Local Business/Residential Mixed Use (B-1) District on a tract of land described as Dixie, Block H, Lot 5 and addressed as 305 Leghorn Street, being a corner lot at the intersection of Leghorn Street and Old Mill Creek Road [Denied]

- 10/7/13 Consideration of a Replat of Reserve "B" of the Southwest Industrial Park, Section II of the City of Brenham to Form Lot 4 and Lot 5 [Approved]
- 11/4/13 Consideration of a Preliminary Plat for Timber Oaks Subdivision, Sections II and III, Consisting of Approximately 21.2 Acres Out of the Phillip Coe Survey and Located at the Southwest Corner of Old Mill Creek Road and Oak Tree Crossing Drive [Approved]

Consideration of a Preliminary Plat for 304 Horton Subdivision, Phases I and II, Consisting of Approximately 14.31 Acres Out of the Isaac Lee Survey near the Intersection of Cantey and South Market Streets [Approved]

## MAIN STREET DEPARTMENT

Jennifer Eckermann, Main Street Manager

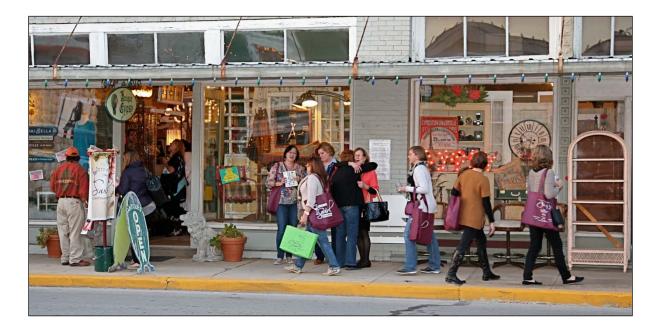
#### Awards/Accomplishments

- Winner of 2013 Best Public Improvement Project for Toubin Park by Texas Downtown Association.
- 12th Consecutive Year to be recognized as National Main Street City by National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## **Projects**

## Main Street hosted 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Uptown Swirl in Downtown Brenham.

- Goals accomplished:
  - 1. Host an event that brings an upscale crowd into downtown businesses. 650 logo wine glasses were ordered. Had additional glasses available sold 765 in all.
  - 2. Raise funds for downtown improvements. *More than \$10,000 in net revenue was raised.*
  - 3. Create an event that doesn't take as many resources to accomplish. *No vendors make it a much easier event to host than a festival. Keeping roads open used less city employee resources too.*
- Event was a success with beautiful weather in mid-January!



Swirl flags were again placed at each sampling location, showing wine walkers to the doors of participating businesses. Attendees enjoy the event and have a financial impact on the community during this typically slow retail month.



The Uptown Swirl continued to appeal to a wide audience of locals and visitors alike.

## Main Street partnered with BISD and local preservation groups to host the new Local History Day.

- Organization Committee and Core Team of Brenham Heritage Museum, Heritage Society of Washington County and Washington on the Brazos planned the event.
- Offered tightly scheduled tours of historic properties and locations, with volunteer, costumed actors playing important characters in our history.
- Volunteers from all over the community dedicated more than 450 hours to make it happen.
- Reviews from teachers, students and their families were phenomenal.





Scot McClellan, with Washington on the Brazos (bottom of previous page), portrayed Dr. Richard Fox Brenham and told students his story so that they would understand the naming of their hometown. The Brenham Heritage Museum and Fire Department employees shared interesting history that these children had never heard before.



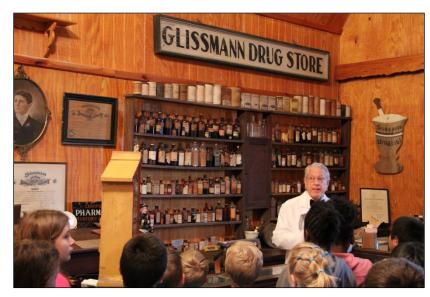


Volunteers portrayed historical characters at two of Brenham's most historic homes – the Giddings-Wilken House Museum and the Giddings Stone Mansion.



Students learned about the life of Brenham children in the late 1800's and how different it was from the life they live now.





At other downtown stops, the students learned about the Burning of Brenham and the importance of the railroad to early Brenham; a song sung by soldiers in the Civil War; and, how the job of a pharmacist has changed over the years.

## The Main Street Advisory Board voted to add a 5<sup>th</sup> Committee – the Planning Committee.

- Put in place to work on implementation of the Downtown Brenham Master Plan.
- Worked on getting a grasp of the whole plan and began setting priorities.

## Main Street held 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Nights, Cool Tunes Summer Concert Series.

- The 2013 free concerts were held July 6, 13, 20 and 27.
- Continues to be a summer tradition in the community where people of all ages come downtown for good music and fellowship.







Free concerts in Downtown Brenham continue to be the hot ticket each summer, with sponsors helping to offset the cost of the event.

## Main Street helped decorate Downtown with contests for the community, individuals and organizations during the busy fall season.

- Held the Scarecrow Extravaganza in early fall.
- Sponsors award cash prizes to winning entries getting schools, organizations, businesses and individuals involved in the city's revitalization efforts.
- Main Street volunteers also worked to add to the seasonal decorations.





#### **AIRPORT**

Grant Lischka, City Engineer Kim Hodde, Planning Technician/Airport Coordinator

#### **Accomplishments**

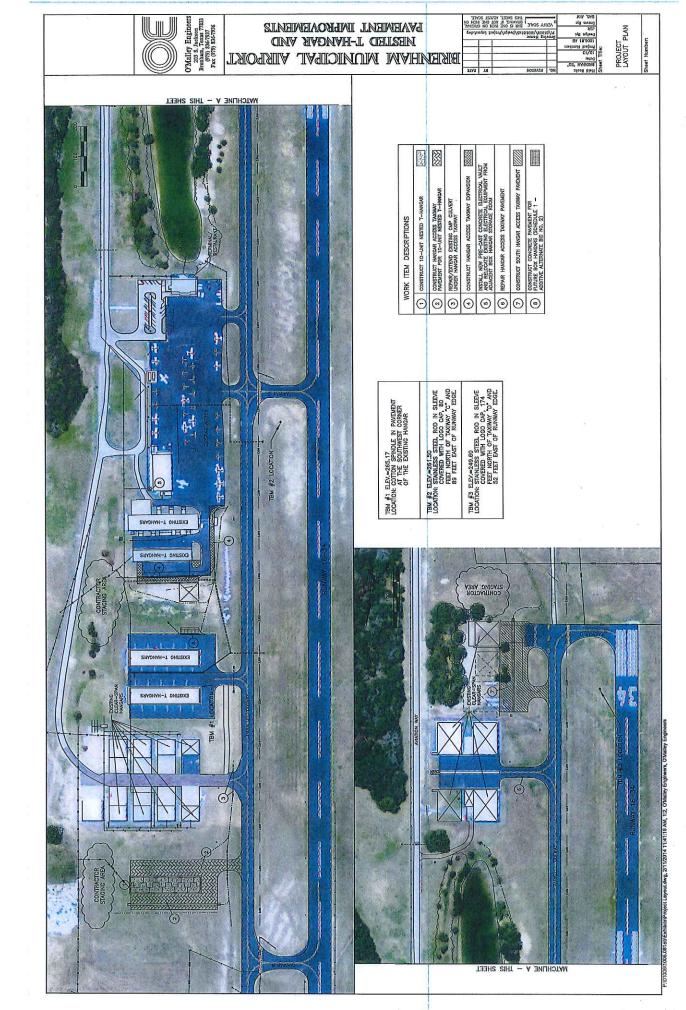
- The city-owned T-hangars that were completed in late 2007 remained at full occupancy during 2013 generating about \$30,000.00 in revenue for the Airport Budget.
- Five (5) new ground space leases were executed for construction of corporate hangars.
- Southern Flyer Diner received the *Best of the Best Award* and was named as the number one fly-in restaurant by the *\$100 Hamburger*. They have received this top award for the last several years as well as being named in the "Top Ten" list for a couple years prior to being named as number one.
- The Southern Flyer Diner was showcased in an article in the June 2013 *Texas Highways Magazine*.
- Jack and Janet Hess are excellent fixed base operators. They are dedicated to aviation and are attentive to the issues associated with running a successful airport. The service and hospitality offered by Jack and Janet Hess and their staff at the Brenham Municipal Airport remains exemplary.





#### **Projects**

- In March, 2013, an aircraft landed approximately 150 feet short of Runway 34, continued inward travel toward the runway until the right main landing gear hit the left side of the runway and the gear collapsed. The remaining portions of the right landing gear dug into the runway and spun the plane 180 degrees. The left main landing gear collapsed and the plane slid approximately 300 feet on its belly. None of the 3 individuals on board reported any injuries; however, it is estimated that approximately 20 to 60 gallons of Jet A fuel leaked out of the plane, saturated the asphalt and contaminated the surrounding ground. City staff worked with Environmental personnel and the owner's insurance company to remediate the soil contamination and runway damage.
- Due to an increasing game (deer, hog, etc.) problem, 10,000 feet of perimeter gamefencing was installed using the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (50/50) grant funds in Fiscal Year 2013. This covered about half of the airport property. The remainder of the game fencing will be installed during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
- The new hangars being constructed will need access to the taxiway. We have successfully negotiated funding options with TxDOT and proceeded with the design phase of this project. This project not only includes access taxiways for the new hangar construction but also includes a ten (1) unit T-hangar development. The City will lease the new T-hangars in the same manner that we do the current ones.









#### AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

The Airport Advisory Board met once during 2013 and addressed the following items:

2/26/13 Introduced Grant Lischka as the new City Engineer

Considered a Request from the International Aerobatic Club Local Chapter 25 to hold the Early Bird Contest at the Brenham Municipal Airport April 26-27, 2013.

Received an Update on the Hangar Development Project.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 2013 GOALS:**

- Building Standards Commission Ordinance Update (Completed)
- Thoroughfare Plan Amendments (Completed)
- Construction of New City-owned T-hangars (Design Phase completed)
- Construction of New Access Taxi-ways to Provide Access for the New Hangars (Design Phase Completed)
- Installation of Security Fencing at the Brenham Municipal Airport (Completed half)
- P&Z Subcommittee Work B-1 Zoning District Update (Replaced with Sign Ordinance, Draft Completed)
- Downtown Master Plan Implementation Plan & Schedule
- Building Code Ordinance Update
- Adoption of New Fee Schedule

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 2014 GOALS:**

- Building Code Ordinance Update
- Adoption of New Fee Schedule
- Annexation
- P&Z Subcommittee Work Various Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- Downtown Master Plan Implementation Plan & Schedule
- Construction of New City-owned T-hangars (Construction Phase)
- Construction of New Access Taxi-ways to Provide Access for the New Hangars (Construction Phase)
- Complete Installation of Security Fencing at the Brenham Municipal Airport (Remainder)

#### MAPPING

Becky Squyres, GIS Technician

• In October 2013, the Mapping/GIS functions were transferred to the Public Utilities Department to focus on the quality of data of GIS Maps since a majority of the data is related to utilities.