

City Manager's Report

City of College Station

What's Going On?

Brazos Valley Veteran Memorial Dedication a Huge Success

On November 11, 2002, Veteran's Day, the Brazos Valley Veteran's Memorial was dedicated at a community-wide event held on site at the Veterans Park and Athletic Complex. The event with Mistress of Ceremonies, Marilyn Martel, included greetings by Dr. Craig Carter, President of the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial Committee, and Lieutenant General Howard Graves, Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System. Patriotic music was supplied by the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra and Dr. P. David Romei of the Arts Council gave the keynote address. The ceremony ended with a playing of Taps, a 21 gun salute, and a spectacular firework display presented by Zambellies, Incorporation.

Outback Steakhouse, McDonalds, Coca-Cola, HEB, Epicures, Buppy's Catering, and Ready Ice provided refreshments for the approximately 1,500 spectators in attendance. The memorial, which features a bronze statue by artist Robert Eccleston, was opened to the public following the ceremony. Veterans and their families were able to search the granite walls of the memorial for names submitted to the memorial committee. Additional names will be added in the future.



Special points of interest:

- Brazos Valley Veteran Memorial Dedication
- Christmas in the Park 2002
- Safe Routes to School Grant Program
- 2002 United Way Drive

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Christmas in the Park 2002

The 18th annual Christmas In The Park season opens on Friday, December 6 at 6:30pm with the lighting ceremony, live entertainment, free hayrides, free cookies and hot cocoa, and more. The lights will be on each evening from

6 pm to midnight throughout the month of December. Open House nights will be December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 and will offer live entertainment, free refreshments, hay rides and visits with Santa. Entertainment includes many dance

schools from around the area along with several choral groups. The Howliday Pet Contest takes place on December 20.



City Employees Receive Certificates from this Year's Supervisory Academy

Thirty-three employees graduated from our Supervisory Academy on November 12th. The employees in this program represented various departments such as Fire, Police, Budget, Public Utilities, Parks, Municipal Court, Development Services, and the City Manager's Office. The Supervisory Academy is held every year and takes eight weeks

to complete. The intent of the program is to develop City employees to be better supervisors and provide an extensive knowledge of various policies and procedures. The program focuses on personnel policies, leadership development, motivation, and other topics such as conflict resolution. Supervisory

Academy also targets employees who are not supervisors currently, but aspire to move into that role as a part of their career development.



Update on the City's Municipal Volunteer Program

The City of College Station Municipal Volunteer Program (MVP) is a major factor in the community as volunteerism continues to be strong in College Station. For instance, during the month of September, 415 people worked 2,054 hours at a payroll equivalent of \$25,437.48. In addition, numerous citizens participated in City government through involvement in citizen boards and committees and City Council to the tune of 225 hours.

In the third full year of the MVP's

existence, the City logged 37,066 volunteer hours valued at over \$459,000, (down a slight 1% from last year which had actually been a 24% increase over the previous year.)

The MVP's success is partially due to the excellent utilization of court ordered community service workers.

The two City facilities that are making the most use of these

workers are the Lincoln Center and the Conference Center. A combination of Municipal Court and Teen Court accounted for the ordering and completion of 7806 hours of community service in our area valued at \$97,575.00. These hours are completed in several work sites locally in addition to the City departments.

Safe Routes to School Grant Program

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is, for the first time, sponsoring an annual grant program called "Safe Routes to School" to improve bicycle and pedestrian routes to and from schools. It is anticipated that various projects will be funded to help local governments and school districts to construct and/or improve sidewalks, bicycle and pedestrian crossings, and on-/off-street bicycle facilities within two miles of a school. The City of College Station will be submitting a grant application to make some necessary bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements

in the vicinity of the A&M Consolidated High School. Proposed improvements could include signal modifications, the addition of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and an off-street bicycle path. These improvements are designed to enhance the safety of the intersection of Harvey Mitchell Parkway and Welsh Avenue, which has a high volume of bicycles and pedestrians. The proposed improvements would also enhance drainage near the intersection and improve pedestrian accessibility to the pedestrian signal push buttons.



CSPD Participates in "Click It or Ticket"

The College Station Police Department participated in a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration safety campaign called "Click It or Ticket." The campaign began again on November 24 and will end on December 1, 2002. The goal was to increase seat belt usage in Texas through education and enforcement. Texas law requires drivers and front seat passengers to use safety belts. Children and teens up to the age of 17 must be buckled up in the front or back seat.

Child safety seats are required for children under four years or less than three feet tall. Fines for violations range from \$25 to \$200. As a result of this year's first round of Click it or Ticket efforts during the Memorial Day holiday in May, state-wide safety belt use increased from 76% to 81% in Texas. Officials estimate that maintaining safety belt use at this level would result in 200 fewer traffic fatalities and 5,000 fewer injuries

each year.

It is hoped that education and enforcement actions will reduce traffic fatalities throughout the state and result in a safer Thanksgiving holiday season.



2002 United Way Drive

City of College Station employees participated in this year's United Way fund campaign and raised \$41,734.15. Through increased employee contributions and overall employee participation, this year's fundraising total was slightly higher than last year.

Over 311 City employees participated in this year's fundraising efforts, which included personal payroll contributions (\$39,030.31), an employee hamburger cookout (\$747.53), a "Kiss A Pig" contest (\$441.31) and a silent auction (\$1,151.00). In 2002, the overall number of

employee's participating increased by about 9% (from 285 to 311). All proceeds from the fundraising drive will go to the United Way. City employees are to be congratulated for giving back to their community through the United Way.

Lincoln Center Holds Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

College Station's Lincoln Recreation Center held its third annual Pre-Kwanzaa celebration on November 20 at the Lincoln Center. The Pre-Kwanzaa celebration showcased Mr. Alafia Gaidi of Houston with a presentation of "Africa's Gift to Texas." The special event offered participation from Texas A&M University's Black Awareness Committee, Fade to Black Dance Ensemble

and African Students Association, and the Brazos Valley Boys and Girls Club Lincoln Unit area youth. The purpose of the activity was to promote holiday and cultural enrichment in a learning environment.

Kwanzaa is a 36-year-old African-American holiday now celebrated for seven days in African communities around the world. For seven days,

Kwanzaa pays homage to the seven principles of life called the "Nguzu Saba." These life principles and values are the following: unity, self-determination, responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose for all, creativity and faith. Kwanzaa begins December 26 and is celebrated in family or community gatherings.

The Lincoln Recreation Center provides a wide variety of recreational activities and social health services for the citizens of College Station.

"In with the New and Out with Old"

The one-million gallon elevated water storage tank on Texas Avenue, a fixture in the College Station landscape since the late 1960's, will soon be a memory. Demolition began on the tank this month and is expected to be complete by the end of December.

Meanwhile, painting continues on the three-million gallon Park Place elevated storage tank, which will replace the Texas Avenue tank. The project has a budget of \$3.627 million, with funding from water revenue bond funds, and includes construction of the Park Place

tank and demolition of the Texas Avenue tank. The following pictures give a "before" and "after" view from Park Place.



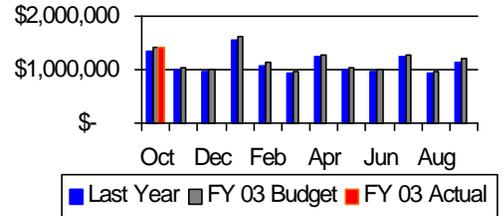
October Sales Tax Receipts

The City collected \$1,411,933.41 in sales tax for the month of October, which is 4.13% below the same month last year. The October receipts are for sales that occurred in September. Sales tax collections for FY '03 YTD are \$1,411,933.41 or 4.13% above FY '02 collections. Sales tax revenues for the month were slightly higher than this time last year. Sales tax

receipts have increased by 5.12% when comparing the last twelve months to the previous twelve months.

The Budget Office will continue to monitor national, state, and local economic trends to determine what impact those trends may have on sales tax receipts.

FY 2003 MONTHLY SALES TAX REVENUE



Update on the Northgate Redevelopment Plan

The Economic Development Department and the College Station Business Development Corporation are currently developing an update to the Northgate Redevelopment Plan. The consulting team that has been hired to develop the plan includes Land Design Studio, Centro Development and Branson Research. The plan will be market based, and will include an economic assessment for the area. The plan will provide strategic implementation methods to stimulate private sector development in the area. Additionally, the plan will make recommendations on public improve-

ments that will have the most impact on the area. In November, workshops were held with the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission, 12 stakeholder groups were interviewed, and a public workshop series was been conducted. The stakeholder groups included area property owners, merchants, Texas A&M students, faculty and administration, area churches, representatives from TXDOT, Brazos Transit,

private sector developers from both inside and outside of Bryan-College Station, the College Station Business Development Board, and city staff from College Station and Bryan. Additionally, a week-long workshop was held, which allowed attendees to provide input on ideas and concepts developed by the consulting team.





What's Going On?

City Manager's Report City of College Station

Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.

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Shining Moments

- **On November 23, Greenways Program Manager, Judy Downs, worked with the Brazos Greenways Council to organize a clean-up effort in the greenway area adjacent to the Emerald Forest Subdivision known as Head Lake. An estimated 80 people worked that Saturday morning, including 60 freshman students from Texas A&M's Fish Club, 10 members of Brazos Greenways and the Fish & Wildlife Department at TAMU, as well as about 10 members of the Emerald Forest Home Owners Association. The group collected and removed 3.3 tons of solid waste from the area. This effort is an extremely positive one on several levels. Not only do the event make our community's environment cleaner but involved citizens in the effort to raise awareness regarding the greenways program.**
- **The Executive Order approving the Grimes County SH 30 Land Use Permit was signed by the Executive Director of the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Also, the Permit Amendment for the expansion of the Rock Prairie Road Landfill was signed by the TCEQ Executive Director on November 25th, 2002. This is great news for BVSWM!**

BVSWMA Holds Recycling Events

The Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency (BVSWMA) invited Brazos Valley residents to get rid of Household Hazardous Waste on November 2 at the Brazos Center.

Residents from our seven county region disposed of hazardous household wastes free of charge. The program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of hazardous wastes. These include items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, used oil, and batteries are examples of different types of waste that were accepted. Over 520 vehicles participated in the free collection event.

Approximately 32,198 pounds of hazardous material were collected, recycled and/or properly disposed. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection is sponsored by the BVSWMA Rock Prairie Road Landfill in partnership with the cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The next collection will be held on May 3 at the Brazos Center. Also held this month was the 10th anniversary of the Texas Recycles Day (TRD). This year's theme, "Everything Old is New Again," focused on the importance of re-use as a way

to conserve natural resources. Over 500 events were held from Beaumont to Brownwood, and Houston to Harlingen, Dalhart and Dallas. In the Brazos Valley, over 240 Brazos Valley 5th graders participated in a Texas Recycles Day poster contest. There were 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from each participating county, in addition to a grand prize winner and t-shirt design winner. The winners of the contest were presented with awards on November 16 at the College Station Hilton.

