



# *District 2-A1 Lions Clubs International*

## *District 2-A1 News*

June 2018

[www.txlionsdistrict2a1.com](http://www.txlionsdistrict2a1.com)

### Inside this issue

Page 1 DG Msg

Page 2 1st VDG Msg

Page 3 2nd VDG Msg

Page 4-12 Club News

Page 13 LCI News

Page 14 LCIF News

Page 15 District

Retention Contest

Page 16 Newsletter/

Web Site Sponsor Info

Page 17-18 Mason

District Meeting

Page 19-21 History of

Mason and Things to

do in Mason



# *We Serve with*



WOW!!!

What an awesome experience Lion Felis and I have had. This time is bitter-sweet for us. Why? Bitter because we will not have as frequent and close contact with our District Lions as we have had. Yes, OUR District Lions because having gone through as much contact, happy times and trying times, you learn what kind of service heart OUR Lions of District 2 A1 have. Sweet because we have felt The Power of We that is shown by all our clubs small or big. Our Lions never give up. We stand side by side-The Power of We.

We have lost many great Lions (24) during this awesome tenure of serving the District 2 A1 Lions. The bright light that these Lions brought with them brightened the Darkness of Need in their communities. As time continues our mind may forget their names, but their light of service will forever remain in our service hearts.

As I write this last article, the District will finish the year positive in membership with one new club chartered. You can feel the enthusiasm of membership growing and the awareness of Retention. We remain "Texas Strong" and look Forward to the Future with the new in coming administration.

Lion Felis will forever be the First Lady, but next we meet I will be forever known as Past District Governor Armando. We wish to thank the Lions of District 2 A1 for the opportunity to expand our service hearts during this incredible journey. As we move Forward to the Future, may the Lion's mighty Roar remain in your hearts forever.

Governor Armando and Lion Felis Subia 2017-2018

### Save the Date

1st District  
Meeting  
Mason  
July 20th and 21st



### Newsletter Editor

Lion Donald McConnell

307 Thomas

Midland, TX 79703

[Donald\\_McConnell@outlook.com](mailto:Donald_McConnell@outlook.com)

[District2A1newsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:District2A1newsletter@hotmail.com)

[Like us on Facebook: district2A1lions](https://www.facebook.com/district2A1lions)

Acuna Eye Clinic  
 PDG Al Owen  
 6404 Spy Glass  
 San Angelo, TX  
 Home 325-651-7141  
 Cell 325-262-3881  
 azowen@verizon.net

Alert Chairperson  
 Glenn Shepard  
 1510 F.M 2887  
 Ballinger, TX 76821  
 H: 432-77-1137  
 Glenn.shepard@hotmail.com

Chaplain  
 Christian R. Rabone  
 2714 Harvard Ave.  
 San Angelo, TX 76904  
 H: 512-202-8017  
 B: 325-653-2448  
 christian@emmanuel-sa.org

Directory  
 Scott Patterson  
 8313 W. Grape Creek Road  
 San Angelo, TX 76901  
 W:325-653-6655  
 C: 325-650-1036  
 sap1954@gmx.com

District Convention  
 PDG Roy Landry  
 3010 Briargrove Lane  
 San Angelo, TX 76904  
 H: 325-949-5151  
 C: 806-433-2961  
 roy143@aol.com

Global Leadership (GLT)  
 Carol Brown  
 P.O. Box 623  
 Walnut Street  
 San Angelo, TX 76901  
 C: 325-340-8652  
 carolecb9@gmail.com

Global Membership (GMT)  
 PDG Dave Richison  
 104 River Ranch Road  
 Kingsland, TX 78639  
 H:325-388-2091  
 daverichison@gmail.com

Historian  
 Helen Wilde  
 3209 Southland Blvd.  
 San Angelo, TX 76904  
 H: 325-942-6697  
 C: 325-277-4758  
 hmweilde@suddenlink.net

DGE Russel Livingston



Everyone loves a party, especially a Birthday Party. The Midland Downtown Lions Club celebrated 90 years of service on June 21. It was a splendid affair and a good time was had by all. PCC Tom Blase planned and executed the party that also included induction of five new members and installation of officers for the coming year.

Something that may not have been totally appreciated though was a sort of "side celebration." Lion Dr. Norman Gould was asked to blow out the candles on the birthday cake. There were only two but the effort was not lost. Lion Norman is 90 years old having celebrated his milestone birthday shortly after our the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Now Lion Norman is no ordinary Lion. He has been a member of our club for 50 years, joining shortly after coming to Midland after his discharge from the military. His membership and Lion service is nothing short of awesome. Dr. Gould has performed literally hundreds if not thousands of eye exams for needy children in his tenure as a Lion.

Even more remarkable is his service in the eyeglass recycling area. It was his initiative, care and hard work that pretty much wrote the book on eyeglass recycling and training. We as Lions owe this Lion a debt of gratitude that will never be adequately repaid. It is my honor to know Lion Dr. Gould and consider him a friend.

Preparations at my house continue for the International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. By the time you read this, I will have completed training and will have begun to apply that training. I am looking forward to working with the A-1 district in Texas. I have some big shoes to fill as soon to be PDG Armando has worked hard. Through that hard work, our district has grown and prospered. Congratulations to our Governor, Armando Subia.

Finally, as your governor, I want to meet each of you. If your club has a preference for club visits, please let me know. We will try to schedule those visits in line with your request. It would be good if each club could give us several dates in order to consolidate visitation trips.

Also, if your club has a special event please get us the date. It is our goal to participate with each of you as we celebrate Lionism together.

As we begin our new year together, let's all have fun serving our communities and each other. It is great to be a Lion.



**PDG Joyce Downie  
 and husband  
 Lion Ron**

**Support**

**District 2-A1 Governor Armando  
 Subia and his 2017-2018 Cabinet**



**VDG Russell Livingston,  
 Toni Livingston,  
 Lion Whitney Livingston,  
 Lion Ryan Livingston,  
 and Kimberly Livingston**

**Wish Governor Armando Subia,  
 a great year as our Governor**

LCIF  
 PDG Joyce Downie  
 115 Churchill Blvd  
 San Angelo, TX 76903  
 H & F: 325-651-8894  
 joyced2@suddenlink.com

Leader dog for the Blind  
 Brigitte Rogers  
 P.O. Box 587  
 Sonora, TX 76905  
 H: 325-387-2309  
 6200brgmail.com

Election Manager  
 PDG Joyce Downie  
 115 Churchill Blvd  
 San Angelo, TX 76903  
 H & F: 325-651-8894  
 joyced2@suddenlink.com

Long Range Planning  
 PDG Al Owen  
 6404 Spy Glass  
 San Angelo, TX  
 Home 325-651-7141  
 Cell 325-262-3881  
 azowen@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor  
 Donald McConnell  
 307 Thomas Street  
 Midland, TX 79703  
 H: 432-520-5651  
 C: 432-413-3935  
 district2a1newsletter@hotmail.com

Parliamentarian  
 PCC Tom Blasé  
 2914 Moss Ave  
 Midland, TX 79705  
 H: 432-2188021  
 C: 325-315-7060  
 tomblasesr@gmail.com

Tail Twister  
 Kathy McConnell  
 307 Thomas Street  
 Midland, TX 79703  
 H: 432-520-5651  
 C: 432-638-1070  
 Katmc307@aol.com

Centennial Co-Coordinator  
 Emilio Perez  
 1205 Gordon Blvd.  
 San Angelo, TX 76905  
 H: 325-617-4180  
 C: 325-212-1426  
 epjmrp@suddenlink.com

1st VDG Keith Perinne



Greeting 's

WOW!!!!

I hope this blustery June is treating you well. I had an article ready to send out stressing the importance of membership. However on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the banquet to welcome the newest club to the Lions Family, "The San Angelo Lighthouse Lions Club", and as the newly elected president of the club Allen put It "WOW". There were 20 or so new members of the club, numerous guests i.e., PIP Ebb Grindstaff, PID Mike Butler, PDC Tom Blasé, DG Armando Subia, 1stVDG Russell Livingston, immediate PDG Dave Richison, lions representing numerous clubs and many Lions and spouses. In total there was some where north of 75 people on hand to welcome the 9th club to the San Angelo Lions family, "WOW". PDG John Hancock did a masterful job presenting the agenda and keeping the program on track "WOW".


It was truly amazing to see the enthusiasm and energy the new members showed for the journey they will take in the coming weeks, months, and years as Lions. All I can say is "WOW".

Lion Allen thanks for expressing and reminding all of us that Lionism is truly a "WOW" experience.


2ndVDG Keith



**SAVE THE DATE**  
 July 21st & 22nd  
 Mason, Texas



# "The A1 CLUB"



in the Lions 2-A1 District

## Sweetwater Lions Club

**Lions Camp Director (West)**  
 Whitney Livingston  
 3603 Princeton  
 Midland, TX 79703  
 C: 432-528-5763  
 Winyiugn2gmail.com

**Lions Camp Director (East)**  
 Joel L. Kuykendall  
 P.O. Box 102  
 Pontotol, TX 76869  
 W: 325-622-4530  
 C: 409-392-4338  
 southwesterlion2011@gmail.com

**TLERC**  
 Sandra freeman  
 11425 Mason Street  
 Box 361  
 Carlsbad, TX 76934  
 H: 325-468-8870  
 sdrrf@aol.com


**Texas Lions Foundation**  
 Brigitte Rogers  
 P.O. Box 587  
 Sonora, TX 76950  
 H:325-387-2309  
 6200brgmail.com

**Web Master**  
 Wynn Alston  
 1354 Tre3s Rios Drive  
 San Angelo, TX 76903  
 H: 325-651-4102  
 kwalston@verizon.net

**Director vision Screening**  
 Jim Chapman  
 311 River Ranch Road  
 Kingsland, TX 78639  
 H: 325-388-3231  
 C: 512-422-4930  
 grandadtexas@ymail.com

**Youth Exchange**  
 Vacant

**International President**  
 Dr. Naresh Aggarwal




**International Headquarters**  
 300 22nd Street  
 Oak Brook, Il 60521

# Club News



On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Concho Pearl Lions Club officers Brigitte Rogers, President (left), and Joyce Downie, Treasurer, showcase food donations made by club members to Project Dignidad of San Angelo. Project Dignidad is a church-based food pantry that provides food to needy individuals and families in emergency situations.

Congratulations to Deborah Sonberg whose name was picked as the winner of the \$100.00 for sponsoring a new member in May 2018-drawing held in Sweetwater, thank you Lion Chris Maxwell and your committee.  
 DG Armando



**Midland West Side  
 Lions Club**  
 Proudly Supports  
**DG Armando Subia**  
 and the 2017/2018 DG Team




**Midland  
 West Side Lions Club**  
 Home Club of  
**PDG Robert (Bob) Edwards**  
 Proudly Supports  
 The District 2-A1 Leadership Team

# Club News continued



Kingsland Lions preparing for our bi-monthly trash pickup along RR-1431 through Kingsland.

From Left: Lions Mike Jenkins, Dave Howard, Homer Smith, Dave Richison, Ray Lynch, Stan Menn, Jerrilyn Risling, Cathy Menn, Ron Hall, Betty Hall, Jim Chapman, Terry Scalise, and John McWilliams. (Photo Courtesy: Jim Chapman)



**San Angelo  
North by North West  
Lions Club**

**Proudly Supports  
DG Armando Subia**

**and the 2017/2018 DG Team**

<b>DG</b> Armando Subia 4018 Monty Drive Midland, TX 79703 Home 432-694-3861 Cell 432-238-2267 A_Subia49@yahoo.com	<b>1st VDG</b> Russell Livingston 3602 Springmont Midland, TX 79707 Home 432-520-3404 Cell 432-559-9010 rlivingston3602@hotmail.com	<b>2nd VDG</b> Keith Perrine 4912 Mariner Terrace San Angelo, TX 76903 Home: xxx-xxx-xxxx Cell 432-656-3252 Keith.perrine@hotmail.com	<b>Cabinet Secretary</b> Donna Dugger 1908 Nolan Big Spring, TX 79720 Home: xxx-xxx-xxxx Cell: 432-466-1497 Donna_d7075@att.net	<b>Cabinet Treasurer</b> Chris Maxwell 408 CR 109 Sweetwater, TX 79556 Home: 325-665-0127 Cell: 325-235-9235 cmaxwell@eljentechnology.com
--	---	---	---	---

# Club News continued



Lion Felis enjoying time with her Grandsons.

Thank you Lion President Jim and the Mason Lions for inviting Lion Felis and myself to your meeting AND LUNCH!



MD 2 Council of Governors for 2017-2018

<p><b>Zone 1 Chairperson</b>  <b>Don Eckerty</b>  5805 S.C. Road 1065  Midland, TX 79706  Home: 432-682-2378  Cell:  Eckerty.don@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Zone 2 Chairperson</b>  <b>Marianne Stevenson</b>  3573 CR 133  Colorado City, TX 79512  Home 325-728-9203  Cell: 509-991-6776  mcs4446@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Zone 3 Chairperson</b>  <b>Larry Melton</b>  Box 84  Ballinger, TX 76821  Home: 325-365-3296  Cell:  linlte@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Zone 4 Chairperson</b>  <b>Mona Soland</b>  304 Kleenayre Ave  Kingsland, TX 78657  Home 830-613-4168  Cell: 830-637-0709  Lionmona@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><b>Zone 5 Chairperson</b>  <b>Glenn Shepard</b>  1510 F.M 2887  Ballinger, TX 75821  Home:  Cell: 432-770-1137  Glenn.Shepard@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>Zone 6 Chairpersons</b>  <b>Larry Walker</b>  Home: 325-227-8093  Cell 325-212-9976  &amp;  <b>Scott Patterson</b>  Home 325-653-7227  Cell 325-6543-6655</p>
--	---	---	---	--	---

## Club News Continued

The District Governor visits with some awesome Lions of San Angelo, .



# The San Angelo *Dynamic* Downtown Lions Club

Proudly Supports

**District Governor Armando Subia  
and the District 2-A1 Leadership Team**

## Club News Continued



The San Angelo Lady Lions asks for your prayers for the family of Lion Shirley Dyches Roach. Heaven gained a precious Angel. Shirley Dyches Roach was born on July 23, 1937 and passed away on Friday, June 22, 2018.



San Angelo Lady Lions and friends, serving Region 15 ESC Poverty Simulation.





# Club News Continued

## San Angelo Balloon Fest 2018

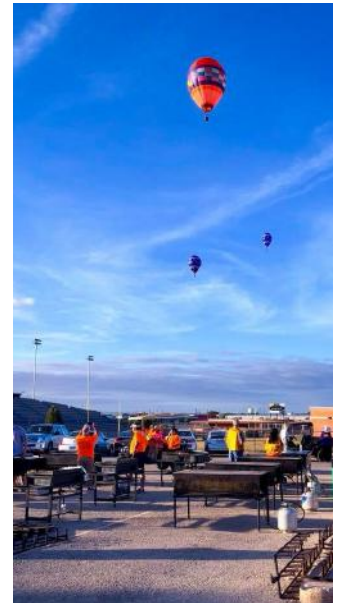


Lady Lions representing at City Council Balloon fest Proclamation



# Club News Continued

## San Angelo Balloon Fest 2018 Continued



# Club News Continued

## Midland Downtown Lions Club Turns 90



## LIONS DISTRICT 2-A1 SUPPORTED CHARITIES

- ✓ Texas Lions Camp (\$10 per member)
- ✓ Leader Dog for the Blind (\$2 per member)
- ✓ Western Texas Eye Bank Alliance (\$5 per member)
- ✓ Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (\$2 per member)
- ✓ Lions Club International Foundation (\$2 per member)
- ✓ Acuna Eye Clinic of Ophthalmology (\$1 per member)
- ✓ Texas Lions Foundation (\$2 per member)
- ✓ Visions Screening (\$1 per member)

Below is the current list of clubs in District 2-A1:

### YEAR 2017-2018

#### 1000%

Midland West Side Lions Club

#### 200%

Concho Pearl Lions Club

Mason Lions Club

Midland Downtown Lions Club

#### 100%

Lions Club of Ballinger

Colorado City Lions Club

East Angelo Lions Club

Kingsland Lions Club

Midland Tall City Lions Club

San Angelo Downtown Lions Club

San Angelo North by Northwest Lions Club

San Angelo Lady Lions Club

Sweetwater Lions Club



would like to share this special fee waiver announcement with you as a district and international leader. I will also be sending the following message to your club leaders and then to members. Please join me in encouraging our clubs to take advantage of this unique opportunity so we can make June our best membership month of all time. We're so close to our historic goal of 1.5 million members, so let's keep pushing to the end of the Lion year.

### **Entrance fees waived June 7-30!**

To close out our incredible Centennial Celebration in style, we're waiving entrance fees for new members who join between June 7 and June 30! For more than 100 years, we've delivered hope and change to the world. Now, as we prepare for an innovative second century of service, there has never been a more exciting time become a Lion, and we want to make it as easy as possible for new members to join us. So how does it work?

- Invite family and friends to join your club between June 7 and June 30.
- Report your new member to Lions International by 11:59 p.m. CDT on Saturday, June 30.
- Save money when your club billing automatically reflects this special promotion
- Earn a Centennial Sponsor Pin for inviting a new member, and wear it with pride.

This is a limited offer that does not apply to new members added prior to June 7 or after June 30, 2018. No exceptions will be approved. Charter and transfer charter fees do not qualify for this special waiver. If you have any questions, please contact

[membershipdev@lionsclubs.org](mailto:membershipdev@lionsclubs.org).

Invite your family and friends to join the greatest service organization in the world as we write the history of our second century together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Naresh Aggarwal

Your International President



## Dear Lion Leaders,

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is excited to announce that District and Club Community Impact grants (DCG) will be available for application beginning in July 2018. Donations made by a club or a district **during this current fiscal year** will count toward the requirements for this new grant opportunity. Please note that funds raised by a club will remain in that club's account until the club notifies LCIF to apply the funds to the district's account. DCG offers a new opportunity for Lions to support humanitarian activities in their communities. Unlike all other LCIF programs, DCG initiative funding is provided to clubs and districts from their own contributions to the foundation. The program rewards both Lions donations to LCIF and Lions service projects that are in alignment with the Foundation's focal areas. All projects must be approved by LCIF.

As the end of the Lion year approaches, we want to remind you of this award and how your club or district may qualify:

- The program is available to both district and clubs.
- Under the program, 15 percent of unrestricted and/or general campaign donations will be available for DCGs.
- Only unrestricted and general campaign donations will qualify.
- Districts and clubs will be required to meet a minimum donation level to enable 15 percent of their donation to be counted towards their available funds to be accessed through the DCG program.
  - For districts, the minimum cumulative donation amount is US\$10,000 per fiscal year.
  - For clubs, the minimum cumulative donation amount is US\$5,000 per fiscal year.

Encourage your clubs to support LCIF this year, empowering both local service and global impact for next year. Your donations will also help LCIF achieve our goal of raising US\$50 million in honor of our 50th anniversary. Thank you for your service!

Sincerely,  
Chancellor Bob Corlew  
Chairman, LCIF



## District 2A1 Retention Contest

Last year our District lost 254 members because they decided to drop their membership in their Lions Club. The loss of these members meant we had less service in our communities, less support for our Disabled Children going to the Lions Camp, and less support for all the other good things we do.

The loss of most of these members who dropped could have been prevented. They drop for different reasons but the underlying reason is, “what they got out of being a member was not rewarding”.

To encourage clubs to focus on retention, the District is implementing a retention contest. For the contest we have broken the clubs into 3 groups, Small membership, Medium membership, and Large membership. The contest will run through June 2020. The current District Governor and the District Governors for the following 2 years are committed to this program to strengthen our clubs.

Quarterly, the club with the best retention in each of the 3 size groups will be recognized at the District meeting and all the members will receive a Retention Pin. Each additional time a club wins the members will receive a chevron with a number on it representing how many times the club has won. Potentially, a club could have a chevron with 10 on it, meaning they won every quarter through June 2020.

If multiple clubs tie on having the fewest drops, we will recognize the club or clubs that tied but also have the most new members.

At the end of each year we will also recognize the club with fewest drops for the full year with an award of \$10.00 for each member. The club can decide how they want to use the money. They could use the money to buy an apparel item, have a club celebration party, take the members to a Lions Camp Friday night graduation event, or whatever fits their need.



## District 2-A1 Newsletter and Website Sponsors

The District needs your support for 2018-2019.

Please help support the District Governor Team, District 2-A1, and a chance to give your club some exposure by advertising in the 2018-2019 District publications (Website and Newsletter).

We need your support more than ever!

Please purchase your space as soon as possible by completing this form and sending it with your check to the District Treasurer.

**Ad Cost:**

**Business Card Size:**  \$50 (approx. size: 2" x 2.75")

**Double Business Card Size:**  \$100 (approx. size: 2" x 5.5")

**Quadruple Business Card Size:**  \$150 (approx. size: 4" x 7.25")

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Note: We can help design your ad for you or you can include a copy of your card/ad as you would like it to appear. If you would like us to design, please give us an idea of what you want:

Please help with Ad

Ad Enclosed (pdf format)

Please mail or email this information to the following:

District 2-A1 Treasurer  
Lion Chris Maxwell  
408 CR 109  
Sweetwater TX 79556  
Email: [cmaxwell@eljentechnology.com](mailto:cmaxwell@eljentechnology.com)  
Cell Ph: 325-665-0127



**District 2A1 Cabinet Meeting**

**July 20 to 21 2018**

**Host Club Mason Lions Club**

Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> Social-Food is Dutch treat order off menu and Bingo

Natchos Café  
621 Fort McKavitt Street  
Mason Texas 76856  
325-347-6757

Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>

7:30 PDG Meeting at Natchos order off menu  
Meeting at Eckert Civic Center  
1024 McKinley Avenue  
Mason Texas 76856  
8:30 Meet & Greet (Refreshments, fruit, snack avail)  
9:00 Cabinet Meeting  
12 Noon Lunch

---

Registration-Mail with check for \$25.

Questions? Marty Bentson 325-456-7751

Be sure to get signed copies verifying representation from club secretary to vote!

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to Mason Lions Club POB 762 Mason TX 76856**

Lodging: Fort McKavitt Inn 325-347-5750 Hill Country Inn 325-347-6317

## MASON DINING

### **COOPER'S "ORIGINAL"**

#### **PIT BAR-B-Q**

810 San Antonio St. (Next to Lowe's Market)  
Monday- Thursday 10:30 am-5:30 pm  
Friday-Sunday 10:30 am-8:00 pm  
Phone # 325-347-6897

### **DAIRY QUEEN**

Hwy 87 North of Square  
Monday-Friday  
10am – 9pm  
Saturday – Sunday  
10am-10pm  
Phone # 325-347-5905

### **KELLER'S STORE**

*"Guns & Grub, Biscuits & Bullets"*

*Breakfast & Lunch-Chicken Salad, Rotisserie Chicken, etc.*  
106 S. Live Oak (West side of Square)  
Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 am – 5:30 pm  
Phone # 210-323-9519

### **LEA LOU CO-OP**

*Pizza, Salads, Pasta, Deli Sandwiches*  
*Ice Cream, Milkshakes*  
114 S Live Oak  
Wednesday-Saturday 11:00am-12:00am  
Phone # 325-347-1234

### **MI PUEBLO**

*Mexican Food*  
817 Fort McKavitt St  
Phone # 325-347-5808

### **NACHO'S CAFÉ**

*Mexican Food*  
Hwy 87 North of Square (621 Ft. McKavitt St.)  
Open 7 Days a week 6:00 am – 10:00 pm  
Phone # 325-347-6757

### **RICO'S CAFE**

*Mexican Food*  
510 Broad Street (East of Square)  
Sunday & Monday 8:00 am – 2 pm  
Tuesday-Saturday 8:00 am – 9 pm  
Phone # 325-347-5487

### **SHORT STOP (PIZZA PRO)**

Hwy 87 North of Square (425 Fort McKavitt St.)  
Open 24 hours ☺  
Phone # 325-347-6648

### **SQUARE PLATE**

Monday – Saturday  
10:30am – 3:00pm (lunch only)  
212 Ft. McKavitt  
Northeast Side of Square  
Phone # 325-347-1911

### **STRIPES**

#### **(SUBWAY SANDWICHES)**

Hwy 87 North of Square (616 Fort McKavitt St.)  
Open 24 hours ☺  
Phone # 325-347-5133

### **TEXAS DEADWOOD BBQ**

1005 Ft. McKavitt, Hwy. 87 N.  
Thursday-Saturday  
Phone # 325-805-1007

### **WILLOW CREEK CAFÉ**

North Side of Square  
Open 7 days a week 5am- 10pm  
Phone # 325-347-6124

## MOTELS

**Fort McKavitt Inn** 325-347-5750

½ mile North of Square <> Hwy 87, 10 units  
Across from Dairy Queen, <> Small Pets ok

**Hill Country Inn** 325-347-6317

2 Blocks North of Square, Hwy 87 <> 31 rooms  
8 RV Spots <> Small Pets ok <> Swimming Pool  
WiFi, cable, laundry facility, BBQ pits and  
tables

## HISTORY OF THE EARLY DAYS OF MASON COUNTY

(Copied from a story written by Marvin Hunter, edited by Gail Coldiron)

In 1849 during President Taylor's administration, the Federal government established a line of forts from the Red River to the mouth of the Rio Grande at a distance of forty miles apart to encourage the settlement of the southwestern border of Texas.

In early 1851, Major William J. Hardee led 200 troops from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons on a scout to locate the site for a new fort between the Pedernales and Colorado rivers. The expedition recognized the natural advantages of a hill just south of the present town of Mason near a free-flowing spring and selected that site for Fort Mason. The post was likely named in honor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt George T. Mason, killed in Brownsville during the Mexican War.

The post was formally established on July 6, 1851. Major H. W. Merrill and four companies of soldiers began working on the fort, but it was not completed for two years. From the time of Merrill's arrival until the time of the outbreak of the Civil War, the fort was constantly garrisoned by from two to eight companies of soldiers, depending on the ever-changing hostilities of the Indians about it. Before the soldiers came into this country, no white man had ever visited it. The Kiowa, Apache and Comanche Indians, the buffalo, antelope and deer had been the only inhabitants. The tribes resented the intrusion of the white man and very soon they took the warpath against them.

The nearest settlement to Fort Mason was Fredericksburg, established by a colony of German emigrants who had left their homeland for a more prosperous life in America. Many of these emigrants were revolutionists who were forced to leave Germany because of their apparent radical views. Many of their descendants fought in the World Wars. One soldier, of whom all Texans are proud, was Louis Jordan, the first Texan officer to fall in action in France and was one of the first eighty picked men to be sent from Texas to the front lines.

In the late 1840s, the State of Texas would give a grant of 640 acres to any settlers who wanted to live in this frontier area. However, life was hard and many of the earliest settlers died of starvation, were killed by the Indians, or died of disease, caused by lack of nourishment and other terrible privations. Approximately fifteen families received a grant for lands in the southern portion of Mason County, then part of Gillespie County. However, these settlers were compelled to wait until the soldiers had arrived before they could take possession.

About 1853, several German and American families took up homesteads around Fort Mason. These men included William Greenwood, C. Milligan, Bick Lee Todd, Peters, Louis Martin, the Gamels and the Vandervers.

Later, in 1855 and 1856, the Kothmanns, Leifestes, Jordans, Lemburghs, Simons, Kneesses, Hasses, Behrens, Ellebrachts and others comprised the small band of settlers in this untamed land. Henry Hoerster claimed to be the first white child born in Mason County.

These earliest settlers suffered greatly from the predations of the local Indians, who knew that their way of life was seriously threatened by these new Texans. The Indians could destroy the fruits of many days' toil in the wink of an eye and sweep away to safety with bands of stolen horses and cattle.

Each family made a little altar in their cabin and each cabin served as a church. The meetings were held in a cycle and the entire populace attended them. Reverend C. A. Grote, and Mr. Pluenneke were both pioneer ministers who rode the circuit throughout the Central Texas area.

Mason County had no regular mail service until 1857 when two post offices were established. One was established at Hedwigs Hill in the charge of Charles Martin and the other was three miles from the fort at the home of G. W. Todd, the postmaster. Later Todd's post office was moved to Mason where Miss Maria Crosby became postmistress with W. C. Lewis as deputy. Miss Crosby soon became the wife of William Wheeler.

In 1858, Mason County was organized as an independent county by G. W. Todd and commissioned by Governor Sam Houston. The first marriage license was issued to W. C. Lewis and Mrs. Celia Head and the first deed transferred a slave, old Sam Peters, from Major J. S. Peters to G. W. Todd.

During the decade from 1850 to 1860, Fort Mason was commanded by Robert E. Lee, Albert Sydney Johnston and Thomas, the Majors Van Dorn and Crosby, and several others. Colonel Robert E. Lee was in the U.S. Army at the time he was stationed at Fort Mason. Nothing remains to mark the spot where the old fort

stood. At the base of the hill on the north side is the spring from which the garrison secured water. Thus, from a chance location of a camp and the erection of a fort, grew the present town of Mason, Texas.

Among the first residents of Mason were James E. Ranck, Major David Doole, William Kooock, Christie Crosby, Wilson Hey and many others.

About the time Mason County was organized, a settlement sprang up in the southeastern part of the county and J.O. von Meusebach laid out a town called Loyal Valley, which for a number of years was the largest town in Mason County. Among the town's buildings were the Buchmeir Hotel, the Christian Keyser Home, the Hans Marshall dwelling and the little rock school house that is still in use. Some of the leading citizens were Henry Keyser, William Kidd, Ship Martin, Dan Martin, Henry Dye, Bob Moseley, Mrs. Buchmeir and others.

When the Civil War came on in 1861, the troops stationed at Fort Mason were needed at more important points and the settlers were left at the mercy of the hostile Indians, who lost no time in harassing and killing the unprotected settlers. The locals responded by organizing the Minute Men, whose duty it was to be prepared to pursue and fight the Indians at a minute's notice. Some time earlier, a Ranger company was formed of men from San Saba, Llano, Burnett and Mason Counties. For a time, this company was encamped in both the town of San Saba and Camp San Saba, located in southern McCullough County. This company was mustered into the Confederate Army in 1863. The years of 1863 and 1864 were the most trying of all as the Indians were particularly active.

Tragically during this time, Indians killed Mrs. Todd, wife of G. W. Todd, near Todd Mountain, five miles southeast of Mason, and carried off her daughter, Alice Todd. Also, Indians killed Jim Biddie and captured two Lehmann boys, Herman and Willie. Willie managed to escape and returned to his home, but Herman was kept a captive for nine years. Adolph Korn was captured by the Comanches in Mason County and was held in captivity several years.

In 1866, the government again sent troops to Fort Mason and new settlers came pouring into the County. Raids by the Indians continued as late as 1873. In 1866, a tri-weekly mail service was established, which continued until 1869, when a daily mail ran from San Antonio to El Paso. Fine old Concord stage-coaches arrived at Mason from Fort McKavitt, Fort Concho, and other posts. About that time Van and Lace Bridges, Lockhart, Taylor, William Kooock, and Major Hunter settled in Mason. From that time onward, many came to stay, others to leave again, and for many years the population of Mason was very unstable.

The original county seat was located three miles from Fort Mason, but a vote was taken to move the county seat to the Fort and James E. Ranck, owner of the land adjoining the fort, became active in a campaign to draw settlers to Mason. He had the land plotted into lots and streets and slowly Fort Mason began to grow.

In 1869, John Gamel and John Schuessler erected the first stone structures, which were later followed by those of J. D. Bridges and Ben F. Gooch. In 1875, James Ranck built the first stone storehouse plus the store buildings of D. Doole in the western part of town and William Kooock at Kooocksville, one mile from Mason.

In 1861, the Block House was built 18 miles from Mason near the San Saba River by W. G. Lewis and Olive Merrill. Major Peters' Negroes cut and hewed the timber for this building. It was built for a ranch house with the view to ranching William Greenwood's cattle, but when Mrs. Todd was killed by Indians, Lewis gave up the idea of ranching. A few rangers were quartered at the ranch house for a while and after they left, travelers often sheltered there.

In 1872, the Lutherans built a little church of their own, which was also used as a schoolhouse. Jacob Schuessler was the donor of the lot and a charter member of the church.

The citizens of Beaver Creek built the first real schoolhouse in the county, which is still standing. Mr. Bierschwale was the first schoolmaster of this school.

The first courthouse was finished in 1875 and was burned in 1877. Another courthouse was then built but it was later torn down and replaced by the present courthouse. The county jail stood on the courthouse square for many years, but in 1894 this was torn down and a new jail was built on the south side of the square.

### **WHAT TO SEE & DO IN MASON**

**Take self-guided tour of Fort Mason,  
only a few blocks from the Square**

**Enjoy Wildflower Drives, Nature Trails,  
Birding, Cycling, Splashing in the Llano River  
(Maps available)**

**Explore Mason's history on the  
Courthouse Square Walking Tour**

**Visit historic Mason County Museums  
Two locations open Thurs-Sat, 10-5**

**Tour the beautiful and historic Seaquist House  
(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month March-Dec)  
Private tours also available (325-347-4058)**

**Hunt for Topaz, Texas' State Gemstone**

**Visit the 'Old Yeller' statue  
At the Mason County Library**

**Shop for antiques & collectibles**

**Enjoy Texas Wines & Wineries  
(Near the Square!)**

**Take in a first-run movie or enjoy live entertainment at the historic  
Odeon Theater**

**Visit the Bat Cave (May-October)**

**Celebrate Roundup Weekend  
(2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in July)  
Rodeo-Dances-Parade-Art & Crafts**

**Win ATV, Rifles & More at the  
Chamber's Wild Game Dinner  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Sat in Nov)**

**See Gene Zesch original carvings at  
Commercial Bank & Mason Bank**