

# What's Going On?

*City of College Station, Texas*

## College Station Hosts Annual Employee Banquet

On November 14th, the City hosted the annual Employee Banquet. This year's banquet had a Caribbean theme. During the banquet, the City Manager and City Council distributed service award to employee who have been with the City 5,10, 15, 20, and 25 years. These employees were given a plaque and a gift selected by the employee. After dinner was served and the awards were presented, attendees were treated to a fun-filled evening of dancing and casino games. The evening culminated with the distribution of several prizes. Additionally, childcare was



From left to right:: Councilwoman Anne Hazen, Mayor Ron Silvia, Councilman John Happ, Employee of the year Lee Robinson, Councilman Robert Wareing, Councilman Dennis Maloney and Councilman Scott Mears.

provide to attendees with children between the ages of 3 and 12. The City's 2003 Employee of the Year was also named at the banquet. This year's employee of the is Lee Robinson. Robinson serves

as the City's Traffic Systems Superintendent in the Public Works Department. Robinson has been with the City for over twenty year and was nominated by the Public Works Traffic Signals and Signs Division. According to

the nomination, Robinson's high level of integrity, personal initiative, and leadership have earned him the respect from all that know him.

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## Barron Road Interchange Design

At the October 23rd. City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved a professional services contract with Epsilon Engineering. Epsilon Engineering will begin design of a proposed interchange at Highway 6 and Barron Road.

This project is one of 4 included in the 2002 "Interim CIP". Prior to the approval of this design contract, the Council approved an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). This Advance Funding Agree-

ment indicates that TxDOT would provide guidance and review to ensure that the design work is consistent with state and federal guidelines. Consequently, TxDOT has participated in the preliminary work and has assisted with the selection of

engineer of the final design work regarding this project. The purpose of getting this design work done is to pursue TxDOT construction funding.

## Fraternity Tends to Crepe Myrtle Trees

On a recent Sunday afternoon, 65 members of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and friends spent 3 hours, (195 total man-hours) spreading wood chip mulch around crepe myrtle trees on Harvey Mitchell Parkway between Wellborn Road and George Bush Drive. Crepe Myrtle beds adorn both sides of Harvey Mitchell Parkway

from Wellborn Road well into Bryan. The mulch adds to the attractiveness of the tree beds and serves the dual purpose of holding moisture and limiting weeds. The on-going mulch project is an example of making the best use of resources at hand. As part of on-going line maintenance, the local utility companies routinely trim

branches around power lines, turn the branches into wood chips and take them to the landfill. The original estimate of providing mulch for the tree beds from commercial landscapers was in the tens of thousands of dollars. Instead of spending that kind of money on the project, wood chips are being provided at no cost from the local utilities, costs for disposal are

being saved, the landfill space is being preserved, and volunteer groups interested in community service are spreading the chips. By working together, money is also being saved on the tree beds maintenance, and volunteer groups are helping to make a difference in the community.

## City Joins With School District to Produce DEAD

Teen deaths in Texas from vehicle collisions, are among the highest in the country. Thirty-four percent of all teen deaths are related to motor vehicle collisions, and 43% of these deaths are alcohol-related. "D.E.A.D." is a DWI prevention program that was conducted at A&M Consolidated High School on November 12 & 13. The program was conducted by the CISD, City of College Station (Fire, Parks, and Police Departments), the College Station Medical Center, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and the Jr. League of Bryan-College Station.

Five A&M Consolidated students participated in a staged DWI traffic collision

at 8:56 a.m. on November 12, 2003 where they were made up with "moulage" to appear seriously injured and/or deceased. College Station Police and Fire personnel responded to the incident on Nueces Drive. As part of the emergency response, three students were taken to College Station Medical Center where the emergency team staff tended to the mock injuries. One student was taken to Memorial Funeral Home. A Police Officer made a mock arrest of the DWI student. Additionally, 27 other students were escorted out of class, by the Grim Reaper. The students were taken to a room where they were made up to represent the "Living Dead" – someone who just

became the victim of an alcohol-related traffic collision. The "Living Dead" returned to class where they continued to follow a regular schedule: however as a "Living Dead" they were not allowed to interact with their peers.

At the end of the day, participating students were transported to an overnight "retreat". The retreat was chaperoned by adult volunteers.

The following morning, the entire student body participated in a D.W.I. – School Assembly. The assembly included motivating presentations by D.W.I. victims, "D.E.A.D." student participants, and their parents. All Firefighters, Police Officers and

Community leaders were invited to attend.

The D.E.A.D. Event is only scheduled every four years to ensure its dramatic impact. Costs associated with this program have been provided by community donations,

The Jr. League of Bryan-College Station, Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, City of College

Station, and College Station Independent School District – Without their help this event would not have been possible.

***"Teen deaths in Texas from vehicle collisions, are among the highest in the country."***

## City Employees Participate in Olympics

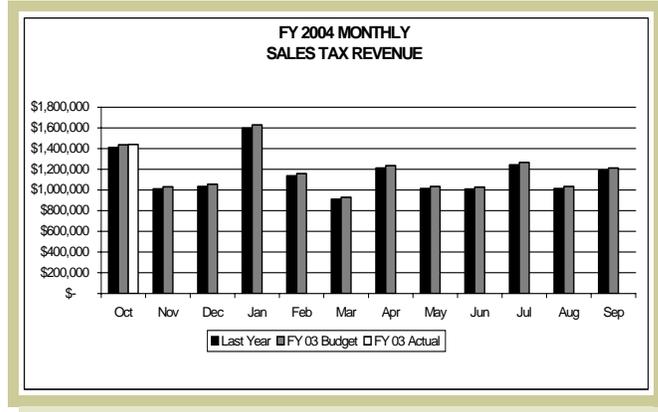
On November 21, Literacy Volunteers of the Brazos Valley hosted the 2003 Brazos Valley Office Olympics. This help to fund programming and awareness of the work that this organization does year. The Literacy Volunteers of the Brazos Valley is a non-profit group devoted to serving the seven county Brazos Valley area by offering free, confidential, one-on-one tutoring instruction in reading, writing and math to citizens wishing to overcome their literacy problems.



The City of College Station team of employee participating in this year's Olympics included: Charles Cryan, Jeff Kersten, Greg Lancaster, Mandi Luedecke, Bob Mosley, and David Wood. Teams were asked to compete in various challenges. The challenges included rubber band archery, pencil architecture, and office chair race.

## Local Sales Tax Receipts

The City collected **\$1,440,091.32** for the month of October, **2.15%** above the same month last year. The October receipts are for sales that occurred in September. Sales tax collections for FY 04 YTD are **\$1,440,091.32** or **2.15%** above FY 03 collections. Sales tax receipts are higher than the same month last year. Sales tax receipts have increased by 2.56% 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 is projected to grow 2% in FY

*“Sales tax receipts have increased by 2.56%...”*

## City Building Inspections Utilize Wireless Technology

The City of College Station is in the process of converting to wireless building inspections. Within a few weeks, the building inspectors will begin using a personal digital assistant (PDA) along with wireless technology to perform their daily inspections.

Building inspectors have traditionally performed inspections using paper forms that are printed in the office and taken into the field. After the inspections are performed, the customer service representatives compile results of the inspec-

tions and enter any notes that are included on the paper forms. Some of the advantages associated with wireless inspections include:

- Maximizes inspector productivity by increasing their time in the field away from the office.

- Saves time and decreases data entry errors by eliminating the need to retype the inspector's notes from paper forms.
- Ensures the availability of accurate, real-time information for inspectors at the building site.

## Communications Division 1st in Texas to be Accredited

On November 22, 2003, The College Station Police Department's Communication Division was granted "Public Safety Communications" Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, at the CALEA Fall Conference, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The College Station Police Department which is one of only seventeen police departments in the State of Texas to be "Law Enforcement" accredited, now enjoys the distinction of being the **first** agency in the state to gain "Public Safety" Communications Accreditation. In August, a team of assess-

sors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), arrived to examine all aspects of the Communication Division of the College Station Police Department. The assessor's review included policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program has 214 standards for communication departments. Twenty-one standards are related to communications in the Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Verification by the team that the Communication Division

of the College Station Police Department met the Commission's state-of-the-art standards was part of the voluntary process to gain accreditation—a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. Accredited agencies can take pride in their department, knowing it represents the very best in public safety communications. The overall purpose of the Commission's accreditation program is to improve delivery of law enforcement service by offering a body of standards, developed by law enforcement practitioners,

covering a wide range of up-to-date topics. It recognizes professional achievements by offering an orderly process for addressing and complying with applicable standards. Besides the recognition of obtaining international excellence, the primary benefits of accreditation include controlled liability insurance costs, administrative improvements, greater accountability from supervisors and increased governmental and community support.

## Employees Receive their Diplomas from this Years' Supervisory Academy

Thirty-seven employees graduated from our Supervisory Academy November 18th. The employees in this program represented various departments such as Fire, Police, Budget, Public Utilities, Parks, Municipal Court, Development Services, Office of Information and Technology, Public Works and the City Secretary's Office.

The Supervisory Academy is held every year and takes seven weeks to complete. The Acad-

emy consisted of seven full-day sessions held weekly. The intent of the program is improve our service delivery by developing City employees to be better supervisors and provide an extensive knowledge of various policy and procedures.

The program focuses on personnel policies, leadership development, motivation, and other topics such as conflict resolution. Supervisory Academy also targets employees who are not supervi-

sors currently, but aspire to move in to that role as a part of their career development.

"The Academy is a great program for both supervisors and aspiring supervisors," stated Carolyn Sanders, the Assistant Human Resources Department Director.

## Street Rehab Underway in Northgate

First, Maple, and Louise Streets are currently being rehabilitation. These streets are located in the Northgate Residential Neighborhood which is a target area for Community Development Block Grant funding. Consequently, much of the cost of these street rehabilitations is funded through Community Development funds. However, to optimize efficiency, the City will replace some of the water and sewer-lines in the area. The Contractor will rehab water and sewer infrastructure while the streets to be rehab are ripped-up.

This should eliminate the need to tear out newly rehabilitated streets to replace water and sewer infrastructure in the next few year. The water and sewer infrastructure is funded by the Water and Sewer Utility.

Funding Source	Amount
<b>CDBG</b>	<b>\$969,250</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Water Utility Funds</b>	<b>\$175,715</b>
<b>Wastewater Utility Funds</b>	<b>\$100,973</b>
<b>Electric Utility Funds</b>	<b>\$142,604</b>
<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$1,403,542</b>



## City Begins Parallel Water Transmission Lines

The Parallel Water Transmission Lines project consists of two (2) phases of pipeline work.

The first phase consists of the design and construction a buried 48-inch diameter welded steel pipe to transport raw drinking water from the City's Sandy Point Pump Station along FM 1687 (Sandy Point Road) to FM 2818 (Harvey Mitchell Parkway); then, south along FM

2818 to a point approximately one-half mile North of State Highway 21.

The second phase involves the design and construction of another segment of this pipeline. The planned second segment involves a buried 36-inch diameter pipe beginning at FM 1179 (Villa Maria Road) and proceeding South along FM 2818 to the Dowling Road Pump Station. The total cost is estimated at \$9,073,000.

Segment 1 (Sandy Point Pump Station along FM 1687 to FM 2818; then along FM 2818 to a point approximately one-half mile North of State Highway 21) is complete. Segment 2 (FM 1179 (Villa Maria Road) and proceeding South along FM 2818 to the Dowling Road Pump Station), completion is expected by July 2004.



## City of College Station, Texas

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US

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## Shining Moments

- *An article written by Sgt. Dan Severn was recently published in the Fall 2003 edition of "The Tactical Edge". The reprint of the article is one of a series of articles which have been labeled by the journal as the "Best of the Best" ever published.*
- *Chief Feldman received a letter of appreciation from the Daniel Law Firm in reference to the excellent work done by the CSPD everyday.*
- *Chief Feldman received a letter of appreciation from Ms. Virginia Reese in reference to the help she received from Officer Tom Brown.*
- *Assistant Chief McCollum forwards a thank you to SWAT and HNT in reference to a recent call out incident.*
- *Nikki Young was sent a letter of appreciation by a resident who was impressed with her kindness. The resident had forgotten to move his trash can out to the curb. Nikki took the time to walk up to his house to retrieve the can for him. The resident stated, "I could not believe she has taken the time out of her busy day to make my life easier."*
- *Officer Patrick McCarthy recently received a note of appreciation for his "professionalism , courtesy and kindness," while responding to an accident.*
- *Colleen Kirk was recognized as the winner of Keep Brazos Beautiful's "Can DO Recycling Award."*
- *Katie Elrod was also recently recognized by Brazos Beautiful, as the winner of Keep Brazos Beautiful's "Keepers of the Kingdom" Government Award and "Litter WATCHDOG Award."*
- *Marshall Wallace was sent a letter of appreciation by a resident impressed with his attentiveness. The residence had recently suffered damage from rains and Marshall not only visited the site, but continued contact until a permanent barrier was put in place.*

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**Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future**