

September 2020
Issue 25

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Office Hours:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Drive-Thru Window:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Boosting Broadband Access in Bastrop County

In today's always-connected world, internet access is vital — for businesses, families, students and for quality of life. And now as we find ourselves living in a strange, socially-distanced society, internet connectivity is even more important than ever.

High-speed internet access over broadband networks allows use of online services at significantly faster speeds than traditional telephone connections. These networks can use various technologies, including cable modem, wireless broadband or fiber optics. But for many homes and businesses in rural areas, broadband speeds simply are not available yet.

In an effort to enhance and expand broadband access, adoption and use throughout Bastrop County, the Bastrop County Cares organization has teamed up with Connected

Nation Texas and their "Connected Community" program. These groups are working together to assess the state of broadband availability in Bastrop County, and establish a planning process to address current and future broadband needs for the benefit of local residents and businesses.

Where to Start

The first step on the journey to increasing internet access is to gain a better understanding of Bastrop County's current broadband environment. To that end, the Bastrop County Broadband Committee is conducting surveys of residents across the county. Results from this work will be shared with the public, followed by additional work to develop a county-wide action plan to address identified areas of need.

Aqua Water Supply

is supporting this effort by asking our members located in Bastrop County to provide information about the availability and speed of internet access in their area. Please visit www.myconnectedcommunity.org/bastrop-county and take approximately 10 minutes to answer questions for the address where you have a residence (either owned or rented). Survey respondents should be at least 18 years of age and be a decision maker for the household.

Thank you for your help! Your involvement is a vital first step toward improving the quality of life and economic potential for all of us living and working in Bastrop County.



To Conserve and Protect

If you've lived in Texas for any length of time, this may not come as a surprise... At the beginning of August of this year, about 33 percent of the state was in drought. Although drought conditions have been relatively milder in Central Texas so far this year, remembering to conserve the water that we have is still critical.

Like other communities and water

suppliers across Texas, we are thinking ahead about our water supplies. Experts have estimated that the state's population will increase more than 70 percent by the year 2070, which means increasing demands on water.

Aqua is committed to addressing water supply challenges and protecting our water supplies for future generations. We continue to ask Aqua mem-

bers to follow regular water conservation practices, such as limiting outdoor watering, using water-efficient fixtures and appliances, fixing water leaks, and planting drought-tolerant landscapes.

Individual conservation efforts can add up. To learn more smart tips on saving water, visit the Aqua Water Supply website at www.aquawsc.com/conservation-environment.

Community Happenings

Delhi Volunteer Fire Department Gun Raffle/Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, October 24, at the Delhi Fire Station, 6255 State Highway 304, Rosanky. Serving to begin at 4 p.m., followed by a live auction, concluding with the raffle drawing for 9 guns and 1 last gun auction. Indoor activity pending social distancing protocols in October. Tickets on sale now for \$20. Call (830) 263-1555 to purchase, or visit www.facebook.com/DelhiVolunteerFireDepartment. All proceeds to benefit Delhi VFD. If the chili cook-off is closed due to COVID-19 the gun auction will still happen as planned; winners will be contacted by phone. Stay Safe!

COVID-19 HOTLINES

FOR BASTROP COUNTY CITIZENS

UPDATED
JUNE 15, 2020
Subject to change

 <p>GENERAL INFORMATION 512-303-4300 <i>Monday thru Friday, 8 am – 5 pm</i></p>	<p>Bastrop County Local Governments COVID-19, Recovery, FAQ, Best Practices, Restrictions, Testing, Reopenings, Food Assistance, Mental Health, Schools, Courts</p>
 <p>BASTROP COUNTY OEM co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.coronavirus</p>	
 <p>MEDICAL - NO DOCTOR 1-833-978-0649</p>	<p>Ascension - Medium to high risk symptom category, return call within hour. Low risk category, return call within 24 hours.</p>
 <p>MEDICAL - NO INSURANCE 512-237-2772</p>	<p>Smithville Community Clinic - Call Monday through Friday, 8am-1pm. You will need to drive to Smithville to sign consent forms before a medical professional will contact you.</p>
 <p>MEDICAL - NO INSURANCE 512-978-8775</p>	<p>CommUnityCare If you don't have insurance and have symptoms of COVID-19. OPEN Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm</p>

COVID-19 Testing For Bastrop County Citizens

To make a free appointment and check on eligibility:



VISIT: bastropcountycovid19.org

OR



CALL: 512-972-5560

(8 AM – 5 PM M-F and 9 AM—1 PM Sat.)

- No doctor referral or insurance required
- Testing is conducted at multiple locations in Bastrop County on Monday through Friday, from 8 AM—4:30 PM.

***Please Note:** The Aqua Water Supply customer newsletter is published 4 times per year. To submit Community Announcements for publication in an upcoming quarterly issue, please send your news in writing to the main Aqua office or via email info@aquawsc.com by the fifth day of January, April, July or October.

Congratulations Aqua Scholarship Winners!

Aqua is pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of the Ernest W. Bracewell, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program. Each selected applicant will receive scholarship assistance to help support the continuing education goals of our members.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

Amanda Branecky currently attends the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business, with plans to continue at the University of Texas College of Pharmacy. Amanda is the daughter of Gale and Anthony Branecky of Bastrop.



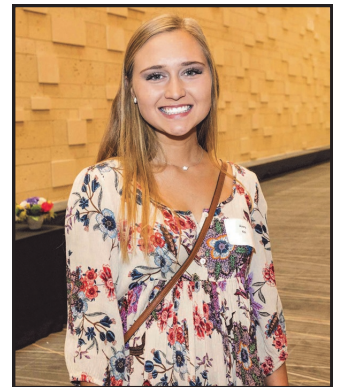
Marlizeth Hernandez graduated from Cedar Creek High School in June 2020. She plans to study at the University of Texas at Austin. Marlizeth is the daughter of Fidel Castaneda Benitez and Basilisa Hernandez Jaimes of Del Valle.



Carissa Jackson graduated from Texas A&M University. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. Carissa is the daughter of Diane and Tim Jackson of Manor.



Avery Koi is currently attending the University of Texas at Austin pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology. Avery is the daughter of Nathan Koi and Jacki King of Bastrop.



Meredith Masi graduated from Texas A&M University in May 2019. She is currently a student in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Meredith is the daughter of Barbara and Christopher Masi of Pflugerville.



Grace Oliver graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University's Honors College in 2020. She plans to pursue a Master's degree in English at the University of Oxford. Grace is the daughter of Robert and Pace Oliver of Elgin.



Jaden Strong graduated from Elgin High School in June 2020. He plans to attend Texas A&M University majoring in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Jaden is the son of Kim and John Strong, Jr. of Elgin.



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[www.facebook.com/
AquaWaterSupply](http://www.facebook.com/AquaWaterSupply)

Free automated phone payment and online bill pay are available 24/7. You can pay with all major credit cards, E-Check or automatic bank draft.

Payment by phone: Call Aqua at (512) 303-3943 and select option 5 — the interactive voice response system will guide you through the process.

Online: Visit www.aquawsc.com and select Pay My Bill. You will be redirected to a secure website with instructions for payment.

Automatic bank draft: Complete a Bank Authorization form, available from our office or website, and return the completed form to our office with a voided check.

Go Green: To start receiving an e-bill please email a request along with your 10-digit Aqua account number to: ebilling@aquawsc.com.

Safe ♦ Reliable ♦ Sustainable

CALL AQUA BEFORE YOU DIG:

Aqua Water will locate the Aqua water lines for you. Calling for a line locate before any type of excavation is a good idea. Water loss and service interruptions from damaged lines are avoidable, please call the Aqua office: (512) 303-3943.