

# Older Texan Fair Held May 5; Winners Named

The 31st annual Older Texan Fair was held Wednesday, May 6, at the Sheridan Community Center.

The 2009 Colorado County Outstanding Older Texan Award was presented to Melba Castillo of Sheridan, Raymond Korenek and Ethelyn Popp of Nada, Reverend Obie Rhodes of Eagle Lake and Geraldine Streckfuss of Columbus.

Older Texans in Colorado County also had the opportunity to enter items in a cultural arts contest and to visit booths set up in the hall.

Miriam Moerbe, Wesley Nurse offered blood pressure and blood sugar checks to those attending, Sheridan Go-Getters and the

Wharton County Junior College Senior Citizens program had silent auctions, Nada/Garwood Gadabouts and the Nada Christian Mothers had country store items.

Melba Castillo offered plants for sale and Margaret Besch and George Edge had craft items.

The program began at 10:30 a.m. Anita Meismer, MC, welcomed the group and opened the program with the pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Meismer introduced the speakers, Wanda and Wallace Brown, members of the Texas Rose Rustlers.

They gave an informative presentation on how to propagate roses from cuttings. Following

the speaker, the Cultural Arts exhibit winners were announced and the Older Texan Awards were presented.

Exhibit winners were recognized as follows: Afghans, Tablecloths and Bedspreads, Rose Staff, Nada Grand Champion; Baked Goods — Clara Gold, Garwood, Grand Champion and Helen Noteboom, Garwood, Reserve Champion;

Canned Goods — Anita Meismer, Nada, Grand Champion and Rose Staff, Nada Reserve Champion; Crafts — Ruby Prasatik, Sheridan, Grand Champion and Tillie German, Weimar Reserve Champion;

Floriculture — Betty Leopold, Nada, Grand and Reserve Cham-

pin; Fresh Garden Products — Margaret Kasse, Weimar, Grand Champion and Charlie Pavlovsky, Nada Reserve Champion;

Handstitchery — Mable Beard, Garwood, Grand Champion and Rose Thumann, Sheridan, Reserve Champion;

Photography — Catherine Berger, Garwood, Grand Champion; and Quilts — Bernice Popp, Nada Grand Champion, and Ann Moore, Sheridan Reserve Champion.

Anita Meismer gave a short presentation on each of the Older Texan Award nominees and Doug Wessels, Commissioner; Precinct 1 presented each with a plaque. After the awards presentation a meal was served.

Door prizes were awarded. Janis Pfeffer, County Extension Agent, recognized the Older Texan Task Force for planning

and organizing the Older Texan Fair.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service serve people

of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.



## Older Texan Fair Grand Champion Winners

From left: Margaret Kasse, Mable Beard, Rose Staff, Ruby Prasatik, Catherine Berger, Betty Leopold, Anita Meismer.



## Older Texan Fair Reserve Champion Winners

From left: Tillie German, Helen Noteboom, Rose Staff, Anne Moore, Rose Thumann, Betty Leopold.



## Older Texan Fair Award Winners

From left: Ethelyn Popp, Geraldine Streckfuss, Raymond Korenek, Melba Castillo and Rev. Obie Rhodes.

## TCHCC To Recognize Czech Immigrants

Descendants of Czech immigrants who came to Texas between the years 1881-1885 will be recognized during the eighth annual celebration of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center (TCHCC) SLAVNOST (May Fest) to be held on Sunday, May 17, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater located on the grounds of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange.

Following the recognition ceremony, mass will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Hybner at 11 a.m. After mass, the day's activities will continue at the Fair Pavilion with a catered lunch and music by the Houston Czech Heritage Singers and dancing to the Texas Sound Check Band.

During the May Fest previous celebrations, TCHCC has recognized descendants of immigrants by issuing certificates stating that

the descendants are members of a Texas Czech Pioneer Family.

If your Czech immigrant arrived in Texas between 1881-1885 and you would like to be recognized during the 10 a.m. recognition ceremony on May 17 at the Sanford Schmid Amphitheater, please submit your name, address, phone number, your ancestors name, year of immigration, village or city of departure, and where they first settled in Texas.

A non-returnable copy of a picture of your immigrant may also be submitted to be included in the file to be kept at TCHCC.

Also include a statement giving permission for TCHCC to keep

the information in their files and open for public use. Submit the information to: TCHCC Ancestors, P O Box 6, La Grange, TX 78945.

With your support, TCHCC will memorialize our early immigrants by engraving their names on the Immigrants Wall to be erected at the center.

Your family may honor their immigrant ancestor on this prestigious wall with a memorial donation of \$2500.

This would be a worthwhile effort that each family reunion could undertake so their family ancestor is forever remembered. Contact the TCHCC at 1-888-785-4500 for additional information.

## GETTING CHILDREN TO BRUSH

What's the best way to get kids to brush? Make it fun! If you are enthusiastic about brushing our teeth, your children will also be enthusiastic. Children want to do the things their parents do. If your children see you brushing your teeth and displaying good dental habits, they will follow. Look around for creative ways to engage your children in brushing their teeth. If you make it seem as if brushing is a fun thing to do, your children will think so too! Let your children brush your teeth. Then let them brush their own teeth. You can also include a doll in this exercise. Follow up by brushing their teeth correctly. Begin to take your children to the dentist at an early age. Ask your dentist if you have any questions about your child's teeth.

Presented as a service to the community by:

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## Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or appraised value of your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affects you.

**Informal Review**  
(Insert description of appraisal district's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

**APPRaisal DEPARTMENT**  
979 732 8222 EXT 233

**Review by the Appraisal Review Board**  
If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (call a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening, Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance

of the evidence presented. In certain protests where the owner has submitted an independent appraisal to the ARB before the hearing, the chief appraiser has the burden of proving the property's value by clear and convincing evidence. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at

(Insert address.)  
COLORADO COUNTY CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
106 CARDINAL LANE  
COLUMBUS, TEXAS 78934

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

**Review by the District Court or an Arbitrator**  
After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. As an alternative and within the same time period, you may file a request for binding arbitration with the county appraisal district in certain cases.

**Tax Payment**  
You must pay either the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

**More Information**  
You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at (Insert appraisal district name, address, telephone number).

Colorado County Central Appraisal District  
106 CARDINAL LANE  
COLUMBUS, TEXAS 78934  
(979) 732-8222

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

## Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB\*

**Usual Deadline**  
On or before May 31 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the appraisal review board approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

**Special Deadlines**  
For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

\* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

(You may insert deadline for protests concerning omitted property if doing so would avoid taxpayer confusion.)

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1) or no later than the 125th day after the date you claim you received a tax bill from one or more of the taxing units that tax your property. The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

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