

Ⓢ Circle D Round-Up

Circle D Civic Association 2026 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Bastrop Convention & Exhibits Center, 1408 Chestnut St. B, Bastrop, TX 78602. Please plan to arrive early as check-in will begin at 9:30 am allowing time for attendees to register, visit with guest speakers, ask questions of board members, and engage with neighbors.

Three Board Positions will be voted on this year at the annual meeting and if you have any questions about any of the agenda items, please contact the office at 512-321-5272 or contactus@circledbastroptx.org.

A BBQ Plate Lunch will be provided after the meeting for one member and a guest at no cost. The deadline to RSVP was April 24, 2026. RSVP members will receive a meal ticket at registration and be served first.

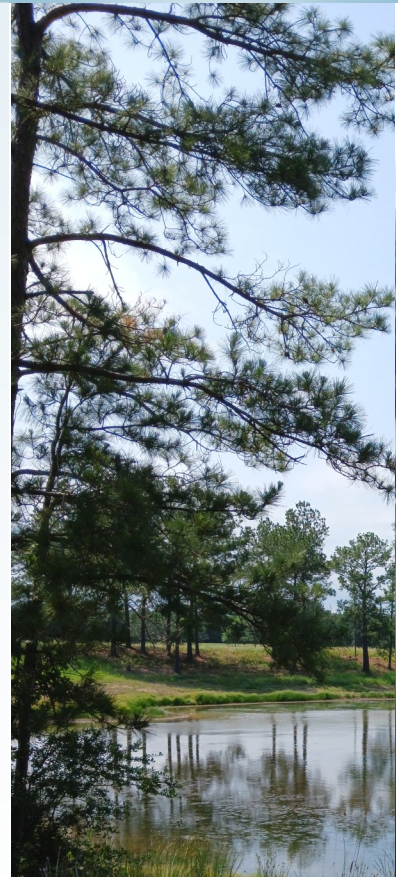
If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may still vote via these three options:

1. Return the enclosed Absentee ballot in the provided envelope addressed to the accountant's Office. No ballots will be opened until the day of the Annual Meeting. The deadline for receiving absentee ballots is Friday, May 15, 2026, and 9:00 am.
2. Fill out the enclosed Proxy form and give it to someone you trust who will be attending the meeting, and they will be able to vote for you.
3. Use the proxy form to assign your voting rights to the CDCA board, and they will cast your vote on their selection for the candidates and changes.

Make sure that you sign whichever form you use so it will be validated. Every lot (property) gets one vote regardless of co-ownership. Please direct any questions by calling the office at 512-321-527 or via email to contactus@circledbastroptx.org.

Thank you,

Circle D Civic Association Board of Directors



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Meet Our 2026 Annual Meeting Guest Speakers



BASTROP COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT NO.2

POST OFFICE BOX 1747 - BASTROP, TX 78602

Colton Curles serves as the Community Risk Reduction officer for Bastrop County ESD #2 Fire and Rescue and is the lead for the Departments new Wildfire Division. Originally from Smithville, he has been with the department since 2024 after beginning his career with the Texas A&M Forest Service in 2009. During that time, he was involved in wildfire response, wildfire mitigation, and all-hazard response across the state and country in various roles. As a Community Risk Reduction Officer, he specializes in proactive safety strategies that protect lives and property. Successfully securing a \$4.3 million grant in the last few months to fund comprehensive wildfire prevention, education, and hazard mitigation programs, significantly expanding our community outreach and resources. With expertise in wildfire mitigation, risk assessments, and wildfire response he designs initiatives that reduce incidents and strengthen community resilience.



Tib Aronsen and family joined Circle-D in 2014; purchasing land that was just starting to grow back after the 2011 fire and finally getting a house built in 2018 before moving in Jan 1, 2019. He grew up in a family of public school teachers, and shared a lifelong enjoyment of animals big and small. After joining the local social media groups in the early 2020's, the number of pictures showing deceased snakes asking 'what is this?' became too much to bear and so he began sharing his information to come get and relocate snakes rather than someone causing harm to them. That effort has grown from neighborhood contacts to reptile programs for local schools, meet & greet sessions at state park events, and guest participation in the Lost Pines Master Naturalist program. Tib is a passionate reptile hobbyist and snake advocate, doing his best to erase or ease fears about snakes and spread awareness of their benefits to the rural community and ecosystem we call home.

Office Access and Appointment Policy

Scheduling Office Visits

The Board requires that all office visits be scheduled in advance. If you need to visit the office for any reason, please contact us by phone to arrange an appointment. This policy helps ensure that we can provide each visitor with the attention and assistance they need.

Walk-In Hours for Membership Dues Payment

Walk-in visits are permitted exclusively for the purpose of paying membership dues. Members may come to the office without an appointment on Tuesdays between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please note that walk-ins will not be accommodated for other matters outside of these times or purposes.



Spring Tree Planting Update

The planned spring tree planting event has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances. These include a severe drought and the underperformance of saplings in the nursery, which have not developed as well as anticipated. As a result, the event is currently on hold.

The Board will review the situation and re-evaluate the possibility of rescheduling the tree planting event in the fall.



Park Well Update

Jim Stephens, Circle D President, and the park maintenance team met with Bluebonnet Electric at the park to explore solutions for providing electrical service to two key areas: the well and the park office. The discussions centered around determining the requirements and steps necessary to ensure that both locations would have access to reliable electricity. After some discussion, a plan was agreed upon and Bluebonnet has made the install.



CDCA Playground

After finding playground cover companies too expensive, the Board decided at the April 11th meeting to hire a draftsman for specifications. Once completed, the Board will request bids from local contractors.

How Helping the Endangered Houston Toad Can Benefit You as a Landowner

The Houston toad was first identified as a unique species in the 1940's. The species was listed as endangered in 1970 and continues to be protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Like its more common cousin, the Gulf Coast toad, the Houston toad's biggest challenge is shrinking habitat. In 1978, about one-fifth of Bastrop County was included in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical habitat area for the Houston toad. The Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan was established in 2008 and is Bastrop County's mechanism for administering the Fish and Wildlife Services' recovery plan for the Houston toad.

Circle D lies entirely within this critical habitat area. One aspect of the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan makes owners of parcels larger than 4 or 5 acres eligible to convey a Conservation Easement for wildlife management of the undisturbed portion of their parcel. Acreage included in the easement is appraised for property taxation at wildlife management value, which is typically about 1% of market value. That means your property tax on acreage not designated as your home site is reduced by 99%.

Of course, there are requirements that come with the easement. You must create and execute a wildlife management plan and follow the steps to get it approved by both the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan office and the Bastrop Central Appraisal District. Plans must include at least three activities. The most common wildlife management activity, which you should already be doing to keep your property safe from wildfires, is brush management. Other common activities include providing supplemental shelter such as bird houses or brush piles; providing supplemental food such as bird seed and sugar nectar for hummingbirds; providing supplemental water; and controlling red imported fire ants.

For more detailed information about the easement process and other ways of receiving reduced property valuations for wildlife management see: <https://www.bastropcounty.gov/page/lphcp.main>.

For more about the Houston toad and recovery efforts see: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/htoad/>.

Article By Doug Marousek -
ACC Chair



Photo Courtesy of LPHCP



Don't Let Thunder Steal Fun Times Outdoors

Visit Bastrop County Office of Emergency Management [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) and [WEBSITE](#) at www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.home for more on mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery

Avoid the dangers of lightning strikes while enjoying the outdoors

- Listen to weather forecasts
- If thundersotrms are predicted, cancel or postpone outdoor activities
- While outdoors, monitor weather conditions
- If the sky looks threatening or you hear thunder, go in to a safe place
- Remain inside the safe place for 30 minutes after the last thunder

When thunder roars, go indoors.

www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/em.home

Simple family gatherings, competing on the playing fields, and exercising along the walking paths are a few of the many springtime activities that find people enjoying the outdoors. But, in the flash of a moment, sometimes unexpected thunderstorms can steal a fun time outdoors.

When you hear the rumble of thunder, lightning could be nearby. With a little pre-planning, though, a dangerous situation can easily be managed. “Are You Ready? An In-Depth guide to Citizen Preparedness” provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers some important tips.

Before planned outdoor gatherings, tune in to local weather forecasts during the week leading up to the gathering. If the forecast is for severe thunderstorms, time is on your side to consider cancelling or postponing the outdoor activity. When the thunderstorm sneaks up on your outdoor gathering, the sky looks threatening, or you hear thunder, go in to a safe place. Remain inside the safe place for 30 minutes after the last thunder. Remember, **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS.**

For those in charge of organized outdoor activities, to aid in the safety of those participating, **MAKE A PLAN BEFORE GATHERING** and **SHARE THIS PLAN** with those involved. Include the following:

- Note, in the plan, the individual(s) responsible for officially monitoring the weather either visually, electronically or both.
- Identify who will halt the activity according to the plan's pre-identified criteria. When halting the activity, consider how long it will take everyone to get to safety.
- Name and inform everyone of the safe place to report to during severe weather events.
- Know who will communicate these action steps and how they will be communicated.

Make a plan, so that springtime weather events like unexpected thunderstorms don't spoil your outdoor fun.

For more information you can also visit our website:

https://www.bastropcounty.gov/page/em.emergency_pre

Important Upcoming Events

CDCA 2026 Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:00

Bastrop Convention & Exhibits
Center, 1408 Chestnut St. B,
Bastrop, TX 78602.

Regular Board Meeting
Saturday, June 13, 2026, @ 9:00a

ESD2 Fire Station
1432 State Hwy 95, Bastrop

Board of Directors

Office Location:

111 N Hasler Blvd Rm 214

Bastrop, TX 78602

(512) 321-5272

Mailing Address: PO Box 852

Bastrop, Texas 78602

Park Location: 930 FM 1441

Bastrop, Texas 78602

CDCA Office Hours:

Monday Closed

Tuesday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

(Walk-In Payments Only)

Wednesday 11 am to 3 pm

Thursday 11 am to 3 pm

Friday 1 pm to 5 pm

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From the By-Laws:

SECTION 4.1: Number. The affairs of this Association shall be managed by a Board of seven (7) directors, who must be members of the Association in good standing. State law prohibits the Association from preventing a delinquent member from running for the board, but does not prevent the board from requiring the individual to become current in order to serve.

SECTION 4.2: Term of Office. The number of directors constituting the Board of Directors of the Corporation is seven (7), of whom four (4) directors shall be elected biennially for a term of two years and three (3) directors shall be elected for a two-year term in the intervening years.

Jim Stephens	- CDCA President
Don Aylesworth	- CDCA Vice President
Sonna Gabourel	- CDCA Secretary
Lynn Motz	- CDCA Treasurer
Matt Rainey	- CDCA Board Member
Sean Keahey	- CDCA Board Member
Travis Tacker	- CDCA Board Member
Lana Thomas	- Office Manager
Jorey Ritchie	- Bookkeeper