

from the office  
of the **City Manager**

College Station ★ Texas

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

## November in Review...

With Thanksgiving in the rear view mirror, the holidays are upon us and the calendar reflects another busy December. The lighting celebration for the 2004 Christmas in the Park tradition had special significance this year as the annual event celebrated its 20th anniversary. In December, we hope to have a new Police Chief named to step into the role **Edgar Feldman** has successfully filled for years. We have two excellent candidates in **Stephen Griffith** of San Marcos and **Michael Clancey** of Westerville, Ohio.

★ One of the highlights in November was the ceremony honoring **Larry Ringer** for his years of distinguished service to our City. Friends

and family gathered November 15 as the new signage for our library was officially unveiled, signaling the official change from the College Station Library to the Larry J. Ringer Library.

★ That same week was the dedication of the Bonfire Memorial on the A&M campus, an event that brought back sad memories, but provided an opportunity to celebrate the lives of the young men and women who lost their lives in that tragedy. It is a memorial that reflects years of careful planning and consideration of many factors that were well received by thousands in attendance.

★ On a personal note, I was pleased to receive word this month that I had received the **International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Credentialed Manager designation**, an honor earned by only 806 local government officials in the United States and beyond.

As you know, this represents a significant investment to lifelong learning and professional development over the years. I appreciate the Mayor and

Council allowing me this opportunity to pursue this designation, as it reflects on the City as much, if not more, than the individual.



As we continue our travels from good to great, I wish you a joyous holiday season and know you join me in wishing a safe, healthy and happy 2005 to all. There is much to celebrate throughout our community, our state, and our nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Brymer".

City Manager





## ***Firefighter Garners Employee of Year Honors at Annual City Banquet***

The 2004 Employee Banquet honored more than 120 employees for either service milestones or recognition as a nominee for the City's highest honor for staff: Employee of the Year.

Taking top honors as 2004 Employee of the Year was **Mike Ruesink**, who has been with the Fire Department for 22 years. In his own words, he was "speechless" when his name was called. And for those who know Mike, that indeed is an unusual state for him.

"When you realize the caliber of individuals who were on the list with me, it is even more of an honor to be selected," he



*Pictured above is Lt. Mike Ruesink, 2004 Employee of the Year, and (at right) members of Neal Donovan's family at the awards program.*

told several hundred gathered at the Brazos Center.

Nominated by citizens, coworkers and local educators, Lt. Ruesink was described as "the epitome of all of College Station's values...he values all people, delivers excellent service, by nature of his job loves risk, and feels that it is important to do the right thing."

Also nominated for the top honor were **Stephanie George** (Police); **Celia Hernandez** (City Manager's Office); **Sue Holcomb** (CSU); **Calder Lively** (Police); **Doug Payne** (Public Works); **Erin Provazek** (OTIS); **Jan Schwartz** (Legal); **Lance Simms** (Planning & Development); **Victor Martinez** (CSU); **Vera Solis** (Parks & Recreation), **Cathy Stark** (OTIS), and **Flint Waldon** (Public Works).

Awards were presented to 106 employees in recognition of more than 1300 years of service. Presentation of **Neal Donovan's** five year award to his family marked a special moment during the ceremony.





# Briefly speaking...

## ***Arctic Wolf Selected for Ice Arena...***

Combine numerous advertising spots, appearances on television and radio, and information distributed to both Bryan and College Station students, and what do you get? More than 2,000 entries to name College Station's ice rink in the Wolf Pen Creek area.

**Jacob Cote**, a kindergarten student at South Knoll Elementary, came up with the winning entry: Arctic Wolf Ice Rink. As the announcement was made in his classroom with cameras from area media noting every move he made, the five-year old donned his new Arctic Wolf jersey and autographed a hockey stick that will be displayed in the new arena's pro shop.

With interviews currently being conducted to fill both part- and full-time positions when the rink opens in 2005, construction continues with parking lots now poured and preparations for the foundation in progress.



## ***Blue Ribbon Implementation Plan...***

As the City moves closer to our goal of a development review process that would represent a "best practice" and gain a reputation as user friendly, **City Manager Tom Brymer** presented an update on implementation of recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee at the November 9 Council meeting.

"The review process has been useful to take a closer look at the tremendous change and progress College Station has experienced in just the last five years. Opportunities to examine the Department of Planning and Development Services also allowed us to view the City as a whole," said Brymer. "From both a practical perspective and a balanced philosophical approach, it is important that we review not only the services provided but how development itself is embraced in this community." With population estimated at almost 80,000 and projections forecasting more than 100,000 by 2010, we will be addressing the following areas in the coming weeks and months to prepare for the change that inevitably accompanies growth:

- Communication:** internal, external, customer interaction
- Policy:** comprehensive plan, strategic plan for growth and development, subdivision ordinance
- Culture:** people, continuous learning, customer service, professional office environment
- Product and Process:** cycle times ("under promise and over deliver"), quality control

## ***Greens Prairie/Arrington...***

Realignment of Greens Prairie with Arrington Road, scheduled for completion before Forest Ridge Elementary opens next fall, will provide a north/south crossing intersecting with SH 40. Prior to beginning construction, Wellborn SUD must lower a major water main and is currently designing that portion of the project.

The current portion of Greens Prairie from the Arrington Road intersection to SH 6 will be part of SH 40. The remaining section of Greens Prairie west of Arrington will be widened in front of the Forest Ridge Elementary site to add center turn lanes to the existing two lane roadway.

Construction costs of the project are \$1,031,196. Funding comes from the Greens Prairie widening project on the east side of SH 6 which was funded by certificates of obligation authorized by a property tax increase and \$750,000 of CO's transferred from the Class B Business Center. Reimbursement of \$350,000 is expected from the Crowley Development Corporation.



# City briefs...

★ We have received the **October sales tax receipts** (*September sales*) from the State Comptroller’s Office. October represents 9.62% or \$1,477,216.63 of budgeted sales tax collections for the year. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

<b>October FY05 Receipts</b>	<b>October FY04 Receipts</b>
\$1,477,216.63	\$1,440,091.32
Actual Difference	\$37,125
Percent Difference	2.58%

The City collected **\$1,477,216.63** for the month of October; this is a **2.58%** increase in revenue from the same month last year. Overall, tax revenues continue to grow above the projected 2% trend. We will continue to monitor sales tax revenue projections and report accordingly should there be any changes from the forecasted amount.

★ College Station’s Police Department officially received “**Law Enforcement**” **Reaccreditation** by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies at the CALEA Fall Conference in Austin. Since the Department received its initial accreditation award in 1991, it is one of only 22 in the State of Texas to receive this distinction. With the “Communications” Accreditation earned last year, it is only one of two agencies in Texas to obtain both “Law Enforcement” and “Communications” accreditation.

These designations reflect the high standards of our police department as well as performance levels which continue to focus on public safety issues in a professional and compassionate manner.



**Sgt. Lesley Hicks** serves as Accreditation Manager for the College Station Police Department and coordinated the intense review that accompanies such a process. A team of assessors from CALEA arrived in August to examine all aspects of the department and review policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

The Law Enforcement Accreditation Program has 446 standards which reflect the best professional requirements and practices for a law enforcement agency. Verification by the team that our department met the Commission’s state-of-the-art standards was part of the voluntary process to gain accreditation, a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence. College Station had to comply with 335 mandatory standards and 82 non-mandatory standards in order to gain accredited status. This accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports reflecting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
Heart of the  
Research Valley

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## COUNCIL CALENDAR

**Wednesday, December 8**

City Holiday Party  
City Hall, 3-6 pm

**Thursday, December 9**

City Council Workshop, 2 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Tuesday, December 14**

Sky Cutter Dedication, 4:30 pm  
Central Park

**Wednesday, December 15**

Intergovernmental Meeting,  
Brazos Center, 8:30 am

**Thursday, December 16**

Planning & Zoning, 7 pm

**Tuesday, December 21**

City Council Workshop, 3 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Friday/Monday, Dec. 24-27**

Christmas Holidays

**Monday, January 3**

New Year's Holiday

**Saturday, January 8**

Tree Recycling, 1-5 pm  
Central Park/Haswell Park

**Monday, January 17**

MLK Holiday

**Tuesday, January 18**

Chancellor's Dinner  
Hilton, 6-9 pm



# Shining moments...

★ Sent to **Dave Giordano** from **Mike Ball**, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations, College Station ISD, with reference to an accident on November 17:

*"This morning, one of our school buses was involved in a traffic accident. The bus was loaded with about 50 small children. Thankfully, there were only two very minor injuries to the children on the bus. Also, we understand that the driver of the other vehicle was not seriously injured.*

*"Please allow me to thank the guys who responded to the accident. I noticed firsthand the professionalism, kindness and caring that those guys demonstrated to the small children. Other individuals on our staff who were on the scene also commented to me about the great way in which the Fire Department guys handled the whole situation. I watched as the guys checked out various children on the bus for potential injuries. I also witnessed the caring way that a firefighter explained the things to watch for to the mother of one of the students who had received a bump on his head.*

*"I'm sorry to say that in the heat of the moment, I did not get any of their names. However, I did see firsthand that they are very knowledgeable professionals who care very much about the people they are serving. I was proud to just be standing on the same curb with them. I can't tell you how glad I am that when we call 911, you guys show up to help."*

★ From **Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Watkins**: "We want to express our appreciation for the help given to us October 5 by City employees '**Randy**' and '**James**' (they said they worked for **Mr. Len Jenicek** in Electrical), in changing a flat tire. They were on Sebesta doing an inspection, when we realized the noise we were hearing was due to a flat tire. We are in our 80's, so their help was greatly appreciated. Many thanks, guys."

★ Our **2004 Supervisory Academy** was one for the record books with 46 employees (below) spending 56 hours in the classroom as part of our ongoing training program for staff. Representatives from departments throughout the City are included in the annual session. Initially created in 1992, the program continues to provide a range of information on various city services and programs, plus interpersonal communication and evaluation techniques. The program is directed by **Carolyn Sanders**, Assistant Human Resources Director.

