- WCMessenger.com - http://www.wcmessenger.com -

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Posted By *admin* On July 19, 2016 @ 8:19 am In Update | No Comments

---

CIVIC CENTER HOTEL – The new $14 million Marriott hotel next to the Decatur Civic Center moved a step closer to reality Monday with the signing of financial and legal agreements between the Decatur Economic Development Corporation, the city and Gatehouse Hotels. Planning Director Dedra Ragland said the final approval of the plans for the 107-room hotel should come within two months. A gas line that runs through the property is being moved and as soon as that work is complete a final plat for the property can be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city council. Preliminary plans for the hotel have been reviewed by the city staff. The hotel, to be built on the Civic Center east parking lot, will operate under the Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites brand and should be operational within a year.

ALCOHOL PETITION DEADLINE – The deadline to sign a petition to call an election for the sale of all alcoholic beverages, including mixed beverages, in the city of Decatur is tomorrow. The petition organizers need to secure approximately 500 signatures of registered voters who live in the city limits of Decatur. The petition is located at Patti's Hair Parlor, Rooster's Roadhouse, Cary Bohn Insurance, Rhine Realty and Memory Lane.

CHAMBER LUNCHEON – The Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce luncheon is 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday at T Top Manufacturing, George Mitchell Parkway, in Bridgeport. Speakers include Larry Colvin, Parks and Rec Director Ryan Nolting and Bridgeport EDC Director Kevin Holzbog. They will talk about a new addition to Endeavor Park. Cost is $15. RSVP to the Chamber, 940-683-2076.

INDEX
Opinion 6
Obituaries 7
Sports 10
Classifieds . . . . .6, All
Around Wise

FACE 2 fb

Answer online at facebook.com/wcmessenger

Empty the Shelter Day is Saturday. Do you have plans to adopt a dog or cat? Why is the abandonment and adoption of animals an ongoing struggle in our communities? See a related story on page 2.

STUDENT SAFETY
Bridgeport School Board approved a new agreement with the police department for a school resource officer. *See page 3.*

FRESH FACE
New volleyball coach Mary Wolf will lead the Lady Panthers this fall. *See page 10.*

WISE COUNTY
MESSENGER

VOLUME 137 - NO. 58 | WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2016 | DECATUR, TEXAS | 20 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS PLUS INSERTS | $1

DECATUR

Hotel project moves forward

BY ROY EATON

The new $14 million Marriott Hotel at the Decatur Civic Center moved another step toward reality Monday with the signing of the final financial and legal documents between Gatehouse Hotels, the Decatur Economic Development Corp. and the city of Decatur.

The 107-room hotel will be built on the east parking lot of the Civic Center and will operate under Marriott's Fairfield Inn and Suites brand. It will include a pool, a large outdoor activity court and a small conference room. It will connect to the Civic Center through a breezeway.

Civic Center Manager Lori Sherwood is planning a late September groundbreaking for the hotel.

"This will enable us to host multi-day conferences at the Civic Center, and many groups prefer to use the Marriott brand hotels," Sherwood said.

The senior lender for the project is the First State Bank of Decatur. The Decatur EDC will contribute $2.5 to $2.7 million toward the project, and the city has proposed what is known as a "380 agreement" with Gatehouse to rebate sales and hotel occupancy taxes generated by the hotel. The

See Hotel on page 4

ON THE DOTTED LINE — From left, Decatur Mayor Martin Woodruff, Gatehouse President Marty Collins and Decatur EDC Board Vice President Jay Davidson sign financial and legal documents related to the Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites to be built next to the Decatur Civic Center.

JOE OUTY/WCMESSENGER
Buy reprints at wcmessenger.com/reprints

WISE COUNTY

ALL HANDS ON DECK — Gary and Jaime Beck (center) and their friends and family spent a day helping with yard repairs at the home of Mendy Wray, a local widow. The work day was part of the Becks' Both Hands

WISE COUNTY

1 flown from fiery crash

BY RICHARD GREENE
rgreene@wcmessenger.com

A fiery crash on Farm Road 2264 Saturday [illegible] Public Safety Trooper Carson Bening.

"For an unknown reason he lost control, left the roadway and slid into the [illegible]

Hotel: Groundbreaking planned for September

Continued from page 1
hotel itself will be on the city tax rolls.

EDC Director Thom Lambert said the EDC share would be funded through a $1.5 million tax-exempt private debt placement and available cash. The EDC money will pay for water, sanitary sewer, drainage, parking and other infrastructure improvements to the site. Lambert said that contracts between the EDC and the hotel developer have a provision for re-payment to the EDC for the expenditures on infrastructure.

A natural gas pipeline across the property is now being moved, one of the requirements before the city can issue a final plat for the site, according to Planning Director Dedra Ragland.

An electrical line must also be moved, but Ragland said that should not delay approval of the final plans. She said Gatehouse had submitted preliminary plans to the city staff for review, and they had been returned to the hotel company for modifications.

"I haven't heard from them since we returned the plans for their comments," Ragland said Monday.

A recent staff turnover in the planning department could also affect timing of the groundbreaking. Ragland said an outside firm has been hired to review plans following the resignation of a key staff member.

"They are supposed to be able to turn the plans around within 10 days," she said. Final plats and plans should be completed and presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city council in two months.

WISE COUNTY

GOGO GIVING! — Representatives from Gogo Gumbo! present the South Wise Services Food Pantry with a check at the restaurant's eighth anniversary celebration. Pictured are (first row, from left) Beverly Gilbert, Thomas Williams, Catherine Mercer, Ray Gilbert, Gogo owners Letty and Kraig Thome, Elizabeth Clark, (back row) Sean Mullins, Suzanne Wilhelm, Marty Kramer, Billie Smith and Joyce Reynolds.

Subscribe Today www.WCMessenger.com

WISE BUSINESS

DECATUR TIRE STORE
940-627-3657
1201 NORTH HIGHWAY 81/287

CIRCLE S STORES
HAMBURGER SPECIAL
Wednesdays Only
$2.35
Reg. $3.75
1201 South FM 51 • Decatur
Store Hours: Mon.-Sat., 5 a.m. - 10 p.m.

TAYLOR
Septic & Dozer Service
We install all types of septic systems & repair old ones
We Pump and Clean Tanks
All Types of Dirt Work:
House Pads • Roads • Driveways • Topsoil Hauling • Select Fill, Sand and Gravel • Storm Shelters Installed
HAY FOR SALE

TAYLOR
Septic & Dozer Service
We install all types