

# GISD programs receive distinctions

By KATHERINE ANTHONY

Georgetown Independent School District's fine arts and school nursing programs last week garnered state and local recognition.

The district is one of 42 statewide named a 2020 District of Distinction by the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA). GISD received the honor for promoting the arts in the school district and wider community, according to TAEA.

Only the top 4 percent of Texas school districts earned the honor this year.

TAEA-honored districts met the standards that examined the district's visual art program from participation in TAEA through membership, exhibitions and contents, as well as community engagement in the visual arts through field experiences, community service and collaboration.

This year, TAEA also adjusted the requirements to fit the rapid shift to online instruction because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Georgetown ISD set a high standard for visual arts advocacy, integrated visual arts curriculum, encouraged creativity and community participation," said Stacia Gower, TAEA's chair of the administration and supervision division.

GISD and other winning districts will be honored at the virtual TAEA conference in November.

Georgetown ISD's school nurses were recognized last week by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, which presented them with the Cornerstone Award for healthcare. The award recognizes the team's commitment to serving the district's families and staff, and for lending their expertise to the greater Georgetown community during

the pandemic.

The chamber annually recognizes organizations and/or individuals who excel in each one of the four community cornerstones: economic development, education, healthcare and public safety.

Mindy Petty, GISD's lead school nurse, accepted the award.

School nurses are the professional link between schools and public health. They provide information to families and community members on public health developments, and they work directly with principals, teachers, custodial staff and other GISD employees to plan and implement evidence-based prevention and response practices.

Georgetown ISD is one of the few school districts in Central Texas to employ a bachelor's prepared registered nurse (RN) at every

school.

Each has training in public health, epidemiology and illness management, and many have experience in trauma and critical care units.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, school nurses have helped with meal distribution, gathered personal protection equipment for Williamson county, monitored and screened guests to ensure safe graduation events, and reached out to students with chronic health conditions to ensure ongoing care.

"COVID-19 has shined light on our amazing healthcare community," Georgetown Chamber President and CEO Jim Johnson said. "It doesn't take a pandemic to recognize the hard work that they do. They are critical to ensuring students are healthy and ready to learn."

# Sheriff's Office has inauguration invite

By BRAD STUTZMAN

Pending Commissioners Court approval, the Williamson County Sheriff's Office might be helping provide security during next January's presidential inauguration activities in Washington, D.C.

Commissioners were scheduled Tuesday to consider a request from Sheriff Robert Chody.

"The expenses associated with providing staff for the Presidential Inauguration Task Force are fully reimbursable," Julie Kiley, from the County Auditor's office, wrote in an attachment to Tuesday's agenda. "Sheriff Chody is working with the Auditor's Office to track expenses and legal [counsel] reviewed the memorandum of understanding."

Background material accompanying Tuesday's agenda item includes a letter to Sheriff Chody from Washington, D.C. Police Chief Peter Newsham.

"On Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the 59th Inauguration of the President of the United States will be held in the District of Columbia," Chief Newsham wrote. "The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is the primary law enforcement agency responsible for ensuring the safety of

the participants and the public during the Inaugural Parade as well as with assisting the United States Secret Service with perimeter security and traffic control for the subsequent Inaugural Balls. As a result of the current threat level in the Nation's Capital and the on-going development of intelligence, I am requesting the assistance of the Williamson County Sheriff's Office during the Inauguration.

"The MPD is asking your agency to provide a supplemental uniformed presence consisting of a minimum of 40 sworn members to aid with crowd and traffic control responsibilities," the D.C. chief continued. "Participation of agencies unable to provide the minimum number of required members will be addressed on a case-by-case basis."

"If your agency is able to accommodate this request, please respond as soon as possible ... The MPD will pay for the cost of salaries, lodging, travel, and a per diem for meals, as appropriate, for the sworn members sent to assist us."

Commissioners must vote to approve the County's participation, with the memorandum of understanding awaiting Judge Bill Gravell's signature.

# Fire guts Walburg manufacturing plant

Continued from 1

afternoon through early Thursday night for a one-mile radius around the plant, Sheriff Robert Chody reported.

Sheriff Chody said traffic was temporarily diverted, with FM 1105 shut down where the road intersects

with both FM 971 and County Road 153.

As of late Friday morning the blaze was 99 percent contained, county spokesperson Michelle Salinas said, but firefighters remained on the scene keeping watch over smoldering debris.

"There were still hot spots under the collapsed building that we couldn't reach," Mr. Gehrig said. "We stayed on the scene most of the weekend. We've got to get some heavy equipment to start tearing down the sides and what's left of the roof."

Mr. Gehrig said the county fire marshall's office is investigating what started the blaze.

Representatives from the Texas Commissioner on Environmental Quality were monitoring the clean-up on Monday, Mr. Gehrig said.

## Upcoming public meetings

• **Georgetown school board:** regular session, 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, Hammerlun Center, 507 E. University Ave. Watch at [georgetownisd.org](http://georgetownisd.org)

• **Commissioners Court:** regular weekly session, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, county courthouse, 710 S. Main St. Watch at [wilco.org](http://wilco.org)

• **City Council:** Tuesday, Sept. 22, 519 W. Ninth St., 3 p.m. workshop and 6 p.m. meeting, second and fourth Tuesday. Watch at [georgetown.org/gtv](http://georgetown.org/gtv)

# Genealogy programs at library

## BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

There are a lot of things we shouldn't or can't do right now, but there are a few things that now is the perfect time for—like staying home and doing online genealogical research on your family history. October is Family History Month and the Georgetown Public Library is partnering with the Williamson County Genealogical Society to offer a virtual program called "Roots | Records | Research: A Virtual Genealogy Workshop" on Oct. 16 at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

The workshop will include information for people with varied levels of experience with genealogical research. The event will include three virtual workshops on Zoom and they will address the basics of genealogy and preserving family history. Sessions will last approximately 45 minutes with a 15-minute break before the next session begins.

Attendance will be limited to the first 100 people to register. You must register separately for each session that you want to watch—registering for one session will not grant you access to all three.

The three sessions are:  
9 a.m.: Dos and Don'ts of Beginning Genealogy presented by Teresa Devine

Teresa dabbled in genealogy for several years before deciding to get serious when an elderly relative died before sharing the family stories. She became a member of the National Society Daughters of the

American Revolution in 2014 and began volunteering to help others interested in joining by doing lineage research and completing applications. She presents frequently on genealogy topics to local societies and civic organizations. Teresa has served on the board of the Austin Genealogical Society, is the Lineage Research Committee chair for the Andrew Carruthers Chapter NSDAR, is Treasurer for the Lone Star Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and serves on the advisory board of the Texas Institute for Genealogical Research.

10 a.m.: Introduction to DNA presented by Alan Rabe, Vice President of the Williamson County Genealogical Society

Alan is the Georgetown Family History Center Director. He was responsible for volunteer indexing efforts in Round Rock, Pflugerville, Taylor and Georgetown from 2014 to 2017, when almost a million names were indexed for FamilySearch. He was also responsible for indexing efforts in northern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, where 10 million names were indexed over a 3-year period. An active genealogist for 50 years, he has traced his surname line back to 1222. Alan's genealogy interests for the past

### Library events

- Through Sept. 27, Rachael Hurst: *The Color of Animals* exhibit (Bridge and Hall galleries)
- Through Sept. 27, Jennifer Gillen: *Petal & Ink* exhibit (Café Gallery)

several years have shifted from ancestors to descendants, i.e., cousins. He is related to four Mayflower passengers, 15 signers of the Constitution, and to 35 U.S. presidents. Alan is also trained in graveyard restoration.

11 a.m.: Caring for Family Artifacts presented by Heather Hamilton, Conservator for The Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Heather has worked in the field of book and paper conservation for 18 years. She received an M.A. and Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation from Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. Heather worked at the Harvard College Libraries and the University of Texas at Austin Harry Ransom Center before starting her own conservation business here in Georgetown. She began working at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in May of this year.

Expand your genealogical knowledge by registering for the virtual Roots | Records | Research sessions you are interested in at [bit.ly/gpl-rrr](http://bit.ly/gpl-rrr). If you have questions, please call the library at 512-930-5331.

Dana Hendrix is the Adult Services Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

## Corrections & Amplifications

In the Sept. 13 issue, a story about the first day of school at Williams Elementary incorrectly stated the name of the teacher welcoming students with air hugs. Pamela Hinton is that teacher.

# ATTENTION NONPROFITS

Seeds of Strength is pleased to announce the first step in our 2021 grants process. The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be available to eligible nonprofits who will serve residents living in the Georgetown area on October 1, 2020.



Grant requests may range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The completed LOI is due November 12, 2020 by 5 p.m.

Areas of interest include: Health and Well-being, Family, Education and Financial Security, and Arts and Culture.

Please join us this year for a

## Virtual Letter of Intent Workshop

October 14, 2020 from 1pm to 3 pm.

Interested organizations can get more information and register online: [SeedsOfStrength.org](http://SeedsOfStrength.org)

Registration is required. Contact [grants@seedsofstrength.org](mailto:grants@seedsofstrength.org)

## WHO WE ARE



SEEDS OF STRENGTH

Seeds of Strength was founded in 2010. We are a philanthropic women's giving circle in which members come together to enrich lives in the Georgetown community. We encourage nonprofit organizations serving Georgetown residents to apply. To date we have awarded over \$1.3 million. Learn more at [seedsofstrength.org](http://seedsofstrength.org)

## Join us for our New Mass times

In person or on our Livestream

SATURDAY 5:00 PM  
SUNDAY 7:30 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:30 AM  
1:30 PM  
6:30 PM



ST. HELEN  
Catholic Church  
[www.sainthelens.org](http://www.sainthelens.org)