



**A Monthly Report from the Office of the City Manager ★ June 2006**

Hurricane season is already here, with each of us recalling the impact of Rita and Katrina in 2005. While the two storms did not directly target College Station with winds and rain, linemen from College Station Utilities were among those who volunteered to assist other cities restore power. Pictured above is **Governor Rick Perry with CSU and BTU linemen** who received a resolution from the Governor thanking them for their contributions. Pictured with Governor Perry are (front row, from left) James Roberts, Robert Bullock, CSU Electric Department Director David Massey and Mayor Pro Tem John Happ; back row (from left) Adrian Ayala, Coby Zoch, Matt Marek, Keith Cooke and Charles Johnson. BTU representatives are pictured on the right.

- A special welcome to **Terry Childers**, a veteran of more than 25 years in local government management, who joined the City of College Station this month to serve as a temporary assistant city manager to provide support while we conduct a search to fill several vacancies in our top management. Additionally, a new **management restructuring** recommended by The Mercer Group has realigned city departments to allow for a more efficient and productive delivery of customer service. Once the search for two assistant city managers is complete, we will be able to fully implement the changes.

- If you have a chance to visit the Ringer Library, be sure to check out the **Michael Patterson collection**, a new addition recently dedicated in memory of our former

assistant police chief. A donation of 40 books by **Dr. Charles Backus**, Director of the Texas A&M University Press, was acknowledged during the brief ceremony that paid tribute to Chief Patterson and his wife, Jan. A special presentation was made by **Dr. John McDermott**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, who chaired Mike's thesis.

- Second graders at Southwood Valley Elementary were introduced to a new curriculum in May, one specifically designed to explore functions of city government for students in **Leah Gibson's** class (pictured at left) and be shared with other classes. With TEKS testing requirements as a guide, Community Programs Coordinator **Peggy Calliham** drafted a curriculum for use at the second grade level.



- Our employees are always raising the bar when it comes to customer service, and the **Forestry Department** is no exception. We are proud of **Brice Bloodworth** for passing the Arborist Certification Examination with an 85% score. This brings our three-person crew to two Certified Arborists with a third studying for the exam. In addition to Brice, our crew includes Curtis Schoessow (crew leader and ISA certified) and Daniel Tice (grounds worker). These young men are very safety conscious and take care of hundreds of miles of street trees and several parks.

*Glenn Brown*  
City Manager



# Comprehensive Plan Update: Tool for Future

Now in the beginning stages of updating College Station's Comprehensive Plan of the community's vision for the future, the City's next step is the appointment of six citizens of College Station (including a student and one Brazos County resident) by the City Council to serve on a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

The current comprehensive plan was adopted in 1997. While small area and neighborhood plans have been developed, the current Comprehensive Plan has not been reviewed in its entirety since its adoption. Since

1997, College Station's population has increased by 40%, building permits have been issued for over 5,000 single-family homes, and College Station has increased in size by more than 4,000 acres.

"The Comprehensive Plan is a statement of the community's vision for the future and a guide to achieving that vision," said **Jennifer Prochazka**, senior planner for the City of College Station. "Generally, the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to anticipate growth and to guide that growth in such a manner that provides a balance of land uses that promote economic

growth while retaining the quality of life."

She added that the Comprehensive Plan is not a "zoning regulation" and it does not affect existing approved zoning. Instead, it provides the foundation for making changes or developing new regulations that implement identified vision, goals and policies. The Comprehensive Plan includes, among other components, a Land Use Plan and a Transportation Plan.

The City is updating the Comprehensive Plan in order to determine the City's vision for the future; decide which types of development opportunities are compatible with the vision; determine where and how the City should grow; provide guidance in making land use decisions; preserve and improve the integrity of neighborhoods and overall quality of life; and promote economic development.

The update is anticipated to be complete by Spring 2008. Because public input is a vital part of a successful planning process, there will be many public meetings, work sessions, and workshops. If you are interested in receiving information regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update, sign up for the College Station CityLink E-notifier to receive emails and meeting schedules by selecting the "2006 Comprehensive Plan Update" under "Notice Categories," or contact Jennifer Prochazka at [jprochazka@cstx.gov](mailto:jprochazka@cstx.gov).



*Jennifer Prochazka, Senior Planner in College Station's Planning and Development Services Department, oversees the Comprehensive Plan Update.*



# Breaking ground...

## *West Park Rehabilitation Project Begins Construction Phase*

Improvements to the aging infrastructure and drainage problems in West Park, one of the oldest areas in College Station, began in May. Scope of the project includes improvements to more than 11,500 feet of existing water lines and more than 8,700 feet of existing sewer lines, installation of new storm drain system lines, and upgrading of some existing storm drain lines.

The West Park Rehabilitation Project is bounded by Wellborn Road, Luther St., George Bush Drive and Fairview Avenue. The project broke ground in May 2006 and is expected to be under construction until July 2007. With an awarded contract budget of \$3,544,008 to Young Contractors, Inc. of Waco, the project is funded by the Streets Capital Fund, Water Utility Fund, Wastewater Utility Fund and the Drainage Utility Fund.

“The project includes improvements to the water services infrastructure, wastewater services infrastructure, storm drainage infrastructure, and road surfaces,” said **Edward McDonald, Project Manager**. Montclair and Highland will be receiving milling and an asphalt overlay; other streets will be receiving new concrete paving. Streets receiving concrete roadways are Maryem, Park Place, portions of Grove, portions of Angus and portions of Kerry. Sidewalks also will be included in areas throughout the project.





# Inside College Station...

★ Hot rods and hot classic music set the mood in June as the City of College Station and the Blue

bonnet Street Rod Club hosted the **15th Ever Rod Run** at Central Park, where crowds viewed hot rods, street rods, muscle cars and trucks on display. Awards were given in different categories with proceeds benefitting Still Creek Ranch.



to their Saturday performance on Armed Forces Day as part of the Starlight Music Series.

Commander and conductor of the group is **Glen W. Nardin**. The band travels around the world to entertain troops and serve in their military roles as required.

★ **State Highway 40** officially opened June 23 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the stretch of road providing the link between Wellborn and Highway 30. Ceremonies will be held later this summer to designate the SH 40/Greens Prairie link as the William D. Fitch Parkway.

On hand for official duties were **Ron Silvia**, Mayor of College Station; **Judge Randy Sims**, Brazos County; **Michael Behrens**, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation; and **Glenn Fuqua**, Glenn Fuqua Contractors, Inc. (Photo: *The Eagle/Dave McDermand*)

★ City Attorney **Harvey Cargill, Jr.** was a featured panelist at an open government seminar earlier this month sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Public Affairs Committee.

He joined five other professionals for discussion about implications of changes in statute to help ensure compliance with open records and open meetings laws, key issues in deciding to prosecute and consideration of the issues from several perspectives.

Classic 50's style rock and roll fans found their musical niche that same weekend at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater as College Station Utilities and the College Station Parks and Recreation Department presented Johnny D and the Rocket 88's as part of the 2006 Starlight Music Series.



★ Adding to the excitement was the appearance of the **First Cavalry Division Band** from Fort Hood. The 32-member group toured Veterans Park prior





# Speaking of success...

★ The City of College Station received one of three statewide awards recognizing "Technology Excellence" at the 2006 Texas Association of Government Information Technology Managers (TAGITM) in Galveston. The awards were selected from thirteen total submissions by various Texas cities and counties.

College Station was recognized for a Computer-Aided Earthmoving System implemented at the Rock Prairie Road Landfill as a joint effort between the City's Office of Technology and Information Services (*now Information Services*) and the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency (BVSWMA).

"Using this system has significantly improved operations and resulted in direct taxpayer savings by permitting more efficient use of available landfill space and conservation of dirt used to cover waste," said Samantha Best, Landfill Supervisor. She added that the system eliminates the need for surveying and manually staking the site of work, plus provides optimum compaction and grading by continually providing a variety of real-time data (*i.e. number of passes, grade and slope information etc.*) to equipment operators.

In June of 2004, the City of College Station issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) from firms to provide a comprehensive computer-aided Global Positioning System (GPS) based earthmoving system. This system was to be used in compaction and grading work at BVSWMA's Rock Prairie Road Landfill.

In December 2004, a contract was awarded to Mustang Tractor & Equipment Company of Bryan for installation of the system. According to Neil Black, Program Manager for the Information Technology installation, this system is unique in that it required incorporating computer hardware and software, GPS receivers, a SQL database and a 900 MHz radio system. The system was installed and tested over the next several months and has been in operation for about one year.

★ **May sales tax receipts** (*April sales*) have been received from the State Comptroller's Office. The City collected \$1,280,894 for the month of May, representing a 9.16% increase in revenue from the same month a year earlier. Sales tax collections for FY06 YTD are 7.85% above FY05 collections.

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.

### **May FY06 Receipts**

\$1,280,894  
Actual Difference  
Percent Difference

### **May FY05 Receipts**

\$1,173,426  
\$107,468  
9.16%

### **FY06 YTD Receipts**

\$11,219,714  
Actual Difference  
Percent Difference

### **FY05 YTD Receipts**

\$10,402,997  
\$816,717  
7.85%



*Ben Roper, Assistant Information Services Director; Neil Black, Systems Analyst; Samantha Best, Landfill Supervisor; and Pete Caler, BVSWMA Director, are pictured with the technology excellence award presented in May for the computer-aided earthmoving system now operational at the Rock Prairie Landfill. Pictured below is the system in use by Jerry King, equipment operator.*

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
Heart of the  
Research Valley

1101 Texas Avenue  
College Station, TX 77842  
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## COUNCIL CALENDAR

**June 29-30**

Council Strategic Planning  
Retreat, Summersmill, Salado

**Tuesday, July 4**

- City Offices Closed, All Pools  
Open  
- CS Noon Lions Club "I Love  
America" Celebration, George  
Bush Presidential Library and  
Museum

**Thursday, July 6**

Planning and Zoning  
Commission, 7 pm

**Thursday, July 13**

Council Workshop, 3 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Monday, July 17**

Joint Meeting: City Council  
and CSISD Board of Trustees,  
6 pm, 1812 Welsh

**Tuesday, July 18**

Council Transportation  
Meeting, 4:30 pm

**Thursday, July 20**

Planning and Zoning  
Commission, 7 pm

**Thursday, July 27**

Council Workshop, 3 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Tuesday, August 1**

National Night Out, 6-7 pm



# Shining moments...

★ Email to **Glenn Brown, City Manager**: "Please extend my thanks to the guys on the utility crew who helped restore electric power to A&M Consolidated High School this morning. They worked non-stop until they identified the problem and had it corrected. These guys are real professionals. Thanks for the great job they did." -- **Mike Ball**, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations, College Station ISD

★ Email to **Mark Smith, Acting Asst. City Manager**: "I was just told that we successfully lowered Mrs. Davidson's gas service line crossing the creek behind her house on Lancelot today. I understand that the City of College Station's crews assisted with digging the trench for us and that Marshall was a big help. We wanted to pass on our thank you to the city and the city employees that worked so well with us to help Mrs. Davidson out."-- **David Park**, ATMOS Energy, Manager of Public Affairs

★ Email to **Michael Clancey, Chief of Police**: "...Just wanted you to know Officer Seaton and Lt. Langwell are doing a great job. Yesterday Lt. Langwell gave me some information I needed early in the day and mentioned he'd be gone in the afternoon. So I called Officer Seaton later with followup questions. I know she must have been quite busy with other things, but she graciously made some calls and found out the information I needed. The great thing is, no matter how late in the day it is -- both always make an effort to accommodate our needs. That means a lot to us here at ABC 40, and I wanted to make sure their boss knows they're doing a fabulous job. And of course, everyone at CSPD is great! Thank you for all you do." -- **Karla Castillo**, Reporter, ABC 40

★ Email to **Gary Marske and his staff at Parks and Recreation**: "... I wanted to let you know how appreciative we were regarding the field status on April 29. Your guys did a tremendous job and it didn't go unnoticed. I saw the fields early that morning and was absolutely amazed at 12:30 when we returned to play our game. Some of the tournament officials told me they were trying to find fields that morning and I told them that if Southwood wasn't playable, nothing would be remotely close based on watching your guys work their magic. Thank your crews for all of us who were able to play on Saturday." **Jim Ashton**

★ Email to **Mark Smith, Interim Asst. City Manager**: "Last week College Station Police hosted an executive development seminar for law enforcement professionals from all over the United States. When we have that many individuals here, someone often has car problems. Asst. Chief Don Melton from Webb City, Missouri was the unlucky candidate this time. I contacted Lt. Simpson to see if we could get someone to check out his vehicle.

Lt. Simpson talked to Bill Johnson in Fleet Services, who graciously agreed to have us bring down the car and they would check it out. Troy Pemberton and Tommy Galvan were very helpful and thoroughly examined the car. Chief Melton was able to get home without having his car fall apart and was thankful for our help. I was very proud that the City has such helpful and professional personnel. They could have easily said 'take it to the dealer,' but they took the initiative to help out and it was greatly appreciated." - **Zeta Fail**, Communications Manager, CSPD

