

What's Going On?

City of College Station Employees Assist with Columbia Shuttle Disaster Recovery

Six (6) members of the College Station Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) response team traveled to Lufkin/Hemphill and St.

Augustine to provide support to NASA personnel during recovery efforts following the Shuttle Columbia disaster. Personnel involved and their city department sponsors were: Len Jenicek and Artis Lawson (Utilities), Janice Kemp and Rhonda Seaton (Police), and Chad Phillips and Bill Walton (Fire).

Critical Incident Stress is the outcome of an event outside the range of usual experience, which has the potential to overcome a person's normal ability to cope. It may produce a negative psychological response in a person who was involved in or witnessed such an incident. The College Station Team consists of City staff

volunteers who are trained in Basic Peer Support and Advanced CISM counseling techniques and respond to requests for assistance from local and out of area agencies. Membership on the team requires members to participate in several levels of training and is strictly voluntary. Our City team works in partnership with a team from the City of Bryan.

NASA staff requested assistance by contacting the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). A CISM professional and ICISF member in Midland, Mr. Vaughn Donaldson, responded requesting assistance from Texas based CISM teams. The College Station team reacted quickly, identifying available personnel, coordinating with department supervisory personnel, and arranging a staggered and overlapping

schedule for the City of College Station volunteers.

College Station personnel arrived on the scene early Friday February 7 and continued their assistance through late evening Tuesday February 11 when another team from the Dallas area relieved them. Participants were exposed to a wide variety of challenging situations and encountered a diverse mixture of personnel involved in the debris and remains recovery effort. Each was deeply moved by the dedication and perseverance of the searchers, and felt gratified to be able to contribute a small part to the process of national grieving for and recovery from this horrific event.

Additional College Station Assistance with Shuttle Disaster Recovery

In addition to the CISM team's participation in disaster recovery efforts, College Station deploy a paramedic to provide medical support for the recovery works.

On February 5th, FEMA/USAR activated several canine components from across the country to assist in the Columbia Shuttle recovery. Their mission was to locate the remains of the 7 astronauts. When USAR is activated there is a medical component that must also be activated. The medical

component is a team of 2 Medical Team Managers (Doctors) and 4 Medical Specialist (i.e. nurse, paramedic). College Station Paramedic Tim Valdez was assigned to the medical group based in Hemphill, TX. As a Medical Specialist, Valdez was to perform; 1. "In Process" medical evaluations on all FEMA/USAR personnel. 2. Monitor and evaluate all FEMA/USAR personnel and canines. 3. Monitor and treat other federal agents, including FBI, NASA, and

FBI-Evidence Response Team.

Upon arrival at Lufkin Base of Operations, FEMA ID tags were obtained and the Public Health System-Oath of Office was taken. The medical team participated in required FEMA Medical, Operations and Safety briefings. Search Teams conducted searches in the cold and rain through the swamps, hills, valleys, briar vines of East Texas Piney Woods. Upon returning to the command post, a basic medical evaluation was conducted to ensure the safety of recovery workers.



Community Development: Making Dreams Come True!

The Community Development division of City of College Station works to provide low to moderate income persons opportunities to become home owners in College Station. This is accomplished through a number of programs, including the down-payment assistance and the new construction program.

The down payment assistance program is a loan program that provides 10% of the purchase price for a new home up to \$7,500. After 5 years, this loan to the home buyer is for-

given, provided the homeowner lives in the house, stays current on all associated taxes, and maintains the property in good repair.

The new construction program uses Home funding, a yearly grant that can only be used for housing programs assisting low and moderate income residents. The city may use the funds to construction a new home. Additionally, the city may supply funds to the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) which will develop the new property. In either case, the new

home are placed on the market for purchase. Eligible first time home buyers can purchase these homes and take advantage of the down payment assistance program. The purchase price of the home may be reduced by 20% up to \$15,000 to cover the down payment. In June, construction of two homes was completed. In September, the City Council approved construction of another home on Luther Street. The property is currently about 50% complete.



College Station Fire Chief Gives Keynote Address

Fire Chief David Giordano was the keynote speaker at the Campus Fire Safety & Security Management Professional Development Conference conducted February 3 and 4, at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Chief Giordano discussed lessons learned from the bonfire collapse

as related to emergency planning and developing effective relationships between municipalities and universities. Key aspects of Chief Giordano's presentation to over one hundred participants included were Cooperative Planning and , Cooperative Exercises. He also stressed the importance of knowing who the

key players are to be able to handle emergency situations on campus. Chief Giordano was invited to speak at this conference after a participant in a Health and Safety Conference conducted at TAMU heard the Chiefs presentation and invited him to present at this national conference.

Longmire Street Extension, Set for Construction

The City Council recently approved a bid to begin construction of the first phase of the Longmire Street Extension Project. This project will extend Longmire from Birmingham to Graham Road. This is green section identified on the map to the right. The construction contract was awarded to the lowest, responsible bidder, Dudley Construction, Ltd. The amount of the approved contract was slightly over \$314,000. Phase II of this project is proposed to be funded in part through a paving assessment. The Council is scheduled to conduct a public hearing on this assessment at the March 13th meeting. The assessment process allows the City to recoup money when a city project adds to value of the property adjacent to the improvement.



Design for the remaining Longmire extension is underway. (the portion of from Graham Road to Cypress Meadows) Land acquisition for this portion is scheduled to be complete in December 2004, after which construction can begin.

City Conducts Management Academy

The Human Resources Department conducted the third annual Management Academy. Management Academy is a week long, employee training/development program that is primarily targeted toward city employees serving in manager and supervisory capacities. The Academy began February 17, and graduation ceremony for successful participant was held on February 21. Participants in this year's academy were all nominated by their respective department heads and were individuals deemed to have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities. Each day of the Management Academy featured a different topic relevant to leadership in modern organi-

zations. Day one focused on moving "From Manager or Leader", while day two targeted communication. In particular, day two focused on communicating the City's mission/vision to all employees. Day three was devoted to team-building. Day four featured a discussion of "Managing Human Performance", which included evaluating, motivating, and coaching employees. The last day of the Academy centered on conflict resolution. Each session was facilitated by a national known professional in the field of employee development. Bringing these instructors into College Station for a week of employee development was signifi-



Academy Participants (left to right): Garry Lange, Stephanie George, Billy Bradshaw, Geri Marsh, Corby Alexander, Bruce Albright, Art Roach, Brian Smith, Augie Palmisano, Len Jenicek, Kathy Hubbard, Dana Albrecht, Kris Lehde, Greg Leeth, Gary Bishop, David Roberts, Grace Calbert, Charlie Shear, and Mark McAuliffe

cantly more cost effective than sending employees to any conference or convention to receive the same level of instruction.

Park's Athletics Create New Website

The Altheletic Division of the Parks Department has created a new website where citizens can find out about all of the league athletic programs that the Department runs (<http://eteamz.com/cspard>). By going to this website, residents can receive registration information and a map to game

locations; check the weather; find out if games are canceled and/or rescheduled; review rules and rule changes; receive game standings; link to other websites; receive valuable coaching tools; download the actual registration forms; or email us with questions.

The site was launched to the public on September 15, 2002. The site has already had more than 6,900 hits. The Athletic Division has had positive feedback on the site and the communication avenue that it brings to our customers.

Office of Budget & Strategic Planning Receives Award

The Government Finance Officer Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is pleased to announce that the City of College Station has received the *GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award* for the current fiscal period. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by the City of College Station.

It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the city had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device

The budget must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award. In the case of the City of College Station, GFOA budget reviewer rated the FY 2003 Budget document "proficient" or "outstanding" on every measure included in the evaluation.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted, a Certificate of Recognition is presented to the individual or department designated as being primarily responsible for achieving the award. The certificate has been presented to the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning.

Since the inception of the

GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984, approximately 900 entities have received the Award. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 14,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

New Addition to College Station Police Department; Coming Soon

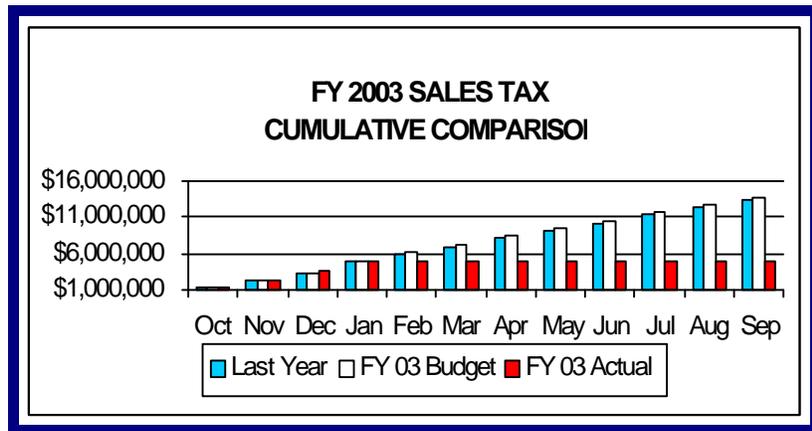
As part of the budget process, the City Council has approved approximately \$29,000 in funding to purchase a dog to implement a K-Nine program. Texas A&M University has agreed to contribute \$10,000 toward the purchase of the dog. Of the total cost, approximately \$25,000 will be for one-time expenses like the actual purchase and associated training for both the dog and handler. The remaining \$4,000 will be for ongoing needs like food and water.

The Police Department expects to have the K-Nine program operational by the end of this fiscal year. The dog will assist with bomb searches and people searches. Once the dog is purchased and the K-Nine program is operating, the dog will live with the officer trained to handle it.



Monthly Sales Tax Receipts

The City collected **\$1,597,895.78** for the month of January, **2.90%** above the same month last year. The January receipts are for sales that occurred in December. Sales tax collections for FY 03 YTD are **\$5,052,719.72** or **3.61%** above FY 02 collections. Sales tax receipts are higher than the same month last year. Sales tax receipts have increased by 4.0% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. This is positive given the overall statewide decline in sales tax revenues. It is interesting to note that the City of Bryan sales tax receipts are down while College Station sales tax receipts are up.



Over the last 8 years sales tax growth has averaged 6% per year. In FY 03, sales tax is projected to grow on average 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. We are continuing to monitor national, state, and local economic trends to determine what impact those trends may have on sales tax receipts in FY 03 and beyond.

***City Manager's Report
City of College Station***



Shining Moments

- Raymond Olson, Karl Warren, and Lance Simms were commended by the company responsible for the construction of the new Lock N Roll Storage on Earl Rudder Frwy. In a letter received by the City Manager, the project manager indicated that it was a “great pleasure” to work with each of these individuals during the planning and construction of this business.
- Kate Elrod was acknowledged by the President of the Emerald Forest Homeowner Association, Debz DeFreitas, for her work putting together the first monthly Neighborhood Seminar Super. DeFreitas was “very impressed” with new program.
- Debbie Eller, Community Development Project Coordinator, was named the recipient of United Way’s ***Campaign Volunteer of the Year Award***. This award recognizes the individual who provided outstanding leadership and dedication to ensure that their organization’s campaign a success.
- Chief Feldman received a letter of thanks and praise for the way in which his staff handled a family’s call. According to the letter, the situation was handled with a great deal of respect and sensitivity. In particular, the family was appreciative of Officer David Robinson and Detective Noe Rincones kindness and professionalism throughout the ordeal.

WERE ON THE WEB!

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Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future.