

# City Manager's Report City of College Station

## What's Going on?

### Update on the Public Meetings for the Proposed UDO

and meetings involving the Council and Planning and Zoning Commission have been held to review those drafts. The latest draft was released on November 5, 2001, initiating the beginning of the public comment period. It is anticipated the UDO will be adopted during the Summer of 2002. Prior to adoption of the UDO there will be two public hearings held by the Planning and Zoning Commission and two public hearings held by the City Council.

The City continues to hold more forums this month to discuss and receive input on the proposed Unified Development Code. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) project is a review and rewriting of all the City's zoning, subdivision and related land development codes. Meetings were held on March 19 and 26 in the City Council Chambers. These forums were with the development community which involved four two-hour sessions. In April a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council will be held to discuss the input received from these forums. The City entered into a contract with Duncan and Associates in the Spring of 2000 to review and consolidate City development codes and ordinances into one document. Several drafts of the UDO have been provided to Council and Planning and Zoning Commission members during this time period,

#### Special points of interest:

- City Manager's Report has a New Look
- Service Excellence Kicks Off
- Starlight Music Series 2002
- Grand Re-Opening of Fire Station #2

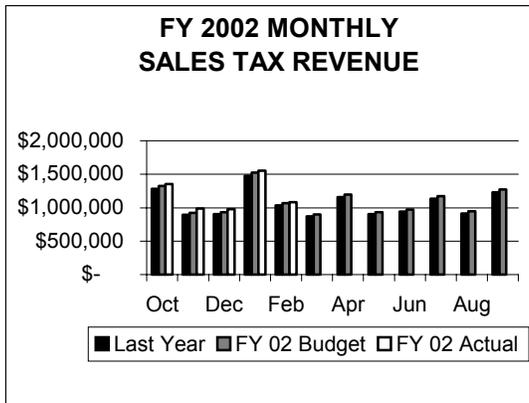
#### Inside this issue:

February Sales Tax Revenue Receipts	2
Update on the Regional Transportation Summit	2
Re-Opening of Fire Station #2	2
Update on the Joint Programming Workshop	3
College Station Utilities Provides Live Music at Wolf Pen	4
New Construction around Town	5
New Civic Pride Signs	6

### Service Excellence Sessions Kicked off this Month

The City's Human Resources Department is coordinating a program to enhance our new employee orientation while educating current employees on services offered by other departments. This is just one component of several future service excellence initiatives. The overall goal of the program is to have employees that are better educated about the services we provide, who in turn will provide better service to our customers. The quarterly service excellence classes began March 27 and 28. There were informative presentations from each department and the session ended with a tour of City facilities. This service excellence program will be required for all new hires. Other employees will be scheduled in each session as designated by City departments.

## February Sales Tax Revenue Receipts



Sales tax receipts for February 2002 were \$1,084,252.11. This is 4.83% above the same month last year. February receipts reflect sales that occurred in January. Sales tax collections for FY 02 YTD are \$5,960,713.80 or 6.71% above FY 01 collections. Sales tax receipts remain higher than last year at the same time. Sales tax revenues are 3.19% higher than the FY 02 budget estimate for the first 5 months of the fiscal year. Although this 3.19% figure is slightly less than the 3.6% increase over the FY 02 estimate for last month, tax receipts remain strong. We are continuing to monitor national, state, and local economic trends for the effect they may have on sales tax receipts in FY 02, and on the FY 02 budget.

**FY 2002 Monthly Sales Tax Revenue**

## Update on the Regional Transportation Summit

City staff is working with our transportation consultants Dean International and the Brazos Valley Council of Government (BVCOG) to organize a regional transportation summit that will be held on April 26, 2002 at the College Station Hilton. BVCOG and the City of College Station will co-host this event. Staff is currently in the process of contacting other possible sponsors for this summit, who are being asked to support the summit financially. Speakers and moderators are also in the process of being contacted for the summit. These presentations

will discuss transportation issues such as rail, highway, and aviation and public transportation. Each transportation topic will be done in a formal presentation by an invited speaker. The keynote speaker for the included luncheon will be Ric Williamson, Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission. Also, Houston City Councilman Carroll Robinson will speak about connecting Houston and the Brazos Valley with a commuter rail system.

## The Grand Re-Opening of Fire Station #2



**Fire Station #2**

The City's residents and media were invited to tour the newly remodeled Fire Station #2 at an open house on March 26. Built in 1980, the City's second fire station required remodeling in order to bring the 22 year old building up to current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) safety standards.

Due to the extensive changes to address EMS, fire personnel and NFPA safety concerns, the most effective course of action was to almost entirely rebuild the station. Fire Station #2 now meets the nationally recognized standards. The cost for the remodeling of Fire Station #2 was approximately \$1,120,000 and the source of funding was the authorization of the 1998 General Obligation Bonds.

## Update on Parks Joint Programming Workshop

Our Parks and Recreation Department staff has been meeting with their counterparts at the City of Bryan. These meetings have generated a number of ideas that could potentially enhance the level of parks and recreation services in both cities through cooperative efforts. These ideas are now being developed and explored in detail. One early benefit of the discussions is very evident in the improved level of communications between the two departments. This will be beneficial to citizens in both cities when referrals are made regarding services

provided by the other city. From these joint programming workshops with the City of Bryan, there has been a decision to move forward on the Madelay Park Project located between Chimney Hill Street in College Station and South Rosemary Street in Bryan. The City of Bryan will be contributing funding to install fencing near the entrance and construct a new parking area. We will be providing the engineering services, signs, foot trails, benches, and a footbridge. The joint construction will meet the intent of the deed restrictions concerning the property which require that we have development underway by August. Our staff members have worked closely with residents to develop the conceptual plan of the park. Future workshops will be held to discuss upcoming projects.



## Residential Fire Detection Program Underway

The Fire Department and South Brazos County Volunteer Fire Department are initiating their first "Residential Fire Detection Program." Both departments have both been awarded matching fund grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Also contributing to the program is Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, which donated part of the purchase cost for thousands of smoke alarms. This home fire safety program will include a demonstration of the dangers of fire and smoke inhalation through the use of fire safety education as well as

a demonstration on how a smoke alarm system works in the home and the procedure for installing smoke detectors. The grant program will run until August 2002. The majority of funding from the College Station grant will go toward the purchase of a new fire safety trailer as well as smoke alarms and installation. A majority of funding from the South Brazos County grant will be used for the purchase of smoke alarms and installation tools. The first series of installations will be on Saturday, April 6 and Saturday, May 11, 2002. The goal for this program is for firefighters from College Station and South Brazos County to install more than 3,000 smoke detectors in homes that lack this protection.

## George Bush Drive Extension

The George Bush Extension Project has almost been completed. George Bush East will soon extend from Harvey Road, across Wolf Pen Creek, to Holleman Drive. The project also included a waterline extension. The most remarkable feature of the extension is the multiple arch bridge across the creek. This feature will be a focal point in the Wolf Pen Creek Corridor

and will provide a lighted bike and pedestrian access through its arch structures. The project had originally been scheduled for completion in October, but the arches required re-designing and therefore changed the completion date. The cost of the project was approximately \$1.3 million. The grand opening will take place on April 6th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with food, drinks, and lots of entertainment for the whole family.



George Bush Extension Bridge

## College Station Utilities will provide Live Music at Wolf Pen



A press conference was held on March 19 to announce the Starlight Music Series 2002 at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheatre beginning in April. This program is sponsored by College Station Utilities. All shows will be free and the music will range from country to blues to Motown to Tejano. Gates will open at 6 pm for every show in the series. This event will be fun for the whole family and will offer a

variety of entertainment. The following is a list of the performances in the Starlight Series.

April 13 Jerry Jeff Walker with Diamond-back Texas

April 20 Bruce Robison with Max Stallings

April 27 Bo Diddley with Karan Chavis

May 4 Grupo Vida with Fuerza Latina

May 11 The Bellamy Brothers with Rodney Hayden

June 1 Trout Fishing in America with Ruthie Foster

June 8 Vince Vance and the Valiants

June 15 The Back Porch 2nd Anniversary Special

June 22 Ian Moore with Hayden Sayers

June 29 Big Otis

## Recycling Pays Off

The City of College Station Sanitation Division presented its third "Cash for Trash" award in March. The lucky winner was James J. Sadkovich of 1011 Madera Circle. Mr. Sadkovich received an award, which consisted of \$250 cash, a plaque and yard sign. The City of College Station Sanitation Division and Texas Commercial Waste announced its "Cash for Trash" contest last November to promote participation in our curbside recycling program. Each month one street in College Station is chosen randomly

along with two alternate streets. On each recycling day for that street during the month, the recycling coordinator will go to the chosen streets and write down the addresses with recyclable items. One address will be chosen in a drawing at the end of each month.

The cash prize is to encourage citizens to recycle more and consume less. The intention of the program is to increase participation of residents to recycle through the curbside program.

## Update on the City's Athletic Participation Programs



The City has experienced several changes in the participation from last year in several of our athletic programs. The youth basketball program had 639 participants this year compared with 770 from 2001. The youth

softball program had an increase with 257 participants compared to last year's 205. The adult Spring softball program is at 154 teams which is comparable to 156 teams registered last year. Parks and Recreation Department staff will

continue to monitor athletic participation throughout the summer to identify any possible trends in athletic participation.

## New Construction around Town

The new Academy Store finished construction this month and has reopened at their new location at 2351 Earl Rudder Freeway South. Also, the new Rock Prairie Center shopping center is near completion. Currently there is one tenant (Total Tan), but other business are soon to follow including: PaPa John's,

Kirk's Cleaners, Marble Slab Creamery, Cords 1558, and Curves, (a barber shop).



## The City helped Texas A&M with "The Big Event"

Texas A&M students participated in the annual Big Event on the 23rd of this month. These students participated in a city wide cleanup of various parks facilities. A cleanup was done at Madeley Park with support of the Beverly Estates Homeowners Association. This project was scheduled to provide initial site cleanup prior to construction of the trails and footbridges. The Public Works

Department provided a roll-off dumpster. A cleanup was done at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheatre, which help prepare for a scheduled Easter event. In Pebble Creek and Edelweiss Parks, students applied mulch to the trees in the parks. In Richard Carter Park, students removed and leveled several areas in the brick walking paths, painted the cemetery, and picked up limbs and debris from the wooded areas. The Big Event is the largest one-

day student run service volunteer project in the nation. Over 5,300 A&M students volunteered to complete over 525 jobs in the Bryan/College Station Community. The event began in 1982.

## Fire Department hosted a Special Emergency Management Academy

The Fire Department hosted 14 students and 2 instructors from Allen Academy on Thursday, March 7, for a one day, special Emergency Management Academy field trip. The training lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and at the newly renovated Fire Station #2. Personnel from our

Office of Technology and Information Services (GIS), our Police Department, and Brazos County Emergency Management assisted with presentations and orientation for the group. The training opened with briefings on the Fire Department's roles and responsibilities and provided an introduction to emergency management. There was a hands on

demonstrations on intubation techniques and use of an automatic external defibrillator followed. A hazardous materials video, narrated by Tom Clancey, was shown. Gus Roman demonstrated the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information and how it used in an emergency situation. The next session involved a demonstration of the use of portable fire extinguishers. Driver Lance Norwood gave them a briefing on Driving Under Influence (DUI) and provided a video on the cause and effects of DUI. The last session was at the Police Department where Ronnie Horcica conducted a tour of dispatch and our mobile operations vehicle.

## What's Going on?

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City Manager's Report  
City of College Station

### Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future

## Shining Moments

- *The Fire Department received a letter of gratitude from the Allen Academy in Bryan for putting together the Emergency Management Academy for their students. The letter complimented our GIS Department for their visual production and also thanked the Police Department for the tour of our dispatch facility.*
- *Our City Manager Tom Brymer received an e-mail from a citizen regarding Rock Prairie Road and the section of Longmire to Highway 6. The citizen expressed his gratitude for our Public Works Department having this roadway resurfaced.*
- *Our Community Programs Coordinator Peggy Calliham received a letter from a student regarding her recent attendance to the first offenders class, which is part of the Teen Court Program. The letter thanked Peggy for allowing her to participate in this program.*

## New Civic Pride Signs

Our new civic pride signs were installed this month around the City. The "City pride signs," a Texas Department of Transportation voluntary program, allows municipalities to erect and display signs concerning points of interest, geographical, recreational, cultural or civic information at the City limits on state highway right-of-way. The signs welcome people to our community and showcase our sister cities and civic clubs. There are a total of six signs. Two larger signs (8'x10') were placed on Highway 6 northbound near the Texas Motorway Speedway and southbound on Highway 6 at the Bryan/College Station City limits. The smaller signs (5'x4') were placed throughout the City. One was placed at Highway 30 westbound. The second was placed at Highway 47 near

its intersection with Highway 60. The third sign was placed at the end of Wellborn Road at the City limits. The final civic pride sign was placed on Texas Avenue southbound at the City limits.

