



AUGUST IN REVIEW / BALLOT 02 / MONEY 03 / SCHOOLS 05 / WEATHER 07

RECALL FIGHT TAKES A TURN

City promises council presentation. Organizers still press for an election timetable.



Official 2025-2026 council and staff portrait. | City of Granbury

HCE STAFF WRITER

GRANBURY | The effort to remove Granbury's mayor and four council members gained a new opening in August when the city agreed to put the disputed recall petitions before the City Council.

In an August 24 filing with the Second Court of Appeals, attorney Darrell Noga said City Secretary Carla Walker would present the petitions within 15 days after further investigation and review of legal authority. The city's letter said that step appeared to resolve the issues before the court.

Recall organizers disagreed. KERA reported August 27 that their attorney, Art Martinez de Vara, continued to seek a court-directed timetable, with the possibility of a November election at the center of the dispute.

The petitions target Mayor Jim Jarratt, Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Wadley and council members Greg Corrigan, Skip Overdier and Zeb Ullom. Organizers Daniel Piatt and Janet Logsdon challenged the city's earlier rejection of the petitions.

Opposition to Project Patriot, the proposed data-center and

power-generation campus at Knox Ranch, helped drive the effort. Residents have raised concerns about transparency and environmental effects. Those accusations remained contested; presenting a petition would not establish that an official committed wrongdoing.

The August development was a change in procedure, not a recall result. The city's commitment and the organizers' demand for an election timetable left the next steps unresolved at month's end.

Source: City court filing, Aug. 24; KERA, Aug. 27, Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela

CITY HALL & THE BALLOT

Two paths. Different stakes.

August's initiative petitions and the recall effort were separate legal processes.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Two proposals submitted August 4 sought to put policy questions before Granbury voters. In its August 13 response, the city rejected one and found the other insufficient.

One proposal concerned zoning, including specific-use permits and additional setbacks. The city argued that zoning must follow state-required notice and hearing procedures and therefore could not be enacted through the initiative route. That was the city's stated legal position.

The other proposal sought referendum requirements for economic-development grants above \$40 million. The city said signatures fell outside the signing period required by Section 4.03 of the charter and allowed the filer 10 days to submit a supplemental petition.

These initiatives concerned proposed ordinances. They were separate from the five petitions seeking the removal of elected officials. Keeping those processes distinct is essential to understanding the August dispute.

Source: City statement, Aug. 13

THE NOVEMBER FIELD

HCE STAFF WRITER

The August 17 filing deadline left Janet Logsdon and incumbent Skip Overdier running for Granbury City Council Place 4. Alex Wolf filed without an opponent for Place 6, according to the city's announcement.

Both seats carry three-year terms. The regular city election is November 3. This candidate filing process is separate from the effort to recall the mayor and four council members.

Source: City filing announcement, Aug. 17

PLACE 4

Janet Logsdon / Skip Overdier

REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Section 4.08 directs the city secretary to present recall papers to the council within 15 days of filing. A targeted official may then request a public hearing at the next regular meeting.

If requested, the hearing must be scheduled at least five and no more than 15 days after the request. If the official does not resign, the charter directs the council to order a recall election for the earliest date state law permits.

That sequence explains why timing became so consequential in August. A presentation, a hearing and an election are different steps. The charter's language does not establish whether disputed petitions meet every legal requirement, and the August 24 city filing was not a court ruling on their merits.

Source: City court filing, Aug. 24; Granbury Charter, Article 4

THE DEVELOPMENT QUESTION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's dated August 6 Project Patriot update drew a distinction between a concept plan already received and development plans the city said had not yet been submitted.

The city described the concept plan as a preliminary layout. It said staff would review later development plans against applicable ordinances, engineering standards, state requirements and any vested rights.

Those statements describe the city's position at that point in August. They do not demonstrate that construction had been approved. The difference between an early planning document and a final authorization remained central to the public argument over Knox Ranch.

Source: City Project Patriot update, Aug. 6

PLACE 6

Alex Wolf / Unopposed at filing close

GOVERNMENT & YOUR MONEY

03

The price of a growing city

August's budget hearing and a new wastewater plant put public spending in view.

\$80 MILLION

Approximate proposed annual budget

48.5¢

Adopted city tax per \$100 of taxable value

HCE STAFF WRITER

GRANBURY | Residents reached a key point in the city's annual spending process at the August 18 public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 operating budget.

In its August 21 newsletter, the city described an approximately \$80 million annual plan. Officials argued that comparisons with the county's budget must account for different responsibilities: Granbury operates water, wastewater and electric systems alongside parks, development services and other municipal functions.

A useful budget comparison therefore starts with what each government provides. The combined city total is not the same thing as the amount financed by the city property-tax rate. Utility operations and general government have different revenue streams.

The hearing preceded final action. By the September 5 issue date, the council had adopted the budget at its September 1 meeting, with the new fiscal year beginning October 1.

In its September 2 recap, the city reported a unanimous budget vote

and a 6-0 vote for a property-tax rate of 48.5 cents per \$100 of taxable value. The city projected approximately \$12.998 million in property-tax revenue for General Fund operations and annual debt service.

The city said the adopted rate was below the voter-approval rate. That comparison does not, by itself, tell a homeowner whether a particular bill will rise or fall. Taxable value, exemptions and the rates of other taxing entities also matter.

Source: City budget newsletter, Aug. 21; City council recap, Sept. 2; City Finance budget record

A SECOND PLANT. A BIGGER PRICE.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury held a ceremonial opening August 12 for its second municipal wastewater treatment plant on Old Granbury Road.

The city lists initial treatment capacity at 1 million gallons per day, with an eventual build-out capacity of 2 million. Its opening record gives an initial cost estimate of \$25.8

million and construction cost following delays of \$34.4 million.

That is an \$8.6 million difference, about one-third above the initial estimate. The figures describe different stages of the project and are presented as the city reported them.

The new facility supplements the city's older wastewater plant, which opened in 1986. Officials say the

additional capacity is intended to improve reliability and accommodate demand.

The city reports construction began in January 2024 and substantial completion occurred July 1, 2026. The August ceremony marked the public opening milestone. This city facility is separate from Aqua Texas' Canyon Creek plant.

Source: City East Plant opening record

\$25.8M

Initial estimate

\$34.4M

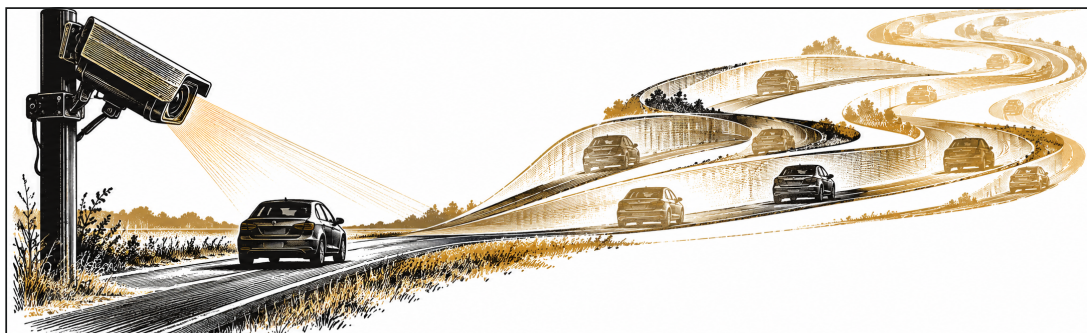
Construction cost

+\$8.6M

33.3% above initial estimate

SURVEILLANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

04

COUNTY CAMERAS
GO DARK**Three readers covered. A refund dispute. A separate city network still in focus.**

Editorial illustration / Hood County Express

\$126,000

Refund sought by the county

26 CAMERAS

Granbury's separate network

HCE STAFF WRITER

HOOD COUNTY | The county's withdrawal from its Flock Safety agreement became visible in August when three automated license-plate readers were unplugged and covered.

Commissioners authorized the coverings August 11. Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley's office carried out the work, according to contemporaneous reporting by KERA and the Houston Chronicle. The Chronicle clarified that Shirley was implementing the court's decision.

The equipment was to remain covered pending removal. The county had already moved to terminate its agreement; commissioners also sought approximately \$126,000 back after raising concerns about performance.

KERA reported that a proposed credit from Flock was rejected. A demand for repayment is not the same as money recovered, and the August account did not establish that taxpayers had received a cash refund.

Privacy and public-safety arguments accompanied the contract dispute. Shirley opposed broad tracking of ordinary motorists. Flock has promoted its cameras as a way to locate stolen vehicles, missing people and criminal suspects.

The county's action concerned its three-camera deployment. It did not shut down Granbury's separate municipal network.

Source: KERA, Aug. 19, Emmanuel Rivas Valenzuela; Houston Chronicle, Aug. 18-19, Sondra Hernandez

THE CITY'S DISCLOSURES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury's July 26 Flock snapshot disclosed 26 cameras, 30-day retention, 151 search sessions and 4,097 hotlist hits in the preceding month.

The portal described historical searches and real-time alerts. Its rules limited access to law-enforcement purposes,

prohibited personal use and harassment, and required human verification of hotlist matches.

These are dated disclosures, not live September figures. Alerts are not convictions. Published access rules describe expected use; they do not independently establish compliance in every search.

Source: Granbury Flock portal, July 26 snapshot

THE GOP RESPONSE

HCE STAFF WRITER

The Hood County GOP adopted a resolution seeking surveillance restrictions and deactivation of Granbury's Flock cameras, WBAP reported August 20.

The resolution added political pressure. It did not itself cancel the city's contract or change state law.

Source: WBAP, Aug. 20

SCHOOLS & SPORTS

05

Back to school. Back in the game.

B

GISD's state rating

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD announced August 14 that it earned a B in the Texas Education Agency's 2025-26 accountability ratings, repeating its district grade from the preceding year.

The state system combines measures of achievement and student progress. A district-wide grade is an overall indicator; it should not be read as a substitute for each campus's results or the experience of an individual student.

The district directed families to txschools.gov for campus-level information and said it would use the results to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Source: Granbury ISD, Aug. 14

HCE STAFF WRITER

Students returned to Granbury ISD classrooms Wednesday, August 12, according to the district calendar. The opening followed high-school orientations August 3-4 and Meet the Pirates on August 6.

Sixth-grade Pirate Camp and elementary Meet the Teacher were scheduled August 10. Together, the calendar entries trace the move from summer preparation to the first grading period.

The month also included the August 17 school-board meeting and August 28 football opener at Cleburne.

Source: Granbury ISD August calendar



Heather Dollins, second from left, holds her award during the August board recognition. | Granbury ISD

STATE RECOGNITION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Trustees recognized Heather Dollins at the August 17 board meeting for receiving the Texas Association for Alternative Education's 2026 Alternative Educator of the Year award. The district spotlight credited her work at STARS Accelerated High School.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Aug. 18

AUGUST 17 / BOARD HONORS

STARS Accelerated High School

54-27

GRANBURY AT CLEBURNE / AUG. 28

Pirates win the opener

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury opened its varsity football season with a 54-27 victory at Cleburne on Friday, August 28.

The result appears on the school's official athletics schedule and is corroborated by MaxPreps. The Pirates finished the night with

a 27-point margin and twice Cleburne's total.

The opener was played at Cleburne's Yellow Jacket Stadium. The district calendar listed a 7 p.m. kickoff.

Source: Granbury ISD August calendar; Granbury Athletics results; MaxPreps, Aug. 28 result

AROUND TOWN

06

Roads, routes & room to park

The city's \$20 million street plan, parking changes and August construction notices.

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury publicized a funded street-improvement list in August after approving \$20 million for street work. The list identifies segments and treatment types, rather than a promise that every project was finished during the month.

Concrete work includes West 2nd Street from Meadowlark Lane to Calinco Drive, new construction on Hill Boulevard from North Avalon Court to Old Cleburne Road, and an

extension of Hurricane Fly Drive from James Road to the existing street.

Full-depth asphalt reclamation is listed for East Bluff Street between South Houston and South Crockett; Elizabeth Boulevard from Heather Drive to South Morgan; Penrod Drive from South Cherry Lane to Paluxy Road; and Raupe Lane from Elizabeth to Paluxy.

Mill-and-overlay work covers two West Bluff segments on either side of South Lambert, reaching South Houston to the east and South Morgan to the west, plus Ables Street from West Pearl to Elizabeth.

North Plaza Drive is listed for seal coat from Calinco eastward 600 feet to existing concrete. The city's August 14 list is the source for those limits.

Source: City street list, Aug. 14; City newsletter, Aug. 19



Hood County Courthouse, June 2018. Architectural archive; cropped. License: creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/ | Michael Barera / CC BY-SA 4.0

PARKING CHANGES

HCE STAFF WRITER

Parking changes approved August 4 affected four areas. Two east-side South Crockett spaces were reserved for the trolley, with no parking along the Visitors Center's south side.

At 201, 203 and 205 East Pearl, fire lanes were designated on both sides of the lot south of Building B. Six locations on Misty Meadow Drive and Clover Lane received restrictions.

On Deputy Larry Miller Drive, east-side parking between West Pearl and the seasonal-creek bridge was permanently prohibited. The west-side restriction applies during voting and other organized Annex events. The city cited traffic flow, visibility and emergency access.

Source: City parking announcement, Aug. 6

ROADWORK NOTES

HCE STAFF WRITER

TxDOT's Mambrino Highway resurfacing schedule was revised to overnight work August 16-18, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. The city's archived notice described intermittent one-lane operation between Power

Plant Court and Pecan Plantation, managed by flaggers and a pilot car.

Separately, the city's August 19 newsletter said Old Granbury Road at Walnut Creek was closed for bridge construction through spring 2027,

weather permitting, with a detour using Industrial Boulevard and U.S. 377.

These are August announcements, not current traffic advisories.

Source: City newsletter, Aug. 19; City archived TxDOT notice, Aug. 11

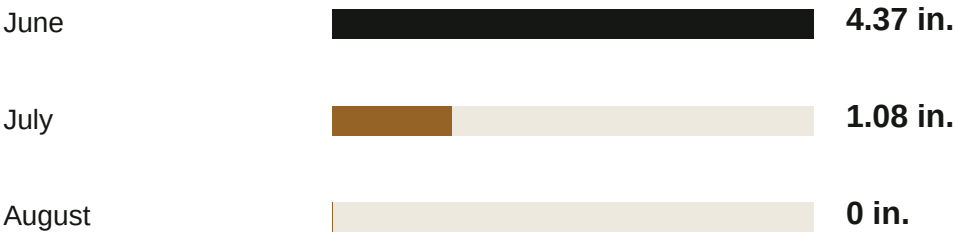
WEATHER & WATER

AUGUST WITHOUT RAIN

NWS Granbury station: 0.00 inches recorded for the month.

Summer rainfall falls away

Granbury monthly precipitation, 2026



Source: National Weather Service, Granbury climatology. August normal: 2.59 inches (1991-2020). Station data, not a countywide average.

HCE STAFF WRITER

The National Weather Service’s Granbury climate table records 0.00 inches of rain for August 2026. The 1991-2020 August normal is 2.59 inches.

The table shows a sharp summer decline: 4.37 inches in June, 1.08 in July and no measurable rainfall in the August entry. The August total is 2.59 inches below the monthly normal at that reporting location.

Source: National Weather Service, Granbury climatology

SMOKE FROM THE ROSS FIRE

HCE STAFF WRITER

Smoke from the Ross Fire drifted into Granbury and Hood County after winds shifted early August 26, the city reported that day. The fire was burning in Palo Pinto and Jack counties.

A day earlier, Texas emergency-management officials reported more than 50,000 acres burned and 5% containment in their

morning update. They said approximately 630 homes had been evacuated overnight. Those are August 25 figures, not a final fire total.

FEMA approved assistance making eligible suppression costs subject to 75% federal reimbursement, according to the state announcement. Fire crews, aircraft and other

agencies were mobilized to support the response.

The city also sought bottled water, electrolyte drinks and individually packaged snacks for volunteer firefighters. Its August notice listed donation drop-offs at 1701 West Pearl Street and 500 Whisper View Circle.

Source: Texas emergency management, Aug. 25; City smoke advisory, Aug. 26

VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury began Stage 1 voluntary water conservation August 28. The city said its trigger was production of at least 4 million gallons a day for five consecutive days, compared with a maximum production capacity of 6.5 million gallons daily.

The requested lawn-watering schedule assigns even-numbered addresses Sundays and Thursdays and odd-numbered addresses

Wednesdays and Saturdays. Suggested hours are midnight to 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. to midnight.

The city described Stage 1 as voluntary, with no penalties attached to that schedule, and encouraged leak repairs and reduced outdoor use. These are the August rules, retained here as part of the historical record.

Source: City Stage 1 FAQ, Aug. 29

AUGUST 12

HCE STAFF WRITER

A mechanical problem temporarily cut Granbury’s drinking-water treatment capacity August 12. The city reported full capacity restored that afternoon.

Officials said backup supplies and conservation maintained service, with no issue in water quality or quantity delivered to customers.

Source: City water-system update, Aug. 12

THE PEOPLE OF HOOD COUNTY

08

WHEN NEIGHBORS
STEP FORWARD

The August 17 board recognition included five honorees credited with lifesaving action. | Granbury ISD

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury ISD trustees honored five people August 17 for actions the district said helped save a man's life the previous month.

The district named Chuck Matlock, Chris Taylor, Mark Davis, Sharon Rains and Danny Bloodworth. Its

August 18 announcement credited their quick response and teamwork.

The public recognition brought a different kind of local news to the boardroom: a community thanking neighbors for stepping forward when help was needed.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Aug. 18

A FIFTH
NATIONAL HONOR

HCE STAFF WRITER

Granbury marked its fifth USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice win for Best Historic Small Town in America with an August 21 plaque unveiling.

Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Wadley and Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley unveiled it at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center.

The honor comes from a readers' choice competition, not a government designation.

Source: City award announcement, Aug. 21

THE PRIDE OF GRANBURY

HCE STAFF WRITER

Trustees thanked Paul Hyde of Hyde Law Firm and Hood County News, and Morris Duree of Granbury Realty, for donations toward the band's custom-wrapped semi trailer.

Source: Granbury ISD board spotlight, Aug. 18



Band supporters were recognized at the August 17 meeting. | Granbury ISD

HISTORICAL EDITION

Compiled October 4, 2026.