

# City Manager's Report

## City of College Station

# What's Going on?

### Special points of interest:

- CIP on the Internet
- Update on the New Water Tower
- 2002 Citizens' Survey
- College Station Co-Hosts Annual Texas Police Games

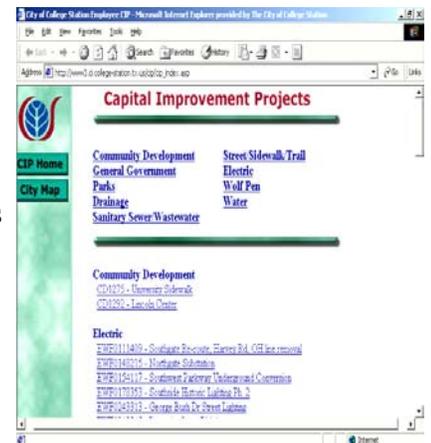
### Inside this issue:

May Sales Tax Receipts	2
College Station Holds Annual Juneteenth Celebration	2
Down Payment Assistance Available to College Station Homebuyers	3
College Station Earns Two Publication Awards	4
2002 Citizens' Survey	4
College Station Awarded National "City Livability Award"	5
College Station Co-Hosts Annual Police Games	6

## Capital Improvement Projects on the Internet

The City unveiled the latest way to keep citizens informed on Capital Improvement Projects. The City's Capital Improvement Project Online Navigation System is now available. This new system allows citizens to access the City's Website and receive detailed information regarding Capital Improvement Projects such as Parks, Electric, and Water. Citizens can view a projects funding source, milestones, any action taken by Council, and the name of project manger.

Included in this system is the ability to e-mail the project manager directly. These projects will be updated every thirty days. The software used for this navigation system was designed in-house by Ryan Pream, a Systems Analyst in our MIS Department. The link for this CIP Navigation System can be found on the main page of our City's Website, [www.ci.college-station.tx.us](http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us). Once you have clicked this hyperlink on the main



page, the hyperlink will bring you to the project index screen which illustrates all Capital Improvement Projects. Maps of several project's location are available on the index screen.

## College Station Police Department 2001 Annual Report

The 2001 College Station Police Department Annual report is now available. This report provides updates on programs, personnel, and events that have occurred within the police department over the past year. The report provides statistics on crimes, such as major

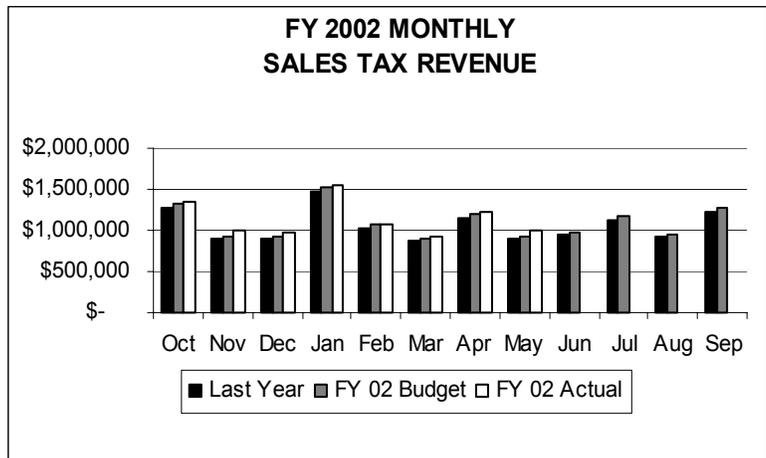
offenses that occurred in the City and how these crimes compare nationally. The report also highlights various programs such as noise abatement and the police reserve program. It contains information on promotions and retirements within the department.

Other information provided includes the Police Department's re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and the establishment of a full-time bike patrol. The report is available on the Police Department's Website, which can be accessed through the City's Website.

## May Sales Tax Receipts

Sales tax receipts for May 2002 were \$1,006,845.49. This is 11.63% above the same month last year. May receipts reflect sales that occurred in April. Sales tax collections for FY 02 YTD are \$9,128,406.24 or 7.19% above FY 01 collections.

Sales tax receipts remain higher than last year at the same time. Sales tax revenues are higher than this time last year. We will continue to monitor national, state, and local economic trends to determine what impact those trends may have on sales tax receipts in FY 02, and on the FY 02 budget.



## College Station Holds Annual Juneteenth Celebration

The Lincoln Recreation Center hosted its annual Juneteenth Celebration on June 14. The theme for this year's event was "Joy, Praise and Jubilee."

Juneteenth, which celebrates the emancipation of African American slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865, has been a recognized holiday in Texas since 1980. This unique public holiday, originating in Texas, is now celebrated worldwide.

Traditional Juneteenth activities at the Lincoln Recreation Center included special performances such as gospel singing, art displays and theatrical skits. This year's special guests included Souls of Faith from Huntsville and One Accord from Bryan. Additional entertainment was provided

by the Givens Recreation Center Drill Team from Austin and the Centex Youth Gospel Workshop Steppers. Mrs. Mabelene Canto – Robinson, Vice-Chairwoman of the Lincoln Advisory Committee, acted as Mistress of Ceremonies for the inspiring and festive evening.

## Update on the New Water Tower



Construction on the new elevated water tank on Texas Avenue began in September of 2001 and is set for completion in January 2003. Work under this contract will include related piping, pavements, landscaping and demolition

of the existing one million-gallon water tank. The new storage tank has a capacity of three million gallons and will be elevated like its predecessor. The tower is under construction at Texas Avenue and Holleman Drive behind the

new HEB store. The construction schedule is tailored to HEB's site development plans.

## Carter Creek's Wastewater Treatment Plant now Complete

The Regional Water/Wastewater Plant Operations Control and Training Facility located at the Carter Creek WWTP has been completed. This 8,000 square foot building houses the water production and wastewater treatment Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). SCADA provides a supervisory control

of the facilities, which can be unmanned and accessed by remote. This facility serves as the operations and maintenance center for all water production and wastewater treatment plant operations. The treatment plant also serves as a training facility for Water and Wastewater Plant operators, and will be available for cooperative

use with the City of Bryan to allow greater utilization of local resources (facilities and staff of both Cities) decreasing dependency on out of town training. Staff estimates an annual saving to the City of more than \$40,000.00 by reducing the need to travel for water and waste water certification training.



## Down Payment Assistance Available to College Station Homebuyers

The City is now providing assistance to low- and moderate-income homebuyers interested in buying a home in College Station. The College Station Community Development Department is offering a Down Payment Assistance Program to help families realize their dreams of home ownership. The program utilizes fed-

eral HOME grant funds to offer down payment assistance of 10% of the purchase price of the home. A maximum of \$7,500 is available to households at or below 80% of the area median income. Assistance is provided in the form of a 0% interest, 100% forgivable, five-year loan. Purchasers must be first time homebuyers, although

some consideration may be given to "displaced homemakers." They must be able to qualify for a mortgage loan through a qualified lender who provides escrow services; owner financing is not permitted. Homebuyers who occupy the property for five years are forgiven the entire lien amount, while those who do not, must pay a prorated portion. Purchasers must contribute at least 1.5% of the purchase price to the sale.



## Starlight Music Series Coming to a Close

The Starlight Music Series has been a great success, with record-breaking attendance. Over 25,000 people attended the first five concerts. The Starlight Music Series at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater is a series of 11 free concerts organized to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes. The second half of

the series kicked off June 1 with Trout Fishing in America and Ruthie Foster. On June 15, the Back Porch 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Special was held and on June 22, Ian Moore performed with Hayden Sayers. The final concert for the month of June showcased Big Oits. Thanks to our sponsor, College Station Public Utilities, for

making this series possible and to everyone who came out and enjoyed the shows under the stars at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.

Remaining Date:

**Saturday, July 13th - The Killer Bees w/ Bobby Hall**





## “Learning to be Waterwise”

College Station Utilities sponsored the award-winning "Learning to be Waterwise" program with Ms. Judy LeUnes' science classes at Oakwood Intermediate School in 2001-2002. The program was a success, and College Station Utilities plans to expand the program to more classrooms in the 2002-2003 school year. By implementing specific conservation technologies, the 76 students who participated in the program will save a combined

733,460 gallons of water and wastewater a year. College Station Utilities encourages all of its customers to be "Waterwise" and use water as efficiently as possible. The Summer-time water usage can be two to three times higher than winter usage, so it's important to be "Water Smart."

Most lawns need only one inch of water a week, including rainfall. Water

thoroughly enough to deeply soak the soil, at most twice a week, but don't let water runoff. Deep, infrequent watering encourages plants to develop a deep, healthy, drought-tough root system. Make sure sprinklers water only lawns and shrubs-not the street, driveway, or sidewalk. Consider replacing old showerheads with new low-flow showerheads. This one step can save a family of four over 7,000 gallons of water a year.

## College Station Earns Two Publication Awards

The City of College Station was honored by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) with two awards for outstanding City publications. The association held its first Annual "TAMI" Awards, recognizing the top three finalists in each category. Over 40 Texas cities competed in the awards program, which had a total of 120 entries in seven categories. The categories in which the City was recognized were:

### 1. 2001 Annual Report (population <90,000)

City of College Station  
City of San Marcos  
City of Sugar Land

### 2. Special Publications (all populations)

City of College Station  
City of Houston  
City of Irving

The City's "Special Publications" entry consisted of the City's Annual Report, a generic marketing brochure, two economic development brochures and a postcard. All materials were developed using a similar design, serving as complimentary pieces of a marketing campaign.

## 2002 Citizens' Survey



The results are in from this year's Citizens' survey. The 2002 results were provided to the City Council at the June 13 Meeting. The citizen survey focused on services provided by the City. This survey was conducted through a telephone inter-

view and had 500 respondents. It was administrated by the University of North Texas in April 2002. The survey provided responses regarding various City Services including Public Safety, Streets, Sanitation, Park Services, and our In-

formation Services. The overall satisfaction level for City Services was at 93.6%.

## College Station Development Services Set Continuous Improvement Goals

In May 2000, the City of College Station Development Services Department formed a Continuous Improvement (CI) Team to examine the department's development review process and identify areas for improvement. Team members included staff from the department as well as staff from the Parks & Recreation and Budget & Strategic Planning departments.

The CI Team's initial step was to conduct an internal evaluation of the development review process, focusing on areas that could be improved with minor changes.

Several areas for enhancement were identified and the suggested changes were immediately incorporated into the development review process.

The next step was to conduct a written survey of internal and external customers. Focus groups, made up of members of the development community, provided feedback about the development review process. As a result of this feedback, other areas for possible improvement were identified. The CI Team also conducted a survey of other

Texas cities to see how College Station compared in staffing levels, workload, review times and basic submittal procedures for development projects. The results of the survey provided the team with a reference point for evaluating the City's development review procedures. The survey revealed that College Station has an average staffing level and an above average workload, yet maintains a significantly shorter review time when compared to cities represented in the survey. A list of implemented improvements and recommended changes was developed by the CI Team and incorporated into the final report. The final report was presented to the City Council earlier this year.

## College Station Awarded National "City Livability Award"

The City of College Station has been awarded the prestigious national "City Livability Award" for "Outstanding Achievement for Cities under 100,000 in Population" from the United States Conference of Mayors. The City Livability Awards, which honored College Station's Geographical Information Services (GIS), are designed to recognize and honor Mayors and their cities for demonstrating exemplary leader-

ship in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in their communities. The award was presented to the Mayor Ron Silvia at the June 27 Council Meeting. The City won high honors for innovation in creating a better, more "livable" community, beating national competi-

tors and finalists, including Paramount, California; Redmond, Washington; Rockville, Maryland; Schaumburg, Illinois; and West Palm Beach, Florida. Winning cities are determined by an independent panel of judges selected by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

## Recycling Pays Off

The City of College Station Sanitation Division presented its "Cash for Trash" award in May. The lucky winners were Joe and Nancy Stratta of 8100 Butler Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Stratta 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 in November of 2001 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.



## Shining Moments

### *What's Going on?*

*City Manager's Report*

*City of College Station*

**Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future**

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.ci.college-station.tx.us](http://www.ci.college-station.tx.us)**

*\*Our City Manager, Tom Brymer received an award from the Texas City Management Association's (TMCA). The award recognized Mr. Brymer with the 2002 Professional Development Award. This award recognizes City management professionals who have made significant contributions in the development of new talent and/or who have designed and implemented outstanding career development programs for employees.*

*\*Eric Ploeger, Assistant Director of the Parks and Recreation Department received a recognition plaque from the Bluebonnet Streetrodders in appreciation of his continued efforts, dedication, and support of the Rod Run. Mr. Ploeger also received a card from Kate Morawitz from the Pebble Creek Homeowners Association thanking him and the Parks and Recreation Department for the wonderful job that was done improving Pebble Creek Park.*

*\*Peter Lamont, Recreation Superintendent, received a Thank You card from Sylvia Villarreal and Nancy Sumpter for participating in the Children's Miracle Network Celebration Broadcast.. The event was a huge success that raised \$163,227.*

*\*Mike Ruesink, Lieutenant in the Fire Department received a thank you letter from Clear Channel Radio for his participation in this year's Kid Fish and Children's Festival Event.*

*\*Fire Chief David Giordano received a letter of gratitude for an emergency medical response made by members of the Fire Department. The citizen's letter expressed their appreciation for the timely response in a difficult situation.*

## **College Station Co-Hosted the Annual Texas Police Games**

The Brazos Valley community hosted the Texas Police Games June 16 through 21, 2002. In response to the September 11 tragedy, the Texas Police Athletic Federation (TPAF) and the local organizing committee opened this year's games to firefighters. Founded by the TPAF, the Texas Police Games encourages members of law enforcement to remain physically active. The competitive events are spread out over the week, and include the following: a Bass Fishing Tournament, Horse Shoe Pitching, an Iron Man event, Mounted Police, Paintball, Archery, Basketball, Biathlon, Billiards, Bowling, Cycling,

Flag Football, Golf, Obstacle Course, Pistols, Powerlifting, Racquetball, Skeet and Trap Shooting, Tennis, and Volleyball.

These events took place at various venues around the community, such as College Station and Bryan parks, Texas A&M sports facilities and the Corps of Cadets Obstacle Course, Briarcrest Country Club, Pebble Creek Country Club, Lake Somerville, P.O.E.T.S. Billiards, Conroe/FBI Weapons Range, Wolf Pen Bowling Center, and the Brazos County 4-H Sportsman's Club Range.

The Local Organizing Committee consisted of representatives from the Cities of College Station and Bryan, Texas A&M University, Brazos County Sheriff's Office, Law

Enforcement & Security Training Division, and the Brazos Valley Sports Foundation. This group, with the backing of each entity, promoted the games to not only instill solidarity among law enforcement officers in and outside the state of Texas, but to also provide an economic boost to the community. This is the first time that the Brazos Valley has hosted this event.