

What's Going On?

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City Seeks to Enhance Streets

The quality and accessibility of City streets is very important to City of College Station. The City Council has identified having "reliable and high quality streets...with the capacity to meet current and projected needs" within the city limits as a priority in the City's Strategic Plan. In addressing the City's mobility needs, the City has to both maintain and rehabilitate deteriorating streets as well as design and construct new thoroughfares and thoroughfare extensions.

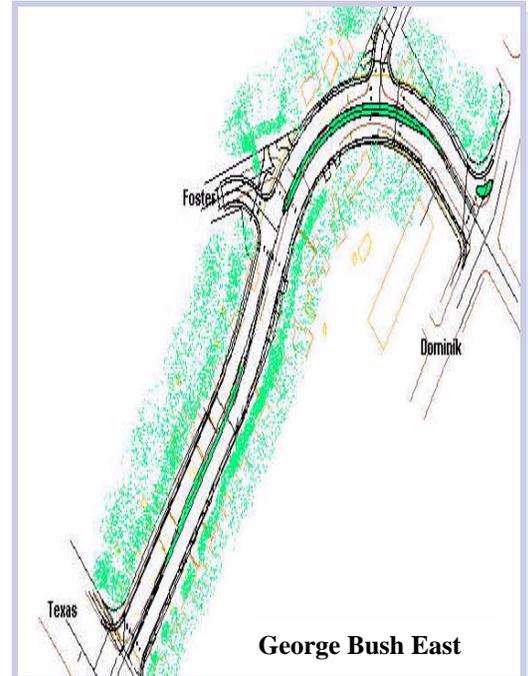
Presently, the City staff is working on a number of projects to enhance mobility within the City. Tarrow Street Rehabilitation, George Bush East Widening project and the Dartmouth Extension Phase II are a few of the more prominent street enhancement projects in the works.

The Tarrow Street Rehab project includes replacing the existing asphalt pavement and curb and gutter on Tarrow from University Dr. to Lincoln. The project also includes installing a sidewalk on the west side of the street from Lincoln to Peyton. The total budget for this project is 464,000 with \$272,448 in funding coming from the Texas Department of Transportation Urban Street Program Agreement Funds.

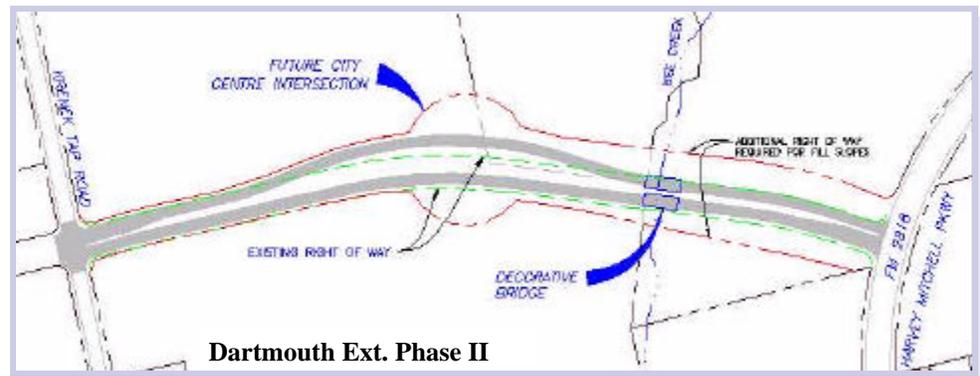
Another major street project that has been in work for some time now is the George Bush

East Widening project. This project will widen and reconstruct George Bush Drive East from Texas Avenue to Dominik Drive. To date this project has spent \$1,002,985 on land acquisition and design cost. At the March 27th City Council Meeting, the Council awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$1,264,807 to Young Contractors. Construction for this project should begin within the next few months.

The Dartmouth Extension Phase II project is currently in the design stage. Once constructed, this project will extend Dartmouth Drive from Krenek Tap Road to FM 2818 as a minor arterial.



George Bush East



Dartmouth Ext. Phase II

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Community Development Receives Nod of Approval from HUD

The Fort Worth Regional Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office is required to provide an annual assessment of the City's Community Development Division performance and continued capacity to administer both the Community Development Block Grant and HOME programs. In the assessment report, HUD congratulates the

City for its accomplishments. HUD also made the determination that all College Station Community Development was carried out in accordance with its Consolidated Plan and is in compliance with the Housing and Community Development Act and other applicable laws and regulations.

The report included an assessment in each of the following categories: primary benefit, overall progress, planning and administration, public service, leveraging of non-federal resources, providing decent housing, acquisition, relocation, code enforcement, providing a suitable living environment, commercial improvements. The City received favorable marks

City Contributes to Development African-American History Museum

As part of the FY 2003 budget process, the City of College Station has agreed to contribute \$34,000 to the development and construction of the African-American History Museum.

The National African-American Heritage Society requested funding in the amount of \$50,000. This request was submitted to

the Outside Agency Review Committee. The Committee recommended funding the organization's request provided that certain benchmarks are met.

The recommendation stipulated that the disbursements of 1/3 of the total request as each of 3 benchmarks are met. The benchmarks are as follows:

1. Development of an approved business plan.
2. Contract with builder and begin construction.
3. Complete construction by December 30, 2003.

The first two benchmarks have been met, and the City has disbursed the

funding accordingly.

The third benchmark will be met in fiscal year 2004. The City Council will have to determine, during the FY 04 budgetary process whether to complete the committee's funding recommendation

South College Station Thoroughfare Plan Update

The City of College Station is planning ahead. In particular, City staff is concerned about and is giving great attention to the south part of the city as this area is experiencing the most drastic growth. In anticipation of continued population growth and building development in our community, the Long Range

Planning Division of the Development Services Department has assembled revisions to the thoroughfare plan to increase mobility, ease congestion, and promote smart growth concepts. A subcommittee of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission has been instrumental in the development of this plan

with the planning staff.

The study area generally includes lands south of proposed SH 40, west of SH 6, north of Peach Creek and east of Welborn Road (FM2154). This area also includes properties that are beyond the City limits in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), where

the City has legislative authority to plan thoroughfares.

Interested citizens are invited to attend public hearing with the City Council, which is tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2003.

History Collection Project

The citizen volunteers that make up the Historic Preservation Committee are gearing up for their current project of collecting historical documents and photographs. Even though the Historic Collection Project Plan is still under construction the committee mem-

bers are booking speaking engagements for the spring and summer months with local community groups. For more information or to book a speaking engagement, please contact the Historic Preservation Intern Lauren Harrell at 764-3756.

Upcoming Events at the Lincoln Center

The Rho Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the College Station Lincoln Center will be hosting a Preparation Session for area 4th, 5th, and 6th grade student taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The session is designed to help boost the test scores of area students.

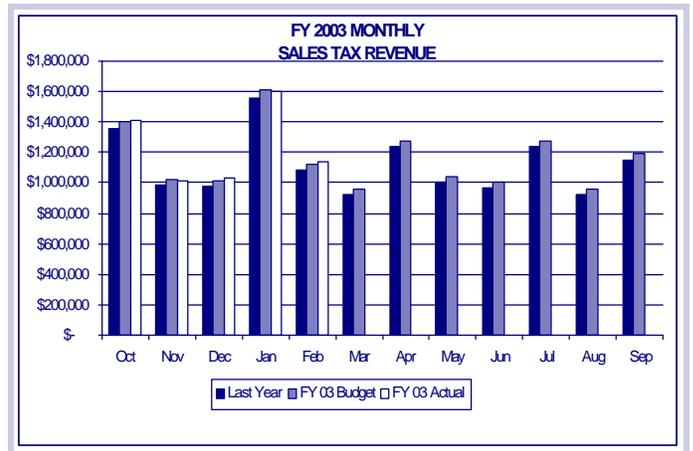
The Lincoln Center in conjunction with the Zeta Phi Beta will also be sponsoring the Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 10 and under. This year's hunt is scheduled for April 18th from 1:00 P.M. to 3 P.M. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Lincoln Recreational Center.

Month City Sales Tax Revenue

The City collected **\$ 1,136,574.15** for the month of February, **4.83%** above the same month last year. The February receipts are for sales that occurred in January. Sales tax collections for FY 03 YTD are **\$6,189,293.87** or **3.83%** above FY 02 collections.

Sales tax receipts are higher than the same month last year. Sales tax receipts have increased by

4.03% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. This is positive given the overall statewide decline in sales tax revenues. Sales tax projections for next year have been lowered to 2% growth due to the uncertainty in the local economy. This uncertainty is primarily due to the state budget crisis and the impact this may have on the level of funding for higher education in the next 2 years. Over the last 8 years sales tax growth has averaged 6% per



year. In FY 03 sales tax is projected to grow by 3%. Hence, the current growth rate is in line with growth projections. These projections will be closely reviewed given the statewide decline in sales tax revenues.

2003 College Station Citizen Fire Academy is Underway

The College Station Citizen's Fire Academy is a learning program for people who reside or work in the Brazos Valley and want to know more about their fire department. The goal of the academy is to increase awareness about the Fire Department and make residents citizens who can become more involved with the long-term safety of this community. The academy demonstrate the day to day operations of the Fire Department. The College Station Fire Department is committed to the community it serves and is determined to be at the forefront of fire and injury prevention and rescue.

The Fire Academy involves 3 hours a week for fourteen weeks and consists of the following classes:

Fire Department History

1. Administration of the Fire Department

2. Tour of our Facilities
3. Fire Behavior/Ladders
4. Tour of the 911 Dispatch System
5. Hiring Process for Firefighters
6. Fire Engines/Ambulance Familiarization
7. Hazardous Materials Program
8. Emergency Medical Services
9. Protective Clothing
10. Self-contained breathing apparatus
11. Search and Rescue Demonstration
12. Vehicle Extrication
13. Fire Hoses and Ventilation
14. Fire Prevention and Code Enforcement
15. Fire Safety Education /CPR Training
16. Portable Fire Extinguishers
17. Incident Command System
18. Ride Outs with Fire Engines and Ambulances
19. New Alumni Association

WHEN: The Academy is being offered this Spring and



meets one evening per week for fourteen weeks. The Fire Academy is offered on Mondays, March - June, from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. A Saturday session in May will culminate the Academy with a live fire drill. Classes start March, 2003.

WHERE: The Academy meets at several places: the College Station Fire Department Administration Building, 1207 Texas Avenue in the Emergency Operations Center; at our four fire stations, and at the Brayton Fire Training School.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Recruits must be at least 18 years old, live or work in the Brazos Valley to attend the Academy.



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Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.

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WERE ON THE WEB!

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Charles Cryan gave a presentation on the City's capital planning process to a PLAN 358 class. Dr. David Pugh, Associate Department Head in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, wrote to say that the presentation was excellent and provided meaningful instruction for the students.

The City of College Station received the United Way's 2002 Rainbow Award. This award is given to the most energized employee campaign with innovative and fun activities, special events, and creative campaigning.

Volunteer Leaders Conference 2003

The City of College Station Municipal Volunteer Program, RSVP-Senior Corps and the Brazos Valley Volunteer Leaders Network (BVLN) is sponsoring this year's annual Volunteer Leaders Conference. This conference is designed for people who work with volunteers and for people who manage volunteers. The BVLN has identified a number of pressing issues related to working with volunteers and has invited experts to come offer advice and training on how to deal with these issues.

This year's feature presenter will be Dr. Linda Ford. Dr. Ford is the founder of Integra Coaching and Consulting and has 25 years of experience as a successful

manager and business owner.

Other topics featured at this year's conference include

- "The Monkey Bars of Work: How to De-Stress Your Success"
- "What to do About Bob?: People are Not Difficult, Just Different"
- "Searching for Funding"
- "Barry's Top Ten List for Successful Volunteer Administrators"
- "How to Find the Right Person for the Job"
- "Diversity?... Multicultural"
- "Public Speaking"
- "How to Develop a Great Write Punch"
- "Performance Measurements in Non-Profit Organizations"