

RESACA CITY RECORD

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Monthly Online Newsletter of the City of San Benito

June 2014

City receives armored vehicle

The City of San Benito received a \$733,000 multi-use armored vehicle free of charge this week.

A reconditioned Mine Resistant Ambush Protection Vehicle (MRAP) was awarded to the City by a Sealy-based company that manufactures government vehicles, according to Assistant City Manager for Public Safety Art Rodriguez.

Totally refurbished, the 2012 unit will be assigned to the Police Department and its SWAT Team for use in natural disasters such as rescues during hurricanes and floods, as well as for major crime/hostage/barricade and suicide intervention incidents, Police Chief Martin Morales said.

Use of the vehicle will also be available to neighboring communities who may need such a vehicle in emergency police situations.



MRAP delivered

A \$733,000 Mine Resistant Ambush Protection Vehicle was received free of charge by the City of San Benito on Friday. The two-year-old multi-use armored tank was delivered at no cost to the City for emergency rescue and police crime use. Shown above, standing are Police Chief Martin Morales, Officer Mario Perera, City Manager Manuel Lara, Assistant City Manager Art Rodriguez. Shown seated in the driver's seat is Assistant Police Chief Michael Galvan and standing inside the vehicle is Detective Rogelio Band. (City of San Benito photo)

The cab portion of the vehicle saw service in Iraq before it was returned to the United States, ac-

to Police Detective Rogelio Banda. "We got it at no cost to the city," Galvan said of vehicle.

The vehicle will be repainted and fitted with the City logo, and placed into service.

Citizens invited to apply for Special Events Board posts

Citizens are invited to submit applications for appointment to the San Benito Special Events Board.

The Board consists of seven members appointed to facilitate the successful organization and execution of events and festivals in this community through a work-

ing partnership with the City of San Benito. The Board meets the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Applicants should be at least 18 years of age and reside in the City of San Benito, or its extraterrito-

rial jurisdiction, demonstrate experience, fresh ideas and qualifications in organizing and conducting special events, be of good moral character and have an interest in the general welfare of the City.

Appointments to the board are made by the

Mayor or Commissioners.

The Special Events Board currently oversees the operations of ResacaFest and the City's Longest Lighted Christmas Parade and Festival, and participates in Texas Independence Day. Please call 361-3804, Ext. 301 for details.

City's Annual Report shows greater stability, progress

MANUEL LARA City Manager

I am happy to announce that we have received our Annual Report for FY 2013-2014. I invite you, our citizens, to stop by the Municipal Building at 401 N. Sam Houston Blvd. and pick up a copy for your review.

We will also have it posted for viewing on our new website at www.cityofsanbenito.com.

This is an expanded document with greater content, statistics and updates on the progress achieved by the City of San Benito.

It shows our department leaders are more involved and have a greater hands-on approach in the operations of each division of our City. For this report, we called our department heads together to account for their accomplishments while working to make San Benito a more efficient, productive city.

While I was certainly aware that solid progress was being made in each their accomplishments. I know that pride in one's work is a vital characteristic in overall success. You will see that reflected in the departmental narratives.

Therefore, I am pleased to report on the developmental progress, as well as the positive and stable financial condition of our organization.

The City is providing increased quality services, an enhanced image, efficient management and greater communication with our citizens.

Highlights of the past year include improved high bond ratings, receipt of the State Comptroller's Office Platinum Award for meeting online financial transparency criteria, greater progress in street maintenance, more modern infrastructure, and we have increased the efficiency and professionalism in our operations. In addition, we have reestablished our

Finance Department and Municipal Court in the newly remodeled City Hall.

Still, while we had a great year of progress and accomplishments, San Benito is establishing itself as a growing, dynamic community to be reckoned with. We look ahead with confidence to our future challenges: more comprehensive mapping of our City, a new land-use plan that will lead our growth, greater economic development opportunities, a continued dedication to fiscal responsibility and transparency, and more recreational opportunities for our community. We also are planning for greater economic development and the construction of a new Cultural Arts Museum.

It is through effective management on all levels that we have been able to reach and even surpass our goals. Through effective cooperation, we have implemented a departmental restructure with an eye to greater efficiency and use of your tax



dollars. Upon my arrival as city manager five years ago, the City had 205 employees. Today we have streamlined to 186, and we are implementing changes as deemed necessary to continue smooth operations of our City.

It is to the credit of our City Commission, administrative staff and personnel that we have been successful. It takes a team to run a city efficiently and productively. We have a great, hard-working team in place and it is with pleasure that we look forward to continued growth and an improved quality of life.

ResacaFest 2014 - July 6 from 4-11 p.m.

at Heavin Memorial Park on the Resaca in San Benito.

Live Music, Kiddie Games, Food and Fun

Featuring:

Roger Velasquez and the Latin Legendz, Jimmy Edward & Raulito Navaira,

Los City Boyz and Los Latinos.

Admission is Free.