

from the office
of the **City Manager**

College Station ★ Texas

**A Monthly Report to the
Honorable Mayor and City Council
November 2004**

October in Review...

Full weather is finally making an appearance, a sign that holiday activities cannot be far behind. This month we have the Bonfire Memorial Dedication (Nov. 18) and Thanksgiving holidays on the calendar, but one of the most visible and popular projects -- Christmas in the Park -- will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in December. To promote the festivities, you will find a new look in the promotional materials scheduled for distribution this month. In addition to 40,000 postcards (*printed for less than \$2000*), we are printing holiday tentcards to be placed in restaurants and hotel rooms. The front of the tentcard is shown at the right.

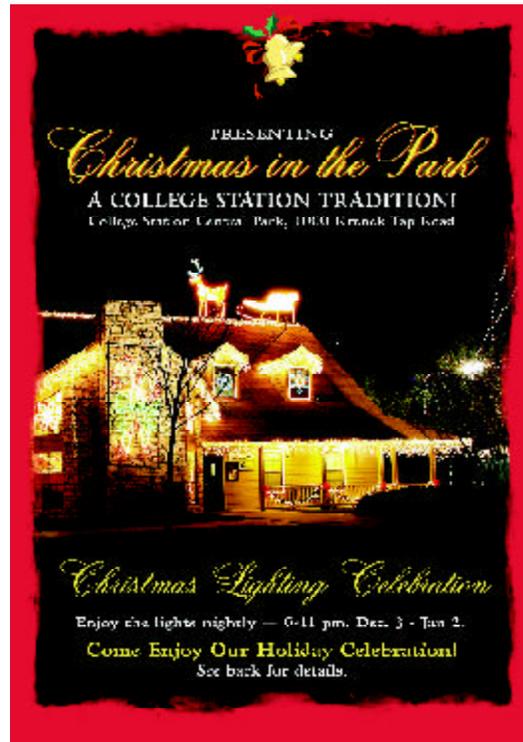
★ One of the month's highlights was narrowing the focus in our search for a new **Chief of Police**. The six finalists represent an excellent group who are each experienced, knowledgeable and passionate about law enforcement. Two or three will be selected later this month for us to conduct community visits and learn firsthand about their performance in other cities. I hope to bring you the name of our top choice by the first week in December.

★ You may have noticed the new **City of College Station news program** which debuted on Channel 19. Although we expanded broadcasting of Council meetings to include workshops, and added Planning and Zoning to the

lineup, the news program is our first effort at original programming. A contest to name the program is currently underway among City employees with a November 15 deadline. Once the name is determined, we will be promoting the new program and updating it at least on a monthly basis. The show is broadcast at 6:30 am/pm, 10:30 am/pm,

12:30 am/pm and 2:30 am/pm each day.

★ A warm welcome to **Don Fazzino**, Director of Special Projects, and newest member of the Management Team. In addition to working on items such as City Center, he will be our staff legislative liaison at the state and national levels.



Tom Brymer
City Manager





Senior World Passport Program “Travels” to Six Countries in 2004

Thanks to **Marci Rodgers** and the Xtra Education program, senior citizens in Bryan/College Station have the opportunity to travel the world without leaving the Brazos Valley.

The Senior World Passport Program, co-sponsored by the City of College Station Parks and Recreation Department and Texas A&M University International Programs Office, has been well attended this fall.

“Seniors meet at the College Station Teen Center and learn about

countries they may never have the opportunity to visit,” said Marci. The program includes six sessions, each covering a different part of the world: India, Panama, Africa, China, the Arab world and the European Union.

She said the China program was coordinated with the celebration of China Week Nov. 1-5 at Texas A&M University.

The program is free and participants are given a passport which is stamped each session with the name of the country. The program concludes with a reception at the International Center for those who have attended at least four of the sessions.

Dr. Doug Menarchik, Director of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, is the keynote speaker at the closing reception on Tuesday, December 7.

Pictured are members of the group in attendance for the special session on Africa, along with a photo (left) of participants who presented a fashion show reflecting the fashion of Africa.





Briefly speaking...

Facelift for Eastgate Park

Eastgate Park, the entrance to the Eastgate neighborhood, is receiving final touches on a new look to update and improve the area just east of Texas on Francis (*see picture at the right*). Following the Master Plan in Phase 1, the back of the merchants buildings were screened from the Eastgate homes with planter beds. Later phases such as building walks through the park and installing a water feature will be determined as funding is available.

Actual costs of Phase 1 totaled \$44,270. Brazos Beautiful donated \$40,000 and \$4,470 was funded by Zone 2 Parkland Dedication.



Road Construction Update

◆Rock Prairie and Greens Prairie Roads received a four-way stop in October, converting the intersection from one where only traffic on Greens Prairie had been required to stop, to one which improves public safety through the installation of stop signs from each direction.

Troy Rother, Traffic Engineer for the City, explained that major improvements and increased population in the area have increased the amount of traffic and the four-way stop was necessary in the interests of public safety.

◆Dominik Drive construction continues this month as concrete is being poured in the cul de sac area of the project. Although improvements will be ongoing for several months, the Public Works Department hopes to minimize disruption in the neighborhoods by working on one section at a time. Notice of the temporary closing was sent in late October.

Update: Fire Station 5

Construction continues on schedule for Fire Station 5, located at 601 Greens Prairie Road just east of the Pebble Creek subdivision. Following design and awarding of bids for the project, construction began in April 2004 and is anticipated to be complete in August 2005. With 9940 square feet, the facility is comparable to other stations in the City.





Sales tax revenue...

★ We have received the September sales tax receipts (*August sales*) from the State Comptroller's Office. The figures are:

September receipts (<i>August sales</i>)	\$1,403,703
(September '03 was \$1,189,027)	18.05% increase
Amount received FY 04 YTD	\$14,964,616.23
(FY 03 YTD was \$13,782,065.31)	8.58% increase

The City collected **\$1,403,703** for the month of September; this is a **18.05%** increase from the same month last year. The September receipts are for sales that occurred in August. Sales tax collections for FY 04 YTD are **\$14,964,616.23** or **8.58%** above FY 03 collections.

Overall, state tax receipts have increased in the last several months. In FY 04, sales tax was projected to grow 2% and year-to-date receipts are well above that level of increase. This month's receipts again signify a continued growth in the local economy.

International Student Picnic Photos:

More than 150 students, City and Texas A & M representatives attended the 2nd Annual International Student Picnic held Oct. 26 at Central Park. Steve Beachy, Director of Parks and Recreation, headed the city involvement efforts.





CITY OF COLLEGE STATION
Heart of the
Research Valley

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COUNCIL CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 9

City Council Workshop, Noon
Regular Meeting, 2 pm

Chamber Banquet, 6 pm

Thursday, November 11

Veterans Day Ceremony,
5:30 pm, Veterans Park

Friday, November 12

Employee Banquet, Brazos
Center, 6:00 pm

Monday, November 15

Intergovernmental Meeting,
B/CS Chamber, Noon

Dedication, Larry J. Ringer
Library, 5 pm

Tuesday, November 16

Media Training, 8-11 am
Council Chambers

Thursday, November 18

Dedication of Bonfire
Memorial, 2:30 pm

Saturday, November 20

Household Hazardous Waste
Collection, Brazos Center,
9 am- 4 pm

Tuesday, November 23

City Council Workshop, 3 pm
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

Thursday/Friday, Nov. 25-26

Thanksgiving Holidays

Shining moments...

★ Excerpts from a letter written by **Dennis Christiansen**, President of the Foxfire Homeowners Association: *"In recent weeks, the City has done some significant maintenance of some of the Foxfire roads. While the work was badly needed..., the important fact is that the City, using its own procedures, identified the problems and took corrective action. It was not necessary for residents of Foxfire to contact the city to make this happen. At a board meeting, members expressed satisfaction with how the City handled this..."*

On another topic, he mentioned the water line in his house had broken several weeks earlier. *"Within 45 minutes of calling the 24-hour response line, City personnel were at my house. They confirmed it was a City problem and marked the repairs that were needed. They said a crew would be out in several days to fix it. The crew did arrive when promised and repaired the line. That crew told me the City contracted with Southwest Valley turf, and they would be out in about a week to sod the area. They finished last night. Everything is fixed and looks good. Other than my initial call to the City, I had to do nothing, and it was all handled efficiently and follow through was as promised."*

★ Note from **Brenda Sims**, (Chimney Hill subdivision): *"Thank you! Thank you! Randy and I want you to know how much we appreciate the prompt and courteous attention given to our water pressure problem. Please pass on our gratitude to the water utilities department. We are very grateful for their dedication to do the job right."*

★ Regarding our website: *"Excellent and EXTREMELY user friendly...It is by far the best website for paying bills I have ever encountered."* -- **Dave Louis**, Program Director, Student Programs Office, TAMU

★ A letter from **James Jochen**, a resident of Raintree, commends the efforts of an employee in the Public Works Department. While the City employee was operating a brush/vacuum machine in the Raintree subdivision, Mr. Jochen was cutting the grass in his front yard and preparing to use his small blower to remove debris from the gutter after he was through mowing the lawn. *"One of my neighbors had turned on his sprinkler system and the water draining from that yard, several houses distant, trickled down the gutter, wetting all the debris that my mowing had produced in the gutter. As I was, with great difficulty, attempting to blow the wet, sodden debris to a point where I could collect it, the City equipment returned to the area to work the other side of the street. The operator stopped his work, dismounted from the equipment and invited me to let him run his machine again, over the area I was trying to clean instead of my continuing with the difficult task of doing it with a small blower."*

"I was very appreciative of this voluntary effort, but not able to thank him properly, as he simply continued on his work after resweeping the gutter in front of my home. I am very senior, and the help rendered saved me a lot of physical effort. The city is fortunate to have this individual as an employee."

