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A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ October 2005

September arrived with hurricane force winds that impacted the Brazos Valley even though we were fortunate to avoid being the direct target of either Katrina or Rita. Our role was to help with evacuation of those fleeing the rising waters in New Orleans and the surrounding areas, and later to provide a safe harbor for thousands from the Houston area who were initially in Rita's path.

Without exception, you can be proud of the unselfish service and warm welcome offered by City of College Station staff throughout these trying times.

Whether you witnessed the Lincoln Center converted to a shelter/hospitality area, the EXIT Teen Center offered as an animal shelter, smooth operations of the Gateway reception area, coordination of our College Station Emergency Operations Center with that of the County EOC, public safety officers assisting with traffic congestion, or the countless moments of compassion and friendship witnessed at our shelters, in our stores, on the road, or in local motels, you would be proud to call College Station your home or employer.

Even now our College Station Utilities crews remain on the job assisting other communities as they recover from the devastation in those areas. CSU was

contacted prior to Rita's landfall by the City of Liberty (photo below) and sent two crews to assist with restoring power in that area northeast of Houston. Jasper has also requested additional assistance and crews have been dispatched to help in that community.

The exemplary manner in which our response was handled is the result of many individuals not only doing their jobs, but performing beyond expectations.



Liberty, Texas

Letters to the editor, notes in the shelters and personal comments were the true measure of the impact on those who were our guests for the moment. As **June Perniciaro**, an evacuee from New Orleans, said when she called to disconnect service after a month in College Station: "If I didn't have to go back to

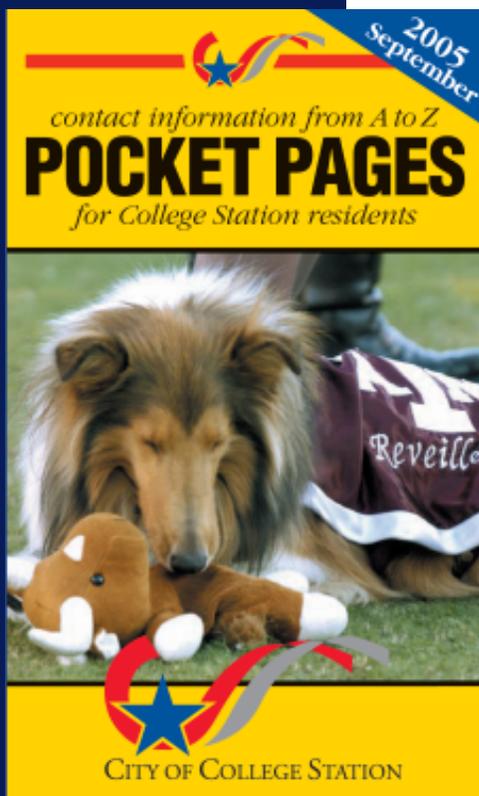
New Orleans, I'd make College Station my home."

We look forward to resuming "normal" operations and pursuing new avenues to provide quality services to our residents. But rest assured you can take great pride in the commitment of all of our employees to represent this community in the most positive light.

Glenn Brown
Interim City Manager



College Station Premiers "Pocket Pages" Directory



Who you gonna call?

Thanks to the City of College Station, that question is a lot easier to answer with *Pocket Pages*, a 32-page directory designed to put phone numbers at your fingertips.

Measuring only 3" x 5", the booklet is divided into **Quick Reference** (general information numbers for area cities and schools), **A to Z Directory** (organized by topic rather than department) of local city/community services, and **Health Services** (hospitals and health service organizations). The miniature phone directory is designed to provide ready access to

hundreds of numbers based on most frequently asked questions during the past year.

"It's the perfect example of putting employee ideas into action," said **Glenn Brown**, Interim City Manager. He added that the idea was prompted by the City's Em-

ployee Involvement Committee, then produced by the Public Communications Department with financial assistance from College Station Utilities.

With local celebrity Reveille featured on the front cover, the attractive directory includes numbers from throughout the community, with City of College Station numbers bolded and emergency numbers printed in red. The smaller size is convenient for keeping copies in glove compartments, purses or backpacks.

Pocket Pages is being distributed through the College Station Independent School District, the Student Government Association of Texas A&M, International Center, Chamber of Commerce and various City locations.

They are available at one of the following City of College Station locations: Municipal Court, Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Utility Customer Services, Planning and Development, Fire Stations, Police Station, College Station Conference Center, Public Communications, Human Resources and the City Secretary's office. You may also obtain a copy by calling the Public Communications Department at 764-3445.



Briefly speaking...

Brown Appointed to TPPA State Board of Directors

The Texas Public Power Association (TPPA) recently appointed **Glenn Brown**, Interim City Manager for the City of College Station, to the TPPA Board of Directors. Brown was appointed during the TPPA Annual Meeting in July held in San Antonio and attended his first Board meeting in October in Lubbock. He joins the group of leading utility and city executives which serve on the TPPA Board of Directors, including other city managers, electric system CEO's, and public power professionals.

"TPPA is pleased to have Glenn in a leadership role for the statewide association," said Mark Zion, Executive Director. "College Station is widely recognized as an efficient and well run municipally-owned electric utility."

TPPA represents 72 municipally-owned electric utilities that provide affordable and reliable electricity to over three million Texans. As an association, TPPA represents its members on public policy matters affecting them and the electric utility industry. TPPA is active at the Texas Legislature, the Texas Public Utility Commission, and on the federal level. It facilitates cooperation between its member utilities, providing educational and technical services. The TPPA provides overall policy direction to the association and meets quarterly to discuss issues affecting the electric utility industry and public power.

College Station Hosts Safe Routes to School Course

Community leaders, health and transportation professionals, law enforcement officers and parents were in attendance September 27 for the day-long *Safe Routes to School* program offered through the City of College Station.

Mark Smith, Director of Public Works, welcomed 40 participants to the September workshop, one of several planned throughout the United States.

"Following a chance to observe school routes in action during the morning rush hour at Oakwood Intermediate, the remainder of the day was spent reviewing everything from engineering and enforcement strategies to identifying problem areas and solutions," said Smith. The course concluded with development of an action plan for the local area.

The Safe Routes to School National Course was created by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center and is supported through a partnership of funding from the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency. Grant monies from the national offices were used to fund the College Station program.



Glenn Brown, Interim City Manager, was recognized in October at the National ICMA conference for 30 years of service, the last five in College Station.





Train Exhibit Opens November 7 at Bush Library

Locomotives will dominate the landscape when the Trains exhibit opens November 7 at the Bush Presidential Library. Pictured is the GE locomotive display, along with two of the five trains being painted for the City of College Station. Linda Piwonka is shown with DragonFlyer, the first of the replicas to be completed. The patriotic design for another being completed for Parks and Recreation is also shown as it will appear from each side. Others are being designed for the City by A&M Consolidated High School, TAMU Former Students Association and the Lincoln Center.

Tracks of the Iron Horse will whistle its way to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum November 7 as part of an exhibit that will include locomotive replicas placed throughout the Bryan/College Station community.

collection of railroad clocks and pocket watches, selections from Frank Sinatra's model railroad collection, an executive order signed by Abraham Lincoln setting the gauge for the railroad, Overland model railroad cars, a three-foot long crystal train and hundreds of historic photographs.

This 4,200 square foot exhibit fills both of the museum's changing galleries and covers everything from the train's inception to modern day locomotives and routes. Visitors will be introduced to the rich technological, social, and economic history of the railroad industry. Highlights

Thirty-six train replicas sponsored by local businesses and groups will be scattered across the community this fall, including five designed for the City of College Station.



include: an actual General Electric locomotive cab simulator, historic railroad china, a restored Union Pacific caboose, an extensive



Financially speaking...

★ The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) has appointed **Cheryl Turney**, College Station Purchasing Manager, to the Local Government Purchasing Cooperative Board of Trustees.

An eight-time winner of the Achievement of Excellence in Public Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute (NPI), Turney holds a degree in business administration from Sam Houston State University. She has served on the Board of Directors of the following local, regional and national organizations: Brazos Valley Public Purchasing Association (1995-2000), the Better Business Bureau (2004-2005), Texas Purchasing Management Association (2003-2005), and interim board of the Public Employee Benefit Alliance (2005).

“Employees such as Cheryl are truly an asset to our organization,” said **Jeff Kersten**, City of College Station Fiscal Services Director. “Her professionalism and experience make her most deserving of the recognition from TASB.”

TASB is a nonprofit association established in 1949 to serve local public school districts. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. Districts they represent have a combined annual budget of \$33 billion, employ more than 570,000 people, and serve more than four million public school students.

★ **October sales tax receipts** (*September sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller’s Office. The City collected \$1,474,546 for the month of September, representing a 5.05% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier. Sales tax collections for FY05 YTD are 3.18% **above** FY04 collections, a difference of \$475,733.

Overall, tax revenues continue to grow at or around the projected 3% trend. The Budget Office will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

September FY05 Receipts
\$1,474,546
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

September FY04 Receipts
\$1,403,703
\$70,843
5.05%

FY05 YTD Receipts
\$15,440,349
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

FY04 YTD Receipts
\$14,964,616
\$475,733
3.18%



Cheryl Turney, Purchasing Manager for the City of College Station, has been nominated for Secretary/Treasurer of the Texas Purchasing Management Association for 2005-2006. The election of officers will be held at the annual TPMA Business Meeting at the Texas Municipal League Annual Conference on October 28 in Grapevine.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue
College Station, TX 77842
www.cstx.gov

COUNCIL CALENDAR

Monday, October 17

IGC Meeting, Brazos County
Courthouse, 8 am

Tuesday, October 18

-Chamber of Commerce,
8:30 am
-Citizens University Reunion,
Pebble Creek CC, 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 19

RVP, 3 pm

Thursday, October 20

Harvest Moon Celebration &
Fundraiser, Briarcrest CC,
6 pm

Monday, October 24

City Council Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

October 26-29

TML 2005 Annual Conference,
Grapevine

Thursday, November 3

Research Valley Alliance
Luncheon, Miramont CC,
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Monday, November 7

George Bush Presidential
Library Foundation, Program
on Volunteerism w/guest
speaker J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of House of Represen-
tatives, Annenberg Conference
Center, Noon



Shining moments...

★ The City of College Station recently received a **participation award** for its volunteer employees teaching all third grade **Junior Achievement** classes in College Station ISD. The award was presented during the 2005-06 kickoff breakfast held October 14 at the College Station Conference Center.

City participants in the program are **Ric Ploeger, Ken Fogle, Peter Lamont, Debbie Eller, Ed Spillane, Mike Mullen, Trey Fletcher, Edward McDonald, Gregg Lancaster, Peggy Calliham** and **Cynthia Giedraitis**. They are beginning their fourth year with Junior Achievement, teaching a curriculum entitled "Our City." The five session course teaches third graders the basics of how cities are planned, the importance of different types of jobs that make up our community, and the importance of continuing their education so they can become successful adults.

★ Letter from **Vanessa Dixon**, Hurricane Rita victim: *"Let this be a letter of service well done. I had the opportunity to visit your city and be accommodated throughout Hurricane Rita. I must say your city and Reed Arena was well prepared and deserve a job well done. Your city knows the true meaning of Texas hospitality."*

★ In addition to trains pictured on page 4, **Consolidated High School's** "Train of Thought" is shown below in the finishing stages. Art students under the direction of **Jamie Bevans** created the masterpiece, which includes forms of communication ranging from sign language and braille to Indian signs, music, telephone, mail and photography. Even a light house, film canisters and Morse code are among the illustrations.

