



LOCAL GROUNDWATER NEWS

As we enter the new year, we're excited to share important updates on our District's activities, including community engagement opportunities, tips for well registrants and District updates. This newsletter will cover recent developments in records management, highlight our review of District rules, and introduce an exciting new water quality screening program for our community. We appreciate your continued interest and support of our mission to protect and preserve our vital groundwater resources. Please drop in anytime on January 23 to celebrate our anniversary with us!

**Happy
Anniversary**

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District is 24!

The Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District is celebrating 24 years of dedicated service to conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging groundwater resources in Blanco County. As we approach our quarter-century mark, we invite the community to reflect on the importance

of sustainable groundwater practices and celebrate our achievements in safeguarding this vital resource for future generations.

Recent Highlights

"Blanco County Runs on Water" Art Contest: A Creative Celebration of Our Vital Resource

The recently concluded "Blanco County Runs on Water" art contest was a resounding success in raising awareness about the critical importance of water in our daily lives. This collaborative initiative engaged the local community through artistic expression and thoughtful reflection.

The contest featured two categories:

- Grand Prize (all ages): \$2,000 cash prize (Winner: Heather Steele)
- Under 18: \$500 cash prize (Winner: Autumn Seltzer)

Participants were required to submit creative artwork and to provide a write-up explaining how their paintings expressed the significance of water to themselves and the community. This dual approach encouraged artists to deeply consider the role of water in Blanco County, fostering a greater appreciation for this precious resource.

An art exhibit at the Blanco Library showcased the submitted artworks and honored the winners, further engaging the public in the conversation about water conservation. Heather Steele's winning painting is now displayed on posters throughout the county, serving as a constant reminder of water's vital role in our lives.

By combining art, community participation, and educational outreach, the contest successfully highlighted the importance of sustainable water practices and the need to protect our water resources for future generations.



Grand Prize winner: Heather Steele



Under 18 winner: Autumn Seltzer

Learn More: New and Existing Wells

Tips for Completing New Well Registrations

Before drilling a well in Blanco County, it's crucial to obtain your property ID number from the County Appraisal District office in Johnson City and determine the exact latitude and longitude coordinates of the proposed well site. These coordinates are essential for assessing well spacing requirements, including distances from property lines, septic systems, and other wells. A completed well registration application, available at the District office or on our [website](#), is required prior to drilling. The current fee for processing an exempt well registration application is \$100. It's advisable to consult with a well drilling company before submitting your application, as they can provide accurate GPS readings and assist with the registration details.

"Is there a well on that property?"

Realtors, prospective buyers, and others can easily research if a Blanco County property has a registered well. Start by obtaining the property's accurate street address or GPS coordinates. For properties without a visible address, use your smartphone's built-in GPS features to determine approximate coordinates.

Visit our [website](#) and navigate to the District Public Database under Technical Data. This Hydros online database contains records of all registered wells in the county. Use the search options for Street Address or Longitude/Latitude to locate the property on the map.

Examine the map for colored dots indicating registered wells. No dot means no registered well on the property. Hover over a dot for basic well information or click for detailed data about the well and its ownership. This straightforward process allows anyone to quickly check a property's well registration status.

District Updates

Rules Review

The District rules govern the management and protection of groundwater resources in Blanco County. These regulations are crucial for ensuring the sustainability of the region's aquifers, which are vital for drinking water, agriculture, industry, and the local ecosystem.

Key elements of our rules include permitting and well registration, groundwater monitoring, conservation requirements, spacing and production limits, drought contingency plans, enforcement, and compliance. These components work together to create a comprehensive framework for responsible water management.

The District has formed a committee to review and consider changes to current rules. This committee, composed of two directors and the General Manager, will call meetings with community stakeholders and others to discuss potential modifications and the adoption of new rules.

Any proposed rules changes will be brought to the full Board in March. Watch for announcements in the local newspapers and on the District [website](#) for updates on this important process.

These rules are essential for supporting water sustainability, protecting ecosystems, ensuring fairness, enhancing drought resilience, maintaining economic stability, and fostering community trust. They play a critical role in balancing the needs of various water users while safeguarding this precious resource for future generations.

For a comprehensive review of the current District rules, visit our [website](#). We encourage all residents to familiarize themselves with these regulations to better understand how they contribute to the long-term health of our water resources.

Modernizing Our Records for Better Aquifer Management

The District is undertaking a significant effort to modernize and improve its well records. This process involves meticulously reviewing and digitizing information on over 4,000 registered water wells in Blanco County. As each file is updated, its complete contents are being uploaded to the Hydros database, creating a more comprehensive and accessible record-keeping system.

This digitization effort is crucial for the District's mission and operations, as more complete data on each well in the county provides a better basis for aquifer management. This comprehensive information enables evidence-based management practices, allowing the District to make informed decisions about groundwater conservation, preservation, and protection based on accurate and up-to-date data. This improved data management will enhance the District's ability to monitor water levels, assess aquifer conditions, and implement effective conservation strategies, contributing to the long-term sustainability of Blanco County's vital groundwater resources.

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater District director election is coming!

Upcoming Director Election: Your Voice and Vote Matter!

Mark your calendars for the BPGCD Director election on May 3, 2025.

Three positions are up for election:

- Precinct 1 Director
- Precinct 2 Director
- At-Large Director

Candidate registration is open until February 15, 2025, at 5:00pm. Current Directors are eligible for re-election. Candidates must reside in their respective Blanco County districts. All candidates must be registered voters in the precinct to be represented. For more information:

- Visit our office: 601 W. Main St., Johnson City
- Call: (830) 868-9196

- Email: office@blancogw.org

Coming Soon: Water Quality Screening Program!

We have plans to launch a water quality screening program in the near future. This initiative closely aligns with our mission. Developed in response to community requests and feedback, this new service will expand our offerings to well owners and the general public.

Frank Blagg is spearheading this valuable addition to our services at the District. We will make an official announcement once everything is ready. Keep an eye on local Blanco County newspapers and our [website](#) for updates on this exciting new service.

Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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