

from the office  
of the **City Manager**

College Station ★ Texas

**A Monthly Report to the  
Honorable Mayor and City Council**  
January 2005

## December in Review...

Just as we take a moment to enjoy our families and friends during the holidays, it appears 2005 will quickly find us saying goodbye to **Chief Edgar Feldman** after almost 40 years of service to the College Station Police Department, then hello to **Michael Clancey** and his wife who are relocating from Westerville, Ohio as he assumes responsibilities as our new Chief of Police. A retirement reception for Edgar is planned January 31. Although Clancey reports to his new assignment February 1, we hope to have him here earlier in January to ease the transition.

★ Selection of a new Fire Chief to replace **Dave Giordano**, who retires in March, is continuing on schedule. Advertising for the position ended in December and we will be evaluating applications and narrowing the field with plans to announce our selection by the end of February.

★ Although unusually cold weather Christmas week may have led you to believe the new ice rink would be using natural ice, the plan is still to create artificial ice for the **Arctic Wolf Ice Arena** on Holleman. Foundation work was completed in December, and the 46,000 square foot metal building arrived on site December 23 and is “going vertical” as I write this.

Plans still call for an April opening of the facility that is already selling apparel at the

construction site and in Post Oak Mall. You can visit their website at [arcticwolfice.com](http://arcticwolfice.com) for current construction information and photos.

★ Sights and sounds of the holidays are quickly disappearing from **Central Park** as more than half a million lights will be stored for display next year after a successful 20th anniversary year for “Christmas in the Park”. On a different note, the **2005 Parks calendar** is now available at Parks and Recreation offices and



at City Hall.

★ In accordance with Council’s desire to improve communication with our citizens, you will soon note **Channel 19’s programming schedule** (page 6 of this newsletter) appearing in the *Eagle* as we continue to increase awareness of the many good, indeed great, things happening in College Station. Happy New Year!

City Manager





## Survey Results Reflect Interest In Improving Street Connectivity

Neighborhood connectivity, a measure of the ability to easily move vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians within a community directly and efficiently, has been the focus of attention during the last several months. A neighborhood that is well connected will likely have multiple ways in and out of the neighborhood, few cul-de-sacs and excellent bike and pedestrian facilities.

Benefits of living in a well connected community include minimal trip lengths, very little congestion, and faster emergency response times. Additionally, since trip lengths are shorter, modes such as biking or walking become practical. Some examples of well-connected neighborhoods include the Southside and Eastgate neighborhoods near the Texas A&M University campus.



To gauge our community's preferences regarding connectivity, Planning and Development Services recently conducted an online survey. Approximately 500 responses were received from citizens, developers, college students and homeowner association representatives.

The survey addressed many issues related to connectivity including transportation to school, neighborhood design, and sidewalks. Responses are summarized below.

### **Transportation to School**

Of the 165 respondents that have children in school, 55% drop-off/pick-up their children by automobile on a regular basis. The rest travel to school by bus (17%), bicycle (10%), foot (9%), and carpool (2%). About two-thirds of the respondents would not allow their children to walk to school. The primary reasons include

distance (59%), hazards due to vehicles (41%), children's young age (23%), lack of sidewalks (18%), hazards due to other people/children (13%), and sidewalks too close to street (12%).

### **Neighborhood Design**

Almost half (48%) of the respondents currently live on a through street, while the remainder live on cul-de-sacs (33%), and dead end streets (7%). When buying a home, access to major roads was the most important factor selected (43%). Other important factors include access to sidewalks (38%) and hike and bike trails (31%), and location on a cul-de-sac (33%). Only 60% of the respondents that currently live on cul-de-sacs thought it was an important factor when buying a home.

When asked what locations are important to walk/bike to from home, the most common responses selected include parks (71%), other recreation locations (63%), and school (55%). Other responses include work (23%), shopping (21%), and restaurants (18%).

Another question described two neighborhoods with one being very well connected and the other being relatively disconnected. When asked which neighborhood the respondent would rather live in, 60% chose the well connected neighborhood.

### **Sidewalks**

A series of five questions targeted preferences on sidewalks. Eighty-one percent of the respondents prefer sidewalks on both sides of major roadways, while 58% prefer sidewalks on both sides of residential streets. On cul-de-sacs, 56% of the respondents would like at least a sidewalk on one side of the street. Regarding placement of sidewalks relative to the roadway, 83% prefer the sidewalk set back away from the curb on major roadways, while only 44% prefer the sidewalk set back away from the curb on residential streets. The alternative location is just behind the curb.

For survey results, contact Ken Fogle, Transportation Planner, 979.764.3556 or [kfogle@cstx.gov](mailto:kfogle@cstx.gov).



# Briefly speaking...

## ***Enforcement of Banner Ordinance Begins January 1...***

Changes to the College Station banner ordinance will be actively enforced starting January 1, following a 90-day grace period to allow existing banners to be removed. Approval of the revised ordinance was voted by College Station's City Council in late September in a move to improve and preserve the overall appearance of the community. To accommodate the banner changes, the ordinance was amended to provide an opportunity for additional permanent signage for commercial buildings and tenant lease spaces.

Code enforcement officers have taken a proactive approach during the grace period, scheduling multiple trips to locations throughout College Station who regularly display banners.

"We wanted to make sure that each business was aware of the change in the banner ordinance to avoid any surprises once enforcement began in 2005," said **College Station Fire Marshall Eric Hurt**. In addition, they have stopped to remind businesses who were displaying banners during the last several weeks. Information on the change was also included in utility service statements sent to more than 35,000 accounts in College Station.

According to the new ordinance, a commercial banner is defined as "a temporary sign made of cloth, canvas, or other flexible material which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, entertainment or attraction sold, offered or existing." Two exemptions to the ordinance allow banners for Grand Openings or Special Events, although permits are required. Banners are permitted for a Grand Opening for 14 days within 60 days of the granting of a Certificate of Occupancy (*when a new building is constructed*), a change in the use of the building or lease space, or a change in the name of the business. Approval of a Special Events license allows banners for a 14-day period. A Special Event is defined as one held outside of a building and where more than 250 people will gather.

Fines from \$25 to \$2000 per day are permitted for violation of the ordinance.



## ***Risk Management Receives State Award...***

For the second time in three years, College Station's Risk Management staff was recognized at the state level with First Place Achievement Award for the "Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan". It was one of only three recognized in Texas, with Garland ISD and the University of Texas System garnering the other awards.

This comprehensive plan addresses all at-risk occupations within the City of College Station to eliminate or minimize employee occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens and other infectious diseases and to notify and treat potentially infected employees. The plan blends both Texas Department of Health requirements promulgated by the Health and Safety Code along with applicable OSHA Standards.

The team effort to develop the plan involved the Fire Department and Legal Department, as well as **Bill Cody** and the Risk Management team. Every city in Texas is required to submit a program in this category.



# City briefs...

★ We have received the **November sales tax receipts** (*October sales*) from the State Comptroller's Office. November represents 7.13% or \$1,109,562.05 of budgeted sales tax collections for the 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. Monthly and year-to-date sales tax collections are summarized as follows:

<b>November FY05 Receipts</b>	<b>November FY04 Receipts</b>
\$1,109,562.05	\$1,067,387.16
Actual Difference	\$42,174.89
Percent Difference	3.95%
<b>FY05 YTD Receipts</b>	<b>FY04 YTD Receipts</b>
\$2,586,778.68	\$2,507,478.48
Actual Difference	\$79,300.20
Percent Difference	3.16%

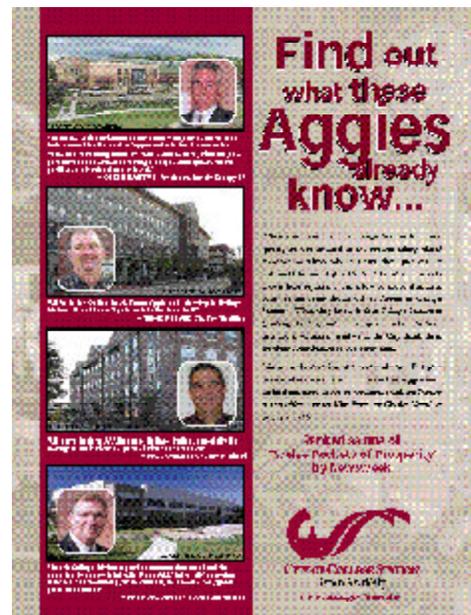
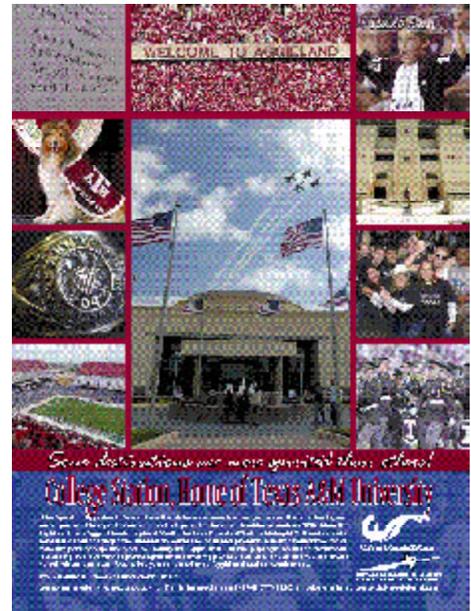
★ Planning and Development Services Department has scheduled their first new **Quarterly P&DS Department Forum** with customers January 21 at the Conference Center. It will be a catered lunch, and will provide an opportunity to present a number of department changes implemented over the past four months, as well as those changes anticipated in the future.

Additionally, small bi-weekly group breakfast meetings with **Joey Dunn**, Director of Planning & Development Services, will begin January 13. The contact list of about 250 P&DS customers is being updated, with 6-8 participants selected at random to attend the breakfast meetings in the department conference room.

Consultant **Paul Zucker's** follow-up report is expected in mid-January, but the department has already benefited from practical advice and customer service training for immediate improvements which are currently underway.

★ With the appearance of the Texas Aggies in the **New Year's Day Cotton Bowl** came the opportunity to promote College Station at a national level in the Game Day program. Two ads were purchased, one teaming with the Bryan/College Station CVB to promote the City as a destination; the second using Economic Development funds to showcase some of the success stories we have enjoyed with former Aggies investing in our community.

*Replicas of both full page ads are shown to the right.*



CITY OF COLLEGE STATION  
Heart of the  
Research Valley

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

## COUNCIL CALENDAR

**Tuesday, January 4**  
Transportation Meeting  
City Hall, 3:30 - 5 pm

**Thursday, January 6**  
Planning & Zoning, 7 pm

**Saturday, January 8**  
Tree Recycling, 1-5 pm  
Central Park/Haswell Park

**Monday, January 10**  
Intergovernmental Meeting,  
Bryan City Hall, Room 305  
12 Noon

**Thursday, January 13**  
City Council Workshop, 2 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Monday, January 17**  
MLK Holiday  
City Offices Closed

**Tuesday, January 18**  
Chancellor's Dinner, 6 pm  
Hilton South/North 40

**Wednesday, January 19**  
Research Valley Partnership,  
Chamber Offices, 3 pm

**Thursday, January 20**  
Planning & Zoning, 7 pm

**Thursday, January 27**  
City Council Workshop, 3 pm  
Regular Meeting, 7 pm

**Monday, January 31**  
Feldman Retirement Reception

# Shining moments...

★ The Intergovernmental Meeting December 15 at the Brazos Center took a slightly different format with **Senator Steve Ogden** and **Representative Fred Brown** on hand to update local government officials on legislative issues and respond to the concerns voiced by College Station, Bryan, Brazos County, College Station ISD and Bryan ISD. **Don Fazzino**, Special Projects Manager for College Station, made the initial presentation based on collective responses from each entity.



★ From **Timothy P. Rose, Design Department, O'Brien & Associates** to **Carol Cotter**: *"Thank you very much. I appreciate you taking the time to meet with us yesterday. I am looking forward to working with your organization. With most cities, it's like pulling teeth to get information, but you and your colleagues are open and friendly."*



