



A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ May 2006

Have you visited the **Upper Trails at Wolf Pen Creek**? This 1.8 miles stretch of paved pathways between Earl Rudder and George Bush East is proving to be quite popular with all age groups. Grand opening ceremonies held April 22 found something for everyone as kids of all ages enjoyed entertainment along the trails and refreshments provided by restaurants adjoining the project. Whether you enjoy running, walking, cycling or sitting on a park bench, it provides a nice diversion from the busier side of life. *(Kids pictured above participated in the "Wolf Pup Scamper" held during opening ceremonies.)*

■ In the world of transportation-related projects, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will be moving forward this month with upcoming plans for **improvements for the SH6 frontage road between Deacon and Rock Prairie**. Detailed information on the project is featured in this month's edition of "On the Move" -- a transportation-related feature on Channel 19, which can also be accessed on cstx.gov in the Channel 19 archives. The first phase of the project began this month and plans include an exit ramp at Barron Road to accommodate southbound traffic exiting from Highway 6. Estimated completion time is eight months. The next phase will remove the existing Rock Prairie exit and should be complete by April 2007.

■ If you haven't been among thousands attending the **2006 Starlight Music Series** to date, you might want to consider taking the family to one of the events scheduled through June 24. The free concert series caters to a variety of musical tastes, with performances ranging from the Brazos Valley Symphony to Buck-

wheat Zydeco and Johnny Dee and the Rocket 88's. Visit the city website (www.cstx.gov) for a complete schedule. As a reminder, lawn chairs and coolers are always welcome, but pets and glass containers should be left at home.

■ Another project that garnered a lot of interest was the **"Name That Road" contest** designed to provide an opportunity for suggestions to name the State Highway 40/Greens Prairie Road East corridor that is nearing completion in the southern end of the city.

A total of 702 suggestions were received for the 8.5 mile stretch of highway scheduled to open in June when three miles of SH40 are complete, connecting Highway 30 with Wellborn Road and providing a more direct route to TAMU and Easterwood Airport.

With more than 50 pages of suggestions submitted by almost 600 individuals, the City Council selected **William D. Fitch**, a longtime resident and developer in College Station, as the namesake of the new road. A total of 107 persons submitted his name, with many describing him as a visionary and truly deserving of the "Mr. College Station" reference he had earned over the years prior to his death in 1997.

Special unveiling of the new signage is planned this summer.

City Manager



Crompton Park Latest Addition to CS Parks

What was described as the “premier neighborhood park in College Station” was dedicated April 5 in honor of **Dr. John Crompton**, a Distinguished Professor in Texas

A&M’s Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies.

in 2007, include disc golf, fishing and additional walking trails.

“A prolific author, humanitarian, devoted athlete, outstanding teacher, mentor and visionary leader, Dr. Crompton’s lifelong passion for excellence and his hard work have resulted in significant contributions promoting park issues and conservation efforts at the local, state, national and international levels,” said **Steve Beachy**, Director of CS Parks and Recreation.

Dr. Crompton was born and received much of his education in England. Prior to joining the TAMU faculty in 1974, he was founder and managing director of the largest consulting organization in the United Kingdom, specializing in recreation, parks and tourism. In 32 years at A&M, he has emerged as the world’s most published researcher in major journals in both the leisure and tourism fields.

Several speakers at the dedication noted Crompton has also devoted his talent and energy toward improvements in College Station’s quality of life. In addition to serving on numerous boards of local organizations, he has been an unflinching advocate for Lick Creek Park and his most recent project has been spearheading the initiative to create a 10,000-acre regional park.

Development of Phase I cost \$550,000. Phase II is forecast to be complete in 2007 with a budget of \$250,000.

The 15-acre park at Holleman and Jones-Butler Road is the first in Zone 7 and will service a high density area that is primarily home to college students.

Completion of Phase I of planned improvements to the property acquired since 1982 provides walking trails, a group

pavilion, basketball courts and picnic area. Future plans, part of Phase II scheduled for completion





Now boarding...

Campaign Developed Touting Benefits of Easterwood Airport

Local officials are hoping the community will get on board with a campaign promoting the benefits of using Easterwood Airport. The campaign contrasts the case of using Easterwood with the inconvenience and sometimes overlooked costs to individuals and the community when citizens choose to drive to Houston, Dallas and Austin airports.

“Studies for the campaign revealed a perception among local travelers that it always costs more to use Easterwood Airport,” said **Bob Malaise**, Vice President of Economic Services, The Research Valley Partnership. However, he noted that advance round-trip fares on Continental Airlines flying out of Easterwood are usually within \$40 of Houston’s Intercontinental Airport. Other factors such as nonproductive drive time, gas and parking can add \$260 to the cost of flying from Houston.

The campaign also aims to show the importance of Easterwood to the area economy. Providing convenient, local air service can have a direct impact on attracting and retaining businesses, recruiting employees and faculty, securing large research projects, hosting meetings and conventios, and providing services to the growing senior citizen market.

Malaise said airline and airport officials who previewed the campaign agree that if awareness and enplanements at Easterwood increase, there is a strong interest in adding flights and services. Local media have contributed more than \$44,000 in coverage to support the effort.



102 Miles to IAH
44.5 cents per mile

\$35.⁰⁰ Per Hour
Nonproductive drive time

\$13.⁰⁰ Per Day
Airport parking

\$ 3.⁰⁰ Coffee
You pass on the doughnuts

Now, if time is money...then at

\$115

you should try another alternative.

EASTERWOOD AIRPORT
Now Boarding

EASTERWOODAIRPORT.COM

8:00 am
IAH flight time

4:30 am
Alarm

2.0 Hour
Drive time

20 Minute
Hustle to check-in

Now, how about a convenient

25.0

minute trade for the above list...hurr!

EASTERWOOD AIRPORT
Now Boarding

EASTERWOODAIRPORT.COM

263,910
Customers

4,380
Flights per year

22 Professional
Trades used

111 Employees
Your friends and neighbors

Now, if everyone boards outside
the local market...

\$0.0

then accounting would be really easy.

EASTERWOOD AIRPORT
Now Boarding

EASTERWOODAIRPORT.COM



Inside College Station...



◆ When the Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants made their College Station debut at Texas A&M University's Rudder Auditorium, there was a large crowd of appreciative fans present to enjoy the performance. Among them were College Station **Mayor Ron Silvia** and Bryan **Mayor Ernie Wentreck**, who were both introduced during the intermission.

From the opening selection to the final bow, it was a musical tribute to all genres of American music. Patriotic, country, classic and rock...there was something for everyone and an opportunity to recognize veterans of all branches of the Armed Services.

It marked the first trip to College Station for the Washington, D. C. -based group. Funding for the performance was provided by the City of College Station.

◆ On another note, Keep Brazos Beautiful's dedication of Unity Plaza provided an opportunity for both cities to celebrate the coming together of hearts, goals and aspirations.

Located on Texas Avenue across from Luby's, Unity Plaza was funded by a

Texas Department of Transportation *Governor's Achievement Award* landscape grant, won by Keep Brazos Beautiful in 1998.

The crowning feature of the site, the sculpture "Children of Peace" by Utah artist Gary Lee Price, was funded by the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency. Price's creation depicts two gracefully arched children, a symbol and theme reiterated in the large arched brick facade in Unity Plaza's construction. The two children in the sculpture parallel the twin cities of Bryan and College Station, who like younger and older siblings, hand-in-hand, look toward their respective towns, linked to the future in camaraderie and partnership.





Speaking of success...

★ **College Station's Parks and Recreation Department** received a national award when its lifeguard staff was awarded the **2005 Platinum National Aquatic Safety Award** for consistently exceeding criteria for aquatic safety certification.

"While we are sure the swimmers who frequent your pools already recognize the professionalism exhibited by your lifeguard staff, it is important to inform them that only those clients scoring in the top 9% of the audit criteria receive this award," said **Richard Carroll**, senior vice president of Ellis & Associates, international aquatic safety and risk management consultants.

Vera Solis, Pool Supervisor for CS Parks and Recreation, and members of her lifeguard staff, were recognized at the April 13 City Council meeting for their commitment to professional excellence and desire to make a difference for College Station citizens.



Pictured above are Vera Solis and representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department's lifeguard staff with Mayor Ron Silvia, City Manager Glenn Brown and Parks and Recreation Director Steve Beachy.

★ **Employee awards** were announced March 27 by the **College Station Police Department**, with **Lt. Mike Mathews** recognized as Officer of the Year. Also receiving recognition were: **Sgt. Jeff Capps**, Supervisor of the Year; **Julia Franz**, Communications Operator of the Year; **Ronnie Horcica**, Civilian Employee of the Year; and Reserve Officer **DeWayne Taylor**, Volunteer of the Year.

Outstanding Service awards were presented to **Officer Garrett Birdwell**, **Sgt. Chuck Fleeger**, **Information Services Manager Stephanie George**; **Sgt. Brandy Norris**, **Senior Officer Tom Reitmeyer**, **PSO Stephen Schoellman**, **Lt. Scott Simpson** and **PSO Kathy Young**.

Outstanding Unit awards were given to the **Law Enforcement Explorer Post** and the **Recruiting and Training Division**.

★ **March sales tax receipts** (*February sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,161,283 for the month of March, representing a 10.53% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier.

Tax revenues were projected to grow at or around the 5% trend. The Budget Office will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount.

March FY06 Receipts

\$1,161,283
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

March FY05 Receipts

\$1,050,621
\$110,662
10.53%

FY06 YTD Receipts

\$8,442,615
Actual Difference
Percent Difference

FY05 YTD Receipts

\$7,800,892
\$641,724
8.23%

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR

May 1-9

- Early Voting (see www.cstx.gov for times)

May 8-11

Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Action Trip
to Washington, D.C.

Saturday, May 13

Election Day, 7 am - 7 pm

Monday, May 15

Intergovernmental Committee
Meeting, BVCOG, 12 noon

Tuesday, May 16

Transportation Committee,
Administration Conference
Room, 4:30 pm

Wednesday, May 17

Law Enforcement Memorial,
CSPD, 12 noon

Wednesday, May 24

Canvass of Election Results,
12 noon

Thursday, May 25

City Council Swearing In of New
Members and Workshop, 1:30 pm
Regular Council Meeting, 7 pm

Monday, May 29

City Offices Closed for
Memorial Day

Thursday, June 8

Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm



Shining moments...

★ Email to **Glenn Brown, City Manager**: "This morning it just took a minute to get across Victoria/Graham, just had to wait behind two cars. And no longer a perilous crossing at that. I did see a few cars traveling down Graham waiting at the stop sign, but that should be no surprise because it was this traffic light that made it so dangerous to cross here. So perhaps a traffic light is somewhere down the road. I would support that too, if you thought it was best.

I did not see people cutting through the German car repair shop, which has a driveway on both streets. I'm sure they appreciate that. I take my youngest daughter to school on this route every day and she noticed how easy it was to cross. And she is only 11. Again, thanks." --**Benito Flores-Meath**, College Station resident

★ Email to **Michael Clancey, Chief of Police**: "Thank you. My 18-year old daughter was driving back to college last night when she was stopped for speeding. Thank you. Thank you. She had no business driving her car at a speed of 84 miles per hour. She has only been driving for two years. I hope she never speeds again, but if she does, I hope you will ticket her again. Thank you."-- **Signed: An appreciative parent** in Houston

★ Letter to **Glenn Brown, City Manager**: "I wanted to thank you and the City of College Station for sponsoring me in Junior Leadership Brazos. Mr. McNeil told us at our kickoff breakfast that without our sponsors it would have cost each student over \$400 to participate. I appreciate the financial support that each of the sponsors are willing to invest in our 2006 Junior Leadership Brazos class. I am already learning so many new and different things, and we have only had one session. I know this experience will allow me a greater insight into our great communities, and enable me, as a student, to contribute to their success. I look forward to meeting you and thanking you at the graduation dinner." -- **Porscha Buck**, Junior Leadership Brazos participant

★ Letter to **Glenn Brown, City Manager**: "More often than I would like to admit, you have heard me express my concerns about slow responses from the City. Today, I would like to tell you about the actions of **Alan Gibbs** and **Eric Hurt** on an extremely time sensitive project.

"We have been trying for months to get development permits for the Dovetail project. Our effort has been stymied by many forces, but the most significant one was a second access. We tried many different approaches. Eric even went to the school board meeting with us to explain how the access would be limited to his emergency personnel only. Unfortunately, we were turned down at every turn, including the school district.

"It appeared that the curtain was closing on this project because we were so late that we were missing the market. Yesterday, an adjoining property owner agreed to provide us the access. Eric went immediately to the site to approve the location. Today, Alan and Eric put aside their other duties to review the wording of the easement agreement. They did not get it until this morning and sent an email approving it to me early this afternoon. It appears that, with the prompt and conscientious help of Eric and Alan, we may get our secondary access and be able to proceed with the project as planned." **Chuck Ellison**, The Ellison Firm

