



# Mayor McMahan Welcomes Hunters, Visitors

**By Mayor Mike McMahan**

I want to wish all our hunters/visitors a big Texas Hill Country welcome and I know you will enjoy your visit to Goldthwaite, the Gateway to the Hill Country. Goldthwaite is conveniently located in the center of Texas and stands at the entrance to what Texans call the "Hill Country."



Mayor Mike McMahan

Goldthwaite, with a population of 1,878, is the county seat for Mills County and our newly-restored courthouse stands proudly on the town square. It is a lasting reminder of our industrious community and "can do" spirit. Our rural roots run deep and now have grown to include many family-owned businesses. Our business community takes pride in offering you competitive goods and services, many unique to Goldthwaite and the surrounding Hill Country area.

A good starting point when you visit Goldthwaite would be to stop at the new Welcome Center. It is the new home to the Chamber of Commerce and has numerous informational and historic resources. While you are there, you can tour the Texas Botanical Gardens.

Recreational opportunities abound for those seeking to get out of the hustle and bustle of the "big city." You can tour area attractions, hunt, fish, hike, bird watch, horseback ride or just enjoy the views along the scenic Colorado River. A trip to Goldthwaite would not be complete without spending some time at our Mills County Historical Museum, touring the Texas Botanical Gardens, or crossing over the Regency Swinging Bridge. We also offer other recreational activities including golf at our local municipal course located just outside of town on Highway 16 South. The city swimming pool provides welcome relief from the summer heat and is conveniently located in the Goldthwaite City Park. You can stop by the Jennie Trent Dew Library, now located in the heart of

our business district, and get caught up on your reading or check your e-mail.

Goldthwaite is home to a 3,200-foot runway. The Goldthwaite Airport has a beautiful terminal building available for pilots that can be rented for family reunions, weddings, or social gatherings. It also serves as the headquarters for the golf course. New cart sheds and a putting green have been added at the terminal.

We have an active Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors family oriented events all year long. Goldthwaite hosts a sanctioned Official Texas State Championship Goat & Barbecue Cook-Off. This event is held the fourth Saturday in April of every year. Cookers compete for the right to be named the Texas Champion and to represent Texas at national competitions. And you won't want to miss Goldthwaite at Christmas! We are part of the "Trail of Lights" and host the annual Christmas Parade of Lights the first Saturday in December. Fireworks on the Fourth of July, an egg hunt at Easter and the annual Hunters Appreciation Lunch November 5th are all events you won't want to miss.

Goldthwaite is a progressive community that seeks a balance between a pro-business environment while preserving our rural land and agricultural heritage. The Economic Development Council focuses on assisting business and job creation for our area. The city does not collect property tax and sells competitively-priced utility services.

Goldthwaite CISD provides a quality learning environment in a small school setting. Academic and athletic opportunities abound for our students. In addition to FFA, 4-H, Scouting, band, art and UIL academic competitions, Goldthwaite student athletes have achieved a reputation for being winners with a tradition of consistent playoff appearances in both girls' and boys' athletics. Earning the 2009 1A State Football Championship, Goldthwaite is now home to four high school state championship football titles. GCISD art projects have also been recognized at the state level, having earned several state awards and titles.

Goldthwaite is a great place to hunt, visit, live, work or retire. I know your stay will be enjoyable. Come see us in Goldthwaite, America.

