

January 2012 A publication of the Bellmead Chamber of Commerce & La Vega ISD

## Upcoming events

- **Jan. 4** Noon  
Holiday Inn
- **Feb. 1** Noon  
Bellmead Civic Center
- **March 7** Noon  
Bellmead Civic Center
- **April 4** Noon  
Bellmead Civic Center
- **May 2** Noon  
Bellmead Civic Center

• Lunch meeting  
sponsors needed for  
2012. Call 799-1552.



### First Convenience Bank opens in Bellmead H-E-B

First Convenience Bank opened its third location in the Waco area at the recently expanded H-E-B in Bellmead. The bank is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The bank has 247 locations across Texas including one at the Hewitt-Woodway H-E-B and the Walmart on Franklin.

## Inside

La Vega student writes  
winning essay

Bellmead City Update

La Vega High School  
Head Football Coach  
charts 150th career win

Bellmead organizes  
Citizens Police Academy

La Vega Elementary  
receives exemplary  
rating



### In appreciation

The Bellmead Chamber of Commerce presents a plant to Judge Vicki Menard, 414th District Court

# BELLMEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 154615  
3400 Bellmead Drive  
Bellmead, TX 76705  
**Business Hours:**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday, Wednesday &  
Friday

**Phone:**  
(254)799-1552  
**Fax:**  
(254) 799-9370  
Office manager: Vivian Nowlin

## Chamber Directors

Ben Baker	Sharon Shields
Matthew Dollar	Natasha King
Mike Edrington	Kaye Horacek
Lynn Everett	Dave Ridley
Brent Jahnke	Tim Fitzhugh
Matt King	Rashmi Patel

## Chamber Officers

President - Rev. Duane Hoxworth  
Vice President - David Ridley  
Secretary/Treasurer - Kaye Morgan

To advertise or submit material, call (254) 749-7073.

## Board of Trustees

Mildred Watkins - President  
Phil Bancale - Vice President  
Henry C. Jennings - Secretary  
Wayne Samford - Assistant Secretary  
Randy Devorsky - Member  
Kevin P. Harris - Member  
Rodney Outlaw - Member

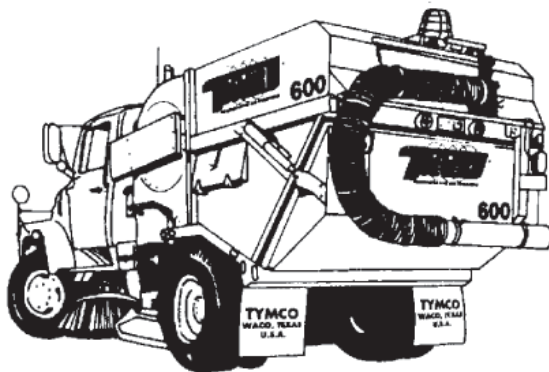
## Contact Information

3100 Bellmead Drive, Bellmead, Texas, 76705  
**Phone:** 799-4963 or 299-6700  
**Fax:** 799-8642



## Administration

**Superintendent**  
Dr. Sharon M. Shields  
**Deputy Superintendent**  
**for Personnel and Administration**  
Al Bishop  
**Assistant Superintendents for Finance**  
Diane Roepke  
**Administration Assistant for the Superintendent &**  
**Public Information Officer**  
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## La Vega Elementary receives recognition

La Vega Elementary School was recognized at the school board meeting Nov. 15 for achieving a Texas Education Agency Exemplary Rating.

This is the sixth year that La Vega Elementary has been an exemplary campus.

They also received Gold Performance Acknowledgments for being Commended in Reading/ELA and Mathematics.

*At left, Mildred Watkins, Board President; Steven McKinney, third grader at La Vega Elementary; and Shaunte' Stewart, La Vega Elementary principal.*

La Vega Elementary was also recognized for making the Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll for 2011.

This is the fourth year that LVES has been on the honor roll.

Of the more than 8,000 Texas public schools, less than 4 percent make this honor roll. The TBEC Honor Roll is the most prestigious award for sustained academic excellence in Texas.

## Bellmead to hold Citizens Police Academy

The Purpose of the Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is not to train citizens as a Reserve Police Officer, but to produce informed citizens.

The citizens and police officers meet each other face to face in a neutral, friendly setting and for a better understanding of each other.

In the past, citizens have simply

seen a uniform, upon completion the citizens will have an understanding about the person behind the badge.

The City of Bellmead recognize the importance and need for such a program and want to encourage citizens to participation in this year's CPA Program.

This program is

used to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police partnerships.

This is a 10-week program with only two hours one day a week, beginning from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 24, 2012 at the Bellmead Civic Center Senior Room at 3900 Parish St.

Applications may be picked up at either City Hall during normal business hours or any time from the Po-

lice Department.

Applications must be turned back into the Police Department by Dec. 28, 2011.

Only 25 slots are available for this class.

It is the goal of the Community Services Division to provide the highest quality of service to the citizens of the City of Bellmead.

The CPA has proven to be an

effective, inexpensive program to promote neighborhood spirit and community – police partnerships in the fight for a safer city for its citizens.

Questions should be addressed to J. W. Eslick, Community Services Officer at [jweslick@bellmead.com](mailto:jweslick@bellmead.com), work or (254) 799-0252 or (254) 424-1396.



## Bellmead City Government

<b>Mayor</b> Joshua Collier, Pct. 4	<b>Municipal Court Judge</b> Kathleen Dow
<b>Mayor Pro-Tem</b> Kevin Wilson, Pct. 2	<b>City Engineer</b> Johnny Tabor
<b>Council Members</b> U.F. Roberts, At-Large Carlos Luna, Pct. 1 Mary C. Youngblood, Pct. 3 Sherri Harris, Pct. 5	<b>City Finance Director</b> Carolyn Baker
<b>Police Chief</b> Lydia Alvarado	<b>Public Works Director</b> Scott Coleman
<b>Fire Chief / Marshal</b> William T. Hlavenka, Jr.	<b>Development / Neighborhood Services Director</b> Jerry Grisham
<b>Interim City Manager</b> Anne Smith	<b>Civic/ Tourism Director</b> Tony Torres
<b>City Secretary</b> Cynthia Ward	<b>IT Manager</b> Devin Kluk
<b>City Attorney</b> Charles D. Olson	

<b>City Hall</b> 3015 Bellmead Drive	799-2436
<b>Community Center</b> 3900 Parrish St.	799-2418
<b>Non-Emergency Numbers:</b>	
Fire 700 Kane	799-1661
Police 3015 Bellmead Drive	799-0251
Ambulance	753-0355
Bellmead Water Dept.	799-2436

# La Vega High student honored for One Book One Waco essay

La Vega High Teacher Jan Skrabanek's English 4 classes participated in the One Book, One Waco program.

Outside of class, the students individually read *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore.

Each student wrote an essay in order to participate in the One Book, One Waco essay contest, which was open to all schools in the Waco area.

One of the purposes of the program was to link the community to the schools.

The teachers chose the top essays to submit to the contest.

Two essay questions were presented for students to choose from, and teachers chose three winners for each question.

La Vega ISD is proud to announce



*Mildred Watkins, La Vega school board president, recognizes La Vega High student Bri'Tany Robinson at the Nov. 15 school board meeting.*

that La Vega High student Bri'Tany Robinson-Brown was chosen as one of the six winners.

Bri'Tany and Ms. Skrabanek had dinner Nov. 17 with the author at Diamond Back's restaurant where Wes Moore presented Bri'Tany with a certificate for

winning. She also was recognized at the author lecture at First Baptist Waco.

Congratulations to Bri'Tany on this outstanding achievement and thanks to Ms. Skrabanek for sponsoring this event at our high school.



**Congratulations  
to La Vega  
Athletic Director  
and Head  
Football Coach  
Willie Williams  
on his  
150th career win  
Oct. 21, 2011**



**La Vega grad Rhodes plays  
in 2011 World Series**

Arthur Rhodes, who graduated from La Vega High School, is shown here with the World Series trophy.



Because the St. Louis Cardinals and Texas Rangers faced each other in the World Series, this created a unique situation, since

Rhodes began the season with the Rangers and ended the season with the Cardinals.

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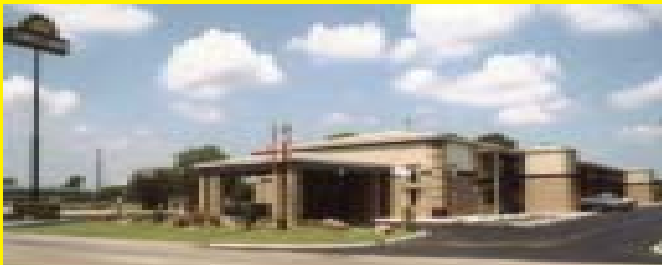
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## How can you

- increase exposure for your business?
- get involved in the community?
- make a difference?
- meet others with the same goals?

## Join the Bellmead Chamber

# Join the Bellmead Chamber (254) 799-1552 • BellmeadChamber.com

# 61st Annual Bellmead Christmas Parade



**Roger's Barber Shop**



**Cohrt Family Float**



**American Legion Riders Post 121**



**Bellmead Calvary Baptist Church Youth**



**DeRoon Motor Sports**



**Centro Christian Ryo De Luz**

# 61st Annual Bellmead Christmas Parade



**American Classifieds**



**AmVets Post 19**



**3 2Gether**



**Bellmead Pools & Supply**



**Timber Crest Baptist Church**



**JMJ Wrecking**

# Bellmead Chamber Members

Aarons Sales & Lease	Central Texas Senior Ministry	Hewitt Chamber of Commerce	Members Choice Federal Credit Union	Sonic Drive-in Bellmead Drive
ABC Health Care, Inc.	Chevron Food Mart Christi's	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center	Judge Vicki Menard	Sparks Memorial United
Advantage Furniture	Hamburgers	Holiday Inn	Michna's Bar-B-Q	Methodist Church
Advantage Press	City of Bellmead	Home Depot	Mid-State Vending	State Farm
Airfre Filter Service	City of Lacy	H.O.T.C.O.G.	Molly's Restaurant	Insurance, Michael E. McKenzie
American Family Radio	Lakeview	Hotel Waco	Moreno Tax Service	Stem Insurance Agency
American Bank	Judge Gary Coley	Italian Granite	Motel 6	Subway on I-35
ATMOS Energy	Collin Street Bakery	Jack of All Trades	Mary Mynar	Texas Animal Medical Center
The Atrium of Bellmead	Comfort Inn & Suites	J.M.J. Wrecking & Used Cars	Neel Assoc. Inc.	Texas Beverage
Baird Brothers Express Car Wash	Communities in Schools	Gloria Johnson-Tuck	NeighborWorks	Texas Machine & Tool Inc.
Bellmead Community Church	Country Inn & Suites	Knight's Inn	Oak Farms Dairy	Texas Meter and Device
Bellmead Community Clinic	Cracker Barrel	Kountry Kitchen	Oncor	Texas State Technical College Waco
Bellmead Funeral Home	Curtis Cox Jewelers	Lacy Lakeview Chamber of Commerce	Pizza Hut	The Real Estate Company
Bellmead Lions	Day's Inn	L-3 Integrated Systems	Popeye's of Laredo	Time-Warner Cable
Bellmead Pools	Dennis Auto Repair	LaVega Flower Shop	Praise Temple Assembly of God	Treat N Go Clinic
Bellmead Strong Radio	Russell Devorsky	La Vega ISD	Praxair	TYMCO Inc.
Ben Baker	Dicorte's Emporium	La Vega Little League	Pro Cuts	Vacations Unlimited
Better Business Bureau	El Conquistador	Lone Star Steakhouse	Quality Care of Waco	Waco Chamber of Commerce
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas	ETMC	Loop 340 Overhead Doors	Rapoport Academy	Waco Tribune-Herald
Brazos Dentistry	Extraco Banks	Lorena Chamber of Commerce	Red Man Bingo	Walmart Super Center
Budget Tax	Festive Occasions	Luby's	Robinson Chamber of Commerce	Wilkinson-Hatch Funeral Home
Cargill	First Convenience Bank	Lynn's La Vega Pharmacy	Roy Beatty Cleaners	Willis Plumbing
Caritas of Waco	First Title Company of Waco	Mama Lena's Pizza and Sub	Sam's Wholesale Club	Kevin Wilson
Carter BloodCare	GENCO Federal Credit Union	Matt Dollar Edward Jones	Sanderson Farms	Woody Butler Homes
Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce	Gritten Automotive	Matula Insurance	Scott and White Clinics	
Center for Business Excellence	Guaranty Federal Bank	Mazanec Construction	Shiple's Donuts	
	H&R Carpet	McLennan Community College	Shipley's Donuts	
	Hampton Inn Waco North		Silver Fox Collision	
	Robert Hawkins		Sister Scissors	
	Heart of Texas Auto Recovery		Skate Country	
	Heart of Texas Publications		Sodexho Food Services	
	HEB Food Stores		Sonic Drive-in I-35	

# Caritas hosts ribbon cutting for Bellmead thrift store

The Bellmead Chamber of Commerce participated in a ribbon cutting as Caritas celebrated the opening of its new thrift store at 3016 Bellmead Drive.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Caritas of Waco also operates resale stores at 3116 Franklin Ave. in Waco and in West.

All resale stores are self-sustaining with excess revenues going to support Caritas operations.

The resale stores are open to the public for low-cost items, including quality clothing, household items, small and large appliances, furniture and miscellaneous items.

Caritas is a United Way Agency and helps anyone who has emergency needs regardless of age, sex or ethnicity.

The majority of recipients are residents of McLennan County although there are no geographical limits to receiving services from Caritas. All recipients are interviewed to determine their needs.

Emergency/Supplemental Assistance is provided in the form of food, utilities, clothing, prescription medication, household items and travel assistance.

In 2004, Caritas became the distribution center for gifts-in-kind products to local and state-wide charities through the Wal-Mart Return Center in Waco. Caritas receives warehouse items, then distributes hundreds of thousands of pounds of much needed paper and household items to charitable organizations and food banks serving people in need. Agencies receiving these products are asked to defray Caritas' costs through



*The Bellmead Chamber of Commerce helped Caritas celebrate its new thrift store at 3016 Bellmead Drive. The store is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The store accepts donations and sells a variety of clothing and household items. For more information, call (254) 799-0777.*

a very reasonable handling fee of \$.18 per pound. Hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple receive the benefits of this program. call (254) 799-0777 or visit Caritas-Waco.org.

For more information,

## La Vega Honor Roll First Six Weeks

Continued from  
December issue

**La Vega  
Intermediate  
School  
H.P. Miles Campus  
A/B Honor Roll  
5th Grade**

Mikayla Rhodes  
Jaylon Ridge  
Esteban Romero  
Sergiu Salagean  
Kennedy Shores  
Kiana St Julian  
Betty Thomas  
Savannah Walts  
Carolyn Welch  
Jasmine Williams  
Cinny Zhao

### 6th Grade

Andrew Aguilar  
Ivan Aleman  
Patricia Anderson  
Earlneshia Barrier  
Perla Bautista  
Castillo  
Cameron Bradley  
Keirsten Chavez  
Savannah Contreras  
Luis Flores  
Adrianna Fonseca  
Kandice Graves  
Emariya Hatter  
Cristal Hernandez  
Raven Jackson  
Ariel Johnson  
Destiney Jones  
Ivette Lopez

Emily Loris  
Israel Maldonado  
Erica Martinez  
Mariah Martinez  
Destiny Negron  
Kasey Orbison  
T Pina  
Devin Proxter  
Maria Quezada  
Jasmin Segura  
Jose Israel Servin  
Leon  
Alyssa Seybert  
Brianna Shilling  
Michael Stimpson  
Madison Stipe  
Sierra Watson  
Keenan Zhao



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# Bellmead Council meeting update

**By Kevin Wilson  
Mayor Pro-Tem**

Greetings Bellmead Citizens;

Our last regular City Council meeting was Nov. 8.

We had a lot of things to consider, but everything went well.

This was also our first Council meeting with our new interim city manager, Ann Smith. We heard from several visitors and the mayor read a proclamation about Municipal Court Week.

During our reports, I was pleased to report that the City of Bellmead received a nice plaque from the Texas Economic Development Council for our successful efforts to improve our downtown.

Approximately \$535,000 is being invested downtown from government grants and public/private partnerships.

Our previous meeting minutes were approved.

The following is an account of what was

completed on our regular agenda:

- A request from Waste Management for an increase in rates by about 3% to take effect on Nov. 1.

This rate increase was voted down and is not in effect at this time.

- We ordered a special election to take place on Jan. 14 to allow you, the citizens, determine if the new property tax rates for Bellmead will remain in effect.

This tax increase was requested to fight the rising violent crime rate in Bellmead, which is about twice the rate of both state and national averages.

This increase will be used to help with public safety by providing additional law enforcement personnel and equipment.

It will cost the average resident less than \$5 per month. A proposal was made to provide additional tax relief for our seniors age 65 and older if this rate remains.

- A yield sign is at

the dangerous intersection where Cloverleaf connects with Williams Drive.

The Council passed a resolution to accept the recommendation of the police department to change this yield sign into a stop sign to increase public safety in this area.

- We supported our police chief and voted to allow her to start the new Bellmead Citizen Police Academy.

Again, this is an effort to increase public safety for our citizens and help us to all work together to reduce crime in our city.

- We passed the second and third reading of an ordinance that would allow city employees who have worked in other government positions to transfer their time to our retirement system to be considered for retirement.

This would not provide any additional money for the retiree but might allow them to be credited with more time in service and to be eligible for retirement sooner.

- We permitted the

addition of our new interim city manager to be added on the various signature cards needed to authorize her to sign and perform her duties for the city.

We also discussed procedures for the search of a new permanent city manager to replace Mr. Pena, who is no longer with us.

- The Council decided to formally allow an additional off day for employees for Christmas.

This has been done in years past but was not officially written in the handbook.

We also discussed other changes needed for our city charter to include some that are needed to be in line with new state laws.

Bellmead is Blooming. The City of Bellmead continues to do well in our efforts to improve our appearance, grow businesses and expand job opportunities for our citizens.

Caritas celebrated their new look with an official ribbon cutting

Nov. 14.

Our new H-E-B Plus is looking great. The new bank, First Convenience Bank, located inside the H-E-B Plus, held their ribbon cutting Nov. 23.

Our new Gold's Gym Express is open and doing well.

If you have not been by, you should take a look.

It is a really nice facility and something we should all be proud of.

The old Express Pawn on the corner of Bellmead Drive and Loop 340 that has been empty and dormant for years was recently purchased.

We hope to be adding another new business to the city soon.

If you know of or are part of any new business effort in Bellmead, please let me know.

I can be reached by email at [Better-Bellmead@aol.com](mailto:Better-Bellmead@aol.com).

I enjoy working and contributing to the success of our great city. Thank you for allowing me to do so.

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## Bellmead Community Calendar

• **Thursdays** -  
Noon to 1 p.m.,  
Bellmead  
Lions Club meets  
at Bellmead Civic  
Center

• **Dec. 13** - 6:30  
p.m., Bellmead

City Council meets  
at City Hall. The  
Council meets on  
second  
Tuesdays.

*To have your  
meeting added to  
this calendar, call  
(254) 749-7073.*



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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



During this holiday season and every day of the year,  
we wish you all the best.

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## La Vega ISD Calendar

• **Dec. 12** La  
Vega High School  
and  
Beginner Band  
Holiday Concerts

• **Dec. 13** 7  
p.m., Board of  
Trustees Regular  
Meeting,  
Administration  
Building

• **Dec. 13** 6  
p.m., first grade  
Christmas pro-  
gram

• **Dec. 13** Junior  
High and Jazz  
Band Holiday  
Concerts

• **Dec. 13**  
Kindergarten  
Polar Express  
Day

• **Dec. 13** La  
Vega  
Intermediate  
School H.P. Miles  
Campus  
Operation  
Starfish Lunch

• **Dec. 14** 4  
p.m.,  
superintendent's  
advisory council  
meeting,  
Administration  
Building

• **Dec. 15** La  
Vega Elementary  
Classroom  
Christmas Parties

• **Dec. 15**  
LVISHPMC  
Mentoring  
Program Lunch  
Bunch

• **Dec. 16** Early  
release day

• **Dec. 16** La  
Vega Primary  
Christmas Parties

• **Dec. 19-Jan.**  
2 Christmas  
Holidays